

Title of Session: Web Tools for Education - VoiceThreads

Moderator: Pam Berger

Title of File: 20070905webtools voicethread

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Room: Web Tools for Education Group

BJB2: some schools didn't even start till today...so event participation has been a little slow

BJB2: Please tell me about your trip to Africa

PamB: I went to present a session on the International Children's Digital Library..

PamB: at the World Congress (IFLA) in Durban...

BJB2: oh, cool!

PamB: but first we went to Cape Town which is a beautiful city

BJB2: had you ever been there before?

PamB: spent 4 days driving along the coast and stayin in B&b's

PamB: no, first time.

BJB2: lovely!

PamB: I rode an ostrich, fed an elephant and was very very close to a lion!

BJB2 smiles...now that is cool!

PamB: We also went to Township Libraries and met some wonderful people.

PamB: One library was built in 2001 by the new government...

PamB: it supports or tries to support all the people in the Township..190,000 and 26 schools...

PamB: it has ..maybe..4,000 books. It breaks your heart.

PamB: no school libraries in the townships.

BJB2: yikes.

PamB : I'm keeping in touch with librarian there and hope to figure out how to help them.

BJB2: is the children's library a way to provide digital access to library materials? Do the people have access to tech?

PamB : when I get my photos and videos organized and up on the Web I'll give you the URL

BJB2: great.

PamB : very limited. They had 4 computers for everybody and 3 were down that day.

PamB : are there any TI members from SA?

BJB2: yes...go to the Search tab and more search options

BJB2: whooo...5 matches for South Africa

PamB : very cool

MarciaBe joined the room.

BJB2: not exceptionally recent log ins, but you could try to contact the group

BJB2: good job, Marcia!

MarciaBe: Thank you so much BJ :-)

BJB2: Pam, Marcia teaches business and is always looking for ed tech tools. I thought you might have some information for her?

PamB : sure. I see you're from FL

PamB : is it very hot?

MarciaBe: Yes, Sarasota and it is hot but then it is hot most everywhere, I think. Where are you from?

BJB2 . o O (I was close - Marcia: I teach business statistics and computer applications at the college level. I am very interested in learning more about any Ed Tech tools to try.)

PamB : The NYC area and it's been fairly nice weather.

MarciaBe: That's great. Enjoy it now and we'll enjoy January and February :-)

PamB : sure...think of me and BJ...

PamB : in five feet of snow. (>)

PamB : not a pretty picture.

MarciaBe: I just found your site tonight and will take a look at all your great resources. Thank you for putting them together.

PamB : what are some tools you like and introduce to your students?

BJB2: Marcia is new to Tapped In, Pam...and just learning some of the features and things you can do here :-)

MarciaBe: We mostly use Office and web development tools for a business setting. I am our Moodle administrator and am playing with audio, video, and anything else I can think of.

PamB : I work primarily with K-12 environments...

PamB : and at Syracuse university with school librarians.

MarciaBe: I attended the FETC last January and it looks like technology is really happening in K-12.

MarciaBe: Sorry, FETC is Florida Educational Technology Conference in Orlando

PamB : I was looking at a new tool and reading a website by a marketing consultant...it's called Twitter.

MarciaBe: Tell me more.....

MarciaBe: I'm all attwitter

PamB : yes, I've spoken at FETC...it's huge conference and really good.

PamB : it's like IM but on steroids.

MarciaBe: I loved it! It was my first.

PamB : you can only write 140 characters.

MarciaBe: Ah, I did see that and just found the web page at twitter.com. How do you think you might use it?

PamB : you select friends and send tweets to them , all day,, whatever comes to mind,, what you are doing, reading, eating, locating, etc.

MarciaBe: What do you do in K-12, Pam?

PamB: the marketing consultant was saying it could be used to build relationships with clients,

PamB: I'm a national consultant for school and public libraries

MarciaBe: There are very few marketing consultants that I would want IMing me throughout the day

PamB: high communication geeks love Twitter

MarciaBe: I bet you see some cool things and are able to share a lot of information all over the nation.

BonnieHa joined the room.

PamB: yes. I really love what I do!

PamB: hi Bonnie

BonnieHa: Hello there.

PamB: I was going to introduce a tool called Voicethreads tonight. Are you familiar with it?

MarciaBe: Not yet

BonnieHa: No

PamB: I just came across it recently and I think it has great potential for language arts.

MarciaBe: Do you have a link for it?

PamB: A VoiceThread is an online media album that allows people to make comments, either audio or text, and share them with anyone they wish. A VoiceThread allows an entire group's story to be told and collected in one place.

PamB: it's very easy and free. You use photos or other images, upload them, and use your computer's microphone to add narration or other audio, or, if you don't have, or don't want to use a sound recording, you can simply type copy. Then people can comment, by voice or text, on your VoiceThreads, or you can limit who comments and who sees/hears the comment when.

MarciaBe: Can you password protect the site?

PamB : Do you want to take a look at it?

MarciaBe: Yes

PamB : yes, it has different levels of security

BonnieHa: sure

MarciaBe: This could be fun for families, too.

PamB : Let's look at two items on the Voicethread website and then return here.

PamB : 1. Go to the website and click on "What's a Voice Thread Anyway?"

PamB : 2 . Go to the bottom of the screen and click on Classroom

PamB : <http://voicethread.com>

PamB : is everyone okay?

BonnieHa: I'm checking out the site...a-ok here.

MarciaBe: I didn't see Classroom but what I have seen is great.

PamB : Try looking at this voicethread <http://voicethread.com/view.php?b=3352>

PamB : or this one for very young students:

PamB : <http://voicethread.com/view.php?b=2203>

MarciaBe: I teach several online classes as well as face-to-face. I can see some applications with this. Thanks.

PamB : so did I

BonnieHa: This is cool!

PamB : I showed it to a group of students who were evaluating tools and they reported:

PamB : The positive features of this site are:

PamB : that's it's free, supports auditory learning, it's child friendly, stimulating...etc.

MarciaBe: Have you played with it all? Responded to anyone?

PamB : you can also put a voicethread on a blog.

MarciaBe: Would you do that with a link?

PamB : no, not yet. I hope to have time this week to play with it.

PamB : Not exactly, You need to use code...

MarciaBe: I know I won't get to it until next week. I'd love to see your playing.....

PamB : I saw it explained with Edublogs. I'll find the link...

BJB2: Marcia, that is where joining this group would be beneficial...

BJB2: Joining a group subscribes you to the discussion board...

PamB : Here it is..I found it!

PamB : <http://edublogs.org/2007/07/11/threading-it-on-edublogs/>

MarciaBe: I apologize, but how do I join a group. I haven't made it to the orientation yet.

BJB2: Pam could post to the discussion board and keep you updated on her playing

BJB2: above this chat window do you see the welcome note, Marcia and Bonnie?

PamB : Bj, that's a good idea!

PamB : maybe I could a voicethread with some photos from South Africa

PamB : I just returned from a 3 week trip.

MarciaBe: Yes

PamB : I have over 300 digital photos and 10 short videos

MarciaBe: Wow! Africa would be a great way to play with this

BJB2: scroll down on the welcome note to this sentence...

BJB2: This is the group room for Web Tools for Education

MarciaBe: OK

BJB2: and click on the green i

PamB : BJ why do i always have more to do when I leave you? (:>

BJB2: you should now see the group ID page above this chat

BJB2: join this group

BJB2 winks at Pam.

MarciaBe: Thanks so much. I'm now a part of the group :-)

PamB : great!

BJB2: once you've successfully joined the group, click on Room View at the top of your screen to get back to the welcome screen

BJB2 . o O (sorry to interrupt your discussion, Pam)

MarciaBe: You gave great directions and I appreciate them.

PamB : not at all..it's great that they joined the group.

PamB : Bj is a wonderful teacher and mentor.

MarciaBe: I notice that I see the speaker going for some of the responses but don't hear their comments. Does that happen for you?

PamB : She taught me everything I know about TI

MarciaBe: Well, it looks like I want to hang around lots more :-)

BJB2: I scheduled a tour for tomorrow at 7pm EDT

PamB : Join me for next month's Web Tools

BJB2 . o O (so many new members!)

MarciaBe: I'm supposed to have a class tomorrow night but I'll try to make it. Thank you.

BJB2: next web tools is October 3

MarciaBe: Thank you, Pam. Does that mean tonight's is over? I appreciate what you have shared.

PamB : yes. thanks for coming.

BonnieHa: Thanks for the information.

PamB: you're welcome. It was nice to meet you.

MarciaBe: My pleasure; I enjoyed it. Have fun playing.....

PamB: thanks...I will!

BJB2: and please keep us posted on your voicethread, Pam...

BJB2: I want to see you riding the ostrich!

PamB: Okay

PamB: I only have a still photo, no video of my ride but you still get the idea

BJB2 heads for the Social Studies Forum and C-SPAN discussion.