

Title of Session: Web Tools for Education

Moderator: Pam Berger

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Room: Web Tools for Education Group

BJB2: Welcome to this month's Web Tools for Education, everyone!

BJB2: everyone please let Pam know where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach

MichelleJ: Houston, TX EC-4

KevinK joined the room.

DavidW joined the room.

BJB2: Hi, Kevin. We're just starting introductions

DavidW waves to Pam

BrittanyBr: My name is Brittany. I am a student teacher in Cy-Fair in Houston Tx EC-4

MatthewL: Located in Katy, Texas EC-4 currently in Katy ISD working with Pre-k

ElizabetDL: Former high school math teacher, now Instructional Technology Resource Teacher in an alternative high school in Virginia Beach VA -- go by Betty

PamB : I'm an educational technology and library consultant from NY.

KevinK: Hello my name is Kevin. I'm at doctoral student at the Uof Mn interested in learning technologies in higher ed.

MatthewL: I am also a student teacher

MichelleJ: Me too

DavidW: I'm David Weksler. I'm one the HelpDesk volunteers for Tapped In. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

BJB2: wow! Quite a group you have here, Pam!

PamB : GREAT!

PamB: I usually introduce one to two tools to use to support the curriculum...

PamB: but I thought it might be fun to look a few things tonight...

PamB: some fun and others...just very interesting.

PamB: sort of jump around.

PamB: First, Let's look at a really interesting YouTube video...

JeffC: AC/DC?

MichelleJ: Yikes

PamB: made by a professor at Kansas State.

JeffC: ohhhh... *Kansas*! (ok... I'll shut up).

BrittanyBr: Sounds good Ms. Berger

PamB: I'll give you the URL, go look at it and then come back. OK?

PamB: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGCJ46vyR9o>

BJB2 checks to see if everyone got the youtube page

MichelleJ: got it

BrittanyBr: yes

PamB: thanks BJ

MatthewL: got it

BJB2: this is a majorly awesome video, Pam. I'm so glad you're sharing it!

PamB: Michael Wesch has made a few videos...and the others are just as good.

MichelleJ: Wow

ElizabetDL: Truly what our students are facing today; they are much better at multitasking than most of their teachers.

BrittanyBr: Very interesting

MichelleJ: it's true

MatthewL: Very true

ElizabetDL: In public schools we are far behind in preparing our students for the world that they face.

PamB: He did two other ones and one of them, the Computer is using us is equally thoughtful <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6gmP4nk0EOE>

PamB: I agree. I wonder how our students would react to this video?

MichelleJ: in 4th grade right now -- I don't know if they would understand

MichelleJ: They'd be excited to be watching You Tube though

PamB: no I meant high school. I think the fourth graders are too young.

BrittanyBr: I bet. This is a great video

MatthewL: Good video

MichelleJ: Do you think it would make the older ones more vocal about what they are offered as far as tech in school?

PamB: yes...what worries me is that school districts are blocking so much technology that...

PamB: kids are starting to see school as NOT relevant

BrittanyBr: When I was in High School.. I was able to take a course in computer science where I created my own web site with HTML.

MatthewL: I agree.

MichelleJ: why do the districts block it?

JeffC: heck... I was at school today and both <http://www.refdesk.com> and <http://www.happynews.com> were both filtered.

PamB: I did a workshop for 100 teachers and librarians yesterday and I had to get "unblocking" the darn filter...

JeffC: they filter *everything*... because tech is built on a foundation of paranoia... and we're basically stuck in the 19th Century.

PamB: about 50% of the Web 2.0 tools I was trying to teach them about were blocked!

MichelleJ: Do you think it is because it is so easy to stumble upon the wrong material when searching?

ElizabetDL: Most of my students do not know anything about html; but many high school students do. They would all, however, understand the meaning of the video.

BrittanyBr: Isn't it also protecting the school. So many parents are worried about what their children are getting into...

ElizabetDL: two years ago they blocked all blogs

ElizabetDL: this year they are encouraging the use of blogs and wikis.

PamB : good!

ElizabetDL: They are trying, but still trying to protect.

JeffC: well that's encouraging Elizabeth... at least they're making some progress!

PamB : Some of the districts I work with stress responsibility and consequences for student's actions.

MichelleJ: Maybe as the computer generation becomes teachers, tech in the schools will be more understood - less feared

ElizabetDL: Our superintendent said that we are taking students entering the building at warp speed and slowing them to a snail's pace; he believes we better get on the technology bandwagon quickly.

PamB : rather than locking everything down.

PamB : Good for him!

JeffC: that's the way it should be Pam... AUPs should be in place... but the feds *mandate* filtering, right?

ElizabetDL: He's on the right path; but the Content Keeper still blocks far too much.

BrittanyBr: The students I work with have to enter their own password. If they do not follow the rules they have consequences.

ElizabetDL: same with us

PamB : just they mandate filtering but districts have control over what they filter

BrittanyBr: I do agree though.. They block too much.

MichelleJ: They probably figure - better safe than sorry

PamB : It was kind of funny...the filter blocked my website...

PamB : because it's a blog.

ElizabetDL: They have control, but then I wonder how much we are preparing our students to be on their own.

PamB : I agree Elizabeth...that's the problem we aren't

ElizabetDL: If we block rather than teach responsible and safe use, then we are not preparing the students for the real world.

BrittanyBr: I believe that a lot of that paranoia that my school has is because of the parents and the risk that the students will stumble on something.

MichelleJ: So what are some suggestions to keep the kids at warp speed once they enter school?

JeffC: I'm not so sure about that, Pam. Most districts outsource... using "Dan's Guardian" etc., and they certainly *can unfilter*... but they're pretty much at the mercy for the most part at what the system filters... and if the district doesn't have a good protocol for unfiltering... we're back at square one or two.

MichelleJ: besides a better filtering system

ElizabetDL: We have lots of suggestions: virtual field trips (planned and implemented by teachers and students)

ElizabetDL: using distance learning where applicable

ElizabetDL: helping teachers use technology to teach their lessons

ElizabetDL: using blogs and wikis

ElizabetDL: using SharePoint (a secure Microsoft product)

MichelleJ: Teachers using technology is where I face some road blocks

PamB : I see a big difference from one district to another in what they filter...so some are reducing the amount and type of websites that are being blocked

MichelleJ: but I think that may work itself out in time

ElizabetDL: Using document cameras and multimedia projectors

BrittanyBr: I am not sure if this is an answer that you are looking for.. but in my elementary school they create website pages that can be safely accessed-- the students can see the pages that they are meant to see and not anything else.. Also there is a buddy writing system set up-- where the students e-mail one another to improve typing, English, and their e-mailing skills

BrittanyBr: Also, My school owns Smart Boards

JeffC: Teachers need to be able to unfilter sites at their discretion (and accept whatever consequences, if there will be any)... but I don't know if that's happening in more than a few places... I know in my district the teacher has to send an email to the IT department to get a site unfiltered... which takes time... and unless the teacher does it a day or so in advance of a lesson, really puts a damper on using tech in the classroom.

ElizabetDL: That's a great start, Brittany

BrittanyBr: I used a smart board for the first time the other day and they are amazing!

ElizabetDL: That is not happening with us Jeff; if we need a site unblocked, we have to request it.

PamB : I agree Jeff, the decision and control should be with the teacher.

MichelleJ: Also, at my Elem school each teacher creates bookmarks and that's where the kids can go

PamB : Are Wikis blocked at your schools?

ElizabetDL: This year we are requiring that teachers post their assignments and links the students need electronically, beginning the process of communicating electronically.

ElizabetDL: Not this year.

ElizabetDL: They were

MichelleJ: I hate to ask --- what is a Wiki? Wikapedia?

ElizabetDL: a wiki is like a blog in that you can post to it; the difference is that people comment on your blogs, but they can actually change the content and collaborate on the wiki

PamB : Wikis are webistes that allow multiple users edit the pages...

MichelleJ: Wow - I'll check tomorrow to see if they are blocked in my school

PamB: there are free wiki hosting sites for educators.

PamB: look at wikispaces.com...

PamB: or pbwiki.com

JeffC: btw... if Tapped In is filtered at your school... <http://snurl.com/tifirewall> shows IT people how to unblock it... and if they have any questions about the security of this place, they can call me at [503-357-3577](tel:503-357-3577).

PamB: it's a great way to get kids to collaborate and work on a project together.

BrittanyBr: Thanks Jeff

ElizabetDL: I think all I need is to have the 8000 port opened.

MichelleJ: Looking at wikispaces.com

ElizabetDL: I can get to tapped in at school but the chat feature is not available.

JeffC: right... but *just here* Elizabeth! don't open all port 8000 or you'll give access to thousands of chatrooms.

PamB: They will give educators free "Private" space with no ads.

BrittanyBr: Great! This would be a great tool in the classroom!

PamB: you can make the wiki public or private.

MichelleJ: It says K-12. What would a K class do with a wiki

BrittanyBr: The teacher could post what they work on couldn't they?

PamB: well...

PamB: I have never seen one used with k

PamB: any ideas?

BJB2: post children's stories using invented spelling

PamB: Most of my kindergarten kids can barely read...no less type...but I work with high poverty schools in NYC

JeffC: put up links to sites... like <http://www.starfall.com> and <http://www.pbskids.org> ...kids know how to use a mouse (or should!) even in Kindergarten!

MichelleJ: Does it replace the worksheet?

PamB: hopefully not...

BrittanyBr: In Pre-K they had a web page set up like this.. They worked on things related to TEKS and the students learned how to navigate around the computer. How to move the mouse.. etc.

PamB: we need to creative and relevant to their learning needs

ElizabetDL: Here is mine: <http://vbcacrs.wikispaces.com/>

MichelleJ: I'm going to have to look at them more

ElizabetDL: I created it just to see what it would look like.

PamB: Do you twitter?

BJB2: there is a wiki in the Art of Storytelling group room...

BJB2: that everyone can contribute to

ElizabetDL: yes - vbcacrs

PamB: I use wikis a lot with professional development.

BrittanyBr: How?

ElizabetDL: perfect

PamB: I set one up for the workshop I mentioned on web 2.0...

BrittanyBr: oh ok

PamB: it's socialnet.wikispaces.com

PamB: or <http://socialnet.wikispaces.com>

BrittanyBr: neat

ElizabetDL: great links

PamB: did any of you go to the k12 Online Conference?

PamB : it has some very good presentations.

PamB : thanks

BrittanyBr: This is very detailed.

BrittanyBr: No I did not get to go.

BJB2: are the presentations archived, Pam?

PamB : yes,

PamB : the link is on my wiki

BJB2 . o O (never enough time to participate in all the opportunities that are available!)

ElizabetDL: I did; but could not keep up with all the presentations; I'm doing Capstone I and go to all the UVA home football games in the fall

BJB2: thanks

PamB : There is an excellent one on Second Life using Voicethread.

ElizabetDL: rss feeds help me keep up with some of the topics I am interested in.

MichelleJ: Is it that you create the webpage or

PamB : me too..RSS is such a time saver.

MichelleJ: did you contribute to the webpage

PamB : do you mean my wiki?

MichelleJ: yes

PamB : Yes, I created it. it was a blank webpage and I added the text and links.

MichelleJ: WOW

MichelleJ: It looks amazing

BrittanyBr: That's great

PamB : It's an open Wiki, which means that others can edit the page and add information, but so far no one has.

PamB : It's really not...it's very easy.

MichelleJ: Is it risky not knowing what they will put on there

ElizabetDL: You can have settings that allow others to see, but not edit.

PamB : Well if I don't think it is appropriate, I can click on HISTORY and revert back to a previous page.

BrittanyBr: Oh wow. That's interesting. I did not know you could do that

MichelleJ: So could a Elem class create a webpage for their parents in a wiki

BrittanyBr: I would think so

PamB : Absolutely!

ElizabetDL: I would use a blog for that purpose and a wiki if I want others to edit; you can also grant permissions so that only members can edit; but all can view.

MichelleJ: I'm with 4th graders, but have been with 2nd graders -- they both would Love this

BrittanyBr: You would want to run it by the admin. right?

MichelleJ: That's right -- I forgot you said that these are blocked sometimes

PamB : it depends on what info you want to add to the page...whether you use a wiki or a blog.

MichelleJ: what would be the difference as far as the info goes - which one would work better with what type of info

PamB : blogs are usually one voice were as a wiki is usually many users collaboratively adding info

MichelleJ: I like the idea of everyone adding

BrittanyBr: Now I am understanding it a bit more.

PamB smiles

MichelleJ: The teachers have a classroom newsletter that goes out to let the parents know what they have worked on and what's coming up. The kids could put it together

MichelleJ: and make it on-line

BrittanyBr: That would be neat-- then they could show their parents what they did!

JeffC: Another possibility would be to have several classes... from different schools (states, countries?) work on a wiki project collaboratively.

BJB2 . o O (you can also embed voice recordings (podcasts))

MichelleJ: THAT would be awesome!

BrittanyBr: that would be

PamB : What's the name of the school..Willow something, that does the great podcasts with elem kids?

BJB2 . o O (there is an archived transcript on that topic, Pam...let me find that)

ElizabetDL: We have an elementary teacher who had her students create podcasts on a history unit with sound effects and more; it was great and she said very simple.

MichelleJ: For citizenship week the kids learned the Star Spangled Banner. That would have been fun for the parents to hear on a podcast

PamB : I think it's Willow Web

ElizabetDL: <http://www.mpsomaha.org/willow/>

BrittanyBr: That is an interesting tool that you brought up. I have just been introduced to pod casts.

PamB : thanks

PamB : well, to close the session tonight...

PamB : I suggest that when you have a minute during the week...

PamB : look at a fun site..animoto.com

ElizabetDL: Thanks, Pam; you were great. What's your twitter?

PamB : it creates great multimedia presentation with YOUR photos...

BrittanyBr: Sounds like a great idea. Thank you

PamB : it only takes a few minutes, it's fun and the kids will be very impressed.

MichelleJ: Thanks, Pam

MichelleJ: I'm looking at the site now

BJB2: <http://ti2data.sri.com/transcripts/mst/2006/>

PamB : twitter is instant messaging on steroids!

ElizabetDL -)

BrittanyBr nods this site looks impressive!

BJB2: go to ISTE Special Interest groups

PamB : you can only write 140 characters in your message...check it out at twitter.com

BJB2: January 31

PamB : thanks BJ

ElizabetDL: my twitter is vbcacrs

MichelleJ: This discussion has given me some great ideas - The students can do something besides a power point to feel super creative

PamB : you twitter your "friends" and keep up with what each of you are doing all day long.

BrittanyBr: Smart Boards! Check them out-- they are great to use with the web.

PamB : they're awesome!

MichelleJ: Now I have to go google "twitter" -- I have no idea what that is

BrittanyBr: Me too!

PamB : I hope to see you next month..

MichelleJ: Thanks for a great discussion everyone

PamB : Goodnight.

BrittanyBr: Thank you again!

MichelleJ: Goodnight Pam - thanks

ElizabetDL: Thanks all

PamB : Thanks everyone. this was fun.

BJB2 waves goodnight

BJB2 hugs Pam. Thanks!

PamB gives BJ a hug