

Title of Session: Frazel Features! - Websites Worth Clicking!

Moderator: Midge Frazel

Guest Speaker: Kathy Schrock

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Room: Frazel Features Group

MidgeF: Just put my Tapped In sticky note on the calendar for next month

KathySc: BJB, I am talking about TI in my FETC keynote on Thursday AM.

KathySc: As one of the synchronous collaboration tools

MidgeF: Yes, this is my famous friend, Kathy Schrock

ShayneTr joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Shayne

ShayneTr: smiles

MidgeF: Hey, Shayne

JeffC joined the room.

BJB2: Midge will be sharing websites worth clicking...

MidgeF: Ah, but first the commercial...

BJB2 listens to Midge

MidgeF: OK, I will start

MidgeF: January means we are tired, stressed and have students who are restless and bored. Spring is a long way away. We need new ideas for teaching and learning but the daylight hours are short and sleep beckons. Maybe other teachers have "stuff" we can use for a quick fix?

SusanR joined the room.

BarbaraMu joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Sue and Barbara

SusanR: Hi Midge and company

MidgeF: How many are tired?

BJB2 agrees about tired!

BarbaraMu: hello all!

SusanR: I had a hard day of skiing.

MidgeF: Gee..that's tough

ShayneTr: I have 2 kids at home with the flu so I'm a little draggy..

KathySc: I had a hard day of shopping here in Orlando!

SusanR: aw shucks

BJB2 chuckles.

ShayneTr: Anyone want to switch... come take care of my kids

BJB2 thinks she'll pass, thanks

JeffC: sure... I'll send mine to you ups ground.

MidgeF: Everyone this is Kathy Schrock, yes, the famous one

BarbaraMu: new grandma staying away from sick kids and moms

JeffC waves to Kathy.

SusanR: welcome Kathy

MidgeF: I love to drive her crazy

KathySc: LOL Technology Administrator for the Nauset Public Schools on Cape Cod.

MidgeF: I had the bug and hope it doesn't come back.

LeticiaE joined the room.

MidgeF: Anyway....

MidgeF: Most Web (1.0) Web sites that are still updated are designed for a single subject teacher (history, English, physical education), or for the interdisciplinary teacher

(language arts, history, early childhood) or are portals to many other Web sites and have information for professional development (Kathy Schrock, Annette Lamb).

LeticiaE: Hi

MidgeF: Yep..her

MidgeF:). There a lot to choose from but in this session, we are going to focus on just the ones I have put on this Web page. Control click on this link within this Tapped In interface.

MidgeF: Go here and look around and then when you come back, type Back

MidgeF: <http://www.midgefrazel.net/worthclicking.html>

SusanR: great selection!!

MidgeF: This was a Web page for a workshop I did some time back. Some of the Web sites were favorites with the attendees and I didn't pick them all (and neither did Kathy)

BarbaraMu: back

MidgeF: I call this the Tapped In Bounce Back

BarbaraMu: thanks-great list

MidgeF: Sorta something for everyone. When I was teaching I would get a class with many different kinds of educators

ShayneTr: I almost got lost... thanks!

LeticiaE: Your Web site is great, By the way nice picture.

MidgeF: Photo of me? or photo of the candy

LeticiaE: photo of you of course

MidgeF: OK it was taken July 4 in the cemetery

MidgeF: I love cemeteries...but that's another story

MidgeF: Look at section where there are a dozen to choose from. Notice one has not be updated since 2005. Web sites are disappearing quickly as the expert people move on to Web 2.0. Even I have moved forward and am blogging. WebQuests used to be the cutting edge technology but are not talked about as much anymore.

MidgeF: I am not sure how Kathy keeps finding new stuff each week!

KathySc: I just checked all 3000 of my links this weekend. Most were still around but about 25 had moved to more robust servers.

MidgeF: Yikes..I can't handle mine

SusanR: You are ambitious, Kathy

MidgeF: In case you want to read my thoughts on this type of organized list, you can read my blog entry for this session

MidgeF: <http://MidgeFrazel.net/blog/>

JeffC: You can use favorg <http://www.softpedia.com/progDownload/favorg-Download-20921.html> to check on dead links.

JeffC . o O (and don't tell Bernie Dodge that people aren't using Webquests!)

ShayneTr: Thanks Jeff - that's useful

MidgeF: I didn't say they aren't using them but they aren't creating as many

SusanR: A nice explanation of web 2.0

MidgeF: So many new ideas lately.

KathySc: Jeff, I have to disagree. I click on each one, since the link is still good even if it leads to a "we have moved" page.

LeticiaE: <http://midgefrazel.net/blog/>

SusanR: No time to create..too labour intensive

KathySc: I feel that blogs are too ephemeral.

JeffC: Sure Kathy, but at least with FavOrg you can quickly check automatically which ones need checking.

MidgeF: Kathy actually taught me to make a WebQuest and it is a lot of work

KathySc: People link to things, but do not go back and check the links in their posts to keep them good.

MidgeF: That's true.

MidgeF: Which is why I still have this page and others like it

VernaLynnG joined the room.

JeffC: WebQuests *used* to be a lot of work... but with QuestGarden there are now templates that make life a lot easier.

LeticiaE: That was much easier than I expected.

MaureenB: I have 2 and I have to check everytime I assign the webquest

ShayneTr: What's a QuestGarden?

KathySc: I think people are creating more specific Web pages, targeted to their interests.

JeffC: <http://questgarden.com/>

JeffC: It's a webquest template system devised by Bernie.

MidgeF: It is much better if a teacher makes a page they can use for them and the people in their state too

JeffC shuts up and hands things back to Midge and Kathy.

MidgeF: And that's what makes a Web site worth clicking

KathySc: WebQuests are an example of a curriculum unit, not a portal to sites, IMHO.

MidgeF: That's OK Jeff. Shayne's going to be up all night so he can look at GardenQuest

KathySc: I still think it is an important model, and Bernie has made it easier by classifying the type of activity to choose a template.

MidgeF: Which makes it worth clicking because it is needed for a specific task

KathySc: Exactly.

MidgeF: It was the first really useful project based learning workable deal.

KathySc: However, if teachers used blog pages for creating their portal pages or Webquests, the tagging component could make it easier for other teachers to find the info. And people could aggregate the terms and know when new things appeared.

MidgeF: Yes, and they need to be taught to go back and check the links just like we did with other Web pages.

KathySc: (Closer to cataloging, says the librarian...)

LeticiaE: Call me old fashioned but, I am still learning my way in technology and as a teacher I see how it's needed soooooooooo much.

MidgeF: A tag is a keyword that describes something so others can find it

MidgeF: Like Monarch butterfly

SusanR: I just tagged it for future use

MidgeF: So, if I wanted to find what others were doing with migration, I could check those tags

MidgeF: Just like playing tag

JeffC: One thing about WebQuests and other Web1.0 approaches is that they tend to be task oriented and rather closed ended. In other words, there is more *control* by the teacher... as compared with Web 2.0 and collaborative approaches to learning. Now... I know quite a few districts flat out ban blogging, and other collaborative approaches to the Net. I'd like to know how Kathy and Midge would address the security concerns (not to mention atavistic approaches to the Net) when approaching admins to "loosen up" and get with 21st Century learning?

KathySc: You can use an aggregator (like Netvibes or Pageflakes) to "subscribe" to the keyword (tag) and automatically see when something new pops up when you open your aggregator.

MidgeF: I have done that to see who is talking about me

KathySc: I am in charge of all of that in my district, and we do not block any Web 2.0 sites and have no problems...one suggestion...

MidgeF: Mostly just Kathy Schrock

JeffC . o O (Yeah... but you're *progressive* Kathy!)

KathySc: We host the Blogger blogs on our own server which allows you get rid of the dreaded NEXT BLOG button which people are scared of in Blogger since it leads who knows where...

SusanR: Most web 2.0 sites are blocked here

JeffC: lol Midge (hopes Kathy says good things about you!)

MidgeF: Weird things but good

SusanR: How would you tag this one Midge,
<http://questgarden.com/56/41/5/071021101328/t-index.htm>

KathySc: One new option that I bet you could get away with is to use Google Docs and publish the document.

KathySc: You are given a URL and students can get to it!

MidgeF: tooth, dental health, fairy tale

SusanR: got it

MidgeF: and kindergarten

KathySc: (I have a page of Web 2.0 apps here, if anyone is interested.)
<http://KathySchrock.net/web20/>

SusanR: we all tag it in different ways

MidgeF: In comes an idea like the collaboration between the Library of Congress and Flickr. Flickr is a photo hosting (Web 2.0) Web site. The idea is that the LOC gives the world, copyright free, unrestricted use photos to the World and lets the world put tags to describe them. It's supposed to be the place everyone meets, like the Town Green or the Common area.

KathySc: Susan, that is the problem

MidgeF: It's Kathy's Site of the week, it's on the page worth clicking and is the talk of the Web

SusanR nods

KathySc: I truly believe (and have for years) that we should be using an accepted taxonomy (Dewey subject headings) to tag in addition to ones we feel are more usable but not in the taxonomy.

MidgeF: Of course, Kathy makes me try EVERY Web 2.0 page in the world

KathySc: Actually, I proposed this years ago (1995) to the group that creates the Internet "rules"...

KathySc: But, with effective searching skills, which all students need training in, we can still find sites worth clicking!

MidgeF: Yes, which is why I am writing a book about Google.

SusanR: I have heard that students still have poor searching skills

LeticiaE: Interesting

MidgeF: I can say something that Kathy can't here

KathySc: They THINK they know how to search, but once you show them, they are amazed!

MidgeF: Teachers still need to learn to effectively search and then actually teach that to kids.

BJB2 agrees with Midge

LeticiaE: That would be my case!

MidgeF: (Midge got an A on her searching paper in Kathy's class)

KathySc: I still teach my teachers.

LeticiaE: I want to learn and am willing

MidgeF: I've had the paper bronzed.

KathySc: Leticia, start on the advanced search page of Google always, and go down the page, one thing at a time.

LeticiaE) LoL

KathySc: You will be amazed at the things you can do...such as put in your subject and only search for PowerPoint presentations or...

MidgeF: PDFs

KathySc: see who links to a page you like and find all other great bits of info.

ShayneTr: Most of my students have never explored the "More" at the top of Google. They love the catalogues!

MidgeF: Midge is still worried about Shayne nodding off

KathySc: (I say PPT, since there are tons of templates for portfolios, Jeopardy-type things, etc.) It helps to have the students just work on content and not have to figure out everything.

MidgeF: I'd say some of us are off looking at the Commons

SusanR: I am a big believer in templates..a true time saver

KathySc: Susan, I am assuming Flickr is not blocked in your district?

SusanR nods

JeffC: it is in mine

SusanR: and Twitter was not blocked as well

KathySc: Good...it is becoming extremely legitimate!

LeticiaE: I found this one it's for English grammar
<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/powerpoint.htm>

JeffC: bloody filters!

KathySc: I am not a Twitter fan, myself.

MidgeF: The LOC connection will help

MaureenB: I can't do Tapped In at school

JeffC wants to come and work in Kathy's district.

KathySc: Come on down! :-)

MidgeF: I didn't know that, I'm not a Twitter fan either

MidgeF: Jeff, it's cold here

JeffC: Maureen... have your IT people get in touch with me... I can convince them that Tapped In is the safest most secure site to bring K-12 students.

JeffC: Well... I'd be willing to work online for her district!

LeticiaE: Jeff you'll have lots of work

MidgeF: Working for Kathy would kill me

JeffC: here's my contact info Maureen... jbcoops@gmail.com [503-357-3577](tel:503-357-3577) ... and here is how to poke a hole in the firewall to Tapped In: <http://snurl.com/tifirewall>

KathySc: Ha!

MaureenB: I will be talking to my tech person (OMG only 22). He is great and we fix it if he can.

JeffC: cool

KathySc: How about Second Life?

MidgeF: Worth clicking?

JeffC: I hear there's a teen portal for Second Life.

KathySc: We are doing our real life professional development on our own island.

SusanR: set up a twitter account in your classroom; notify parents; and list the happenings throughout the day ..students can post

KathySc: Yes, we are just about to purchase a teen grid island.

VernaLynnG: Is teen Second Life any good

KathySc: It is not about being good.

MaureenB: I have no idea how to begin there. Kathy you call that Web 3

VernaLynnG: Is it secure

KathySc: It is what you and the students create and do there.

KathySc: With your own island in the Teen Grid, the teacher can only go on that island

MidgeF: I think that is Web 3.0

JeffC: <http://teen.secondlife.com/>

KathySc: You can close that island or piece of land off to anyone but your students.

KathySc: Done by creating groups.

KathySc: It is easy.

VernaLynnG: What can they do on their island

KathySc: However, you should start on the Main Grid and learn how to do everything first.

KathySc: The learning curve is steep.

KathySc: I am holding a Professional Learning Community for my district.

MaureenB: sounds like a summer project

VernaLynnG: On the main grid are you interacting with other students

KathySc: Yes.

JeffC: sounds like they need online helpdesk.

MaureenB: looking for another job Jeff

KathySc: There are tons of educators in there who will help.

SusanR: I have been playing around with second life for over a year now. I have attended many of their classes

KathySc: Whose classes?

JeffC: hehe... well...if SL paid I'd definitely consider it!

SusanR: Avatar makeovers ..mainly experiential

KathySc: Educators have different views on it than the "regular" users.

KathySc: Ah.

SusanR: working with textures; object creation

KathySc: We actually conduct teaching and learning in SL.

KathySc: Building is a skill you need to have before you can work with students on the Teen Grid, Susan, so you are right on track.

MidgeF: I guess you can tell that Kathy thinks SL is worth clicking

KathySc: Yes, I do. Kathy shuts up now.

MidgeF: Not at all, this is about what is worth it and what matters to teachers

ShayneTr: And we are listening!

MidgeF: Every teacher had different needs based on their kids and their time

MidgeF: I think SL is hard to learn and Kathy helps me

KathySc: Yes, but I have a habit of going on and on when I am passionate. Those of you that have heard me in real life know that, and Midge knows more than anyone!

VernaLynnG: Are there tutorials for SL

MidgeF: That's true.

KathySc: There is a great book by Richard Mansfield (How to do everything with SL)

KathySc: and SL for Dummies just came out. I just got it before I left and did not look at it.

MidgeF: The first books out weren't very good

SusanR: best thing is to attend their classes ..

KathySc: Verna, the basics are all covered in an orientation you go through when you first go in.

SusanR: ie camera controls, moving around

VernaLynnG: Do you register for their classes on their site

KathySc: You can stay in the orientation as long as you need to.

MidgeF: I need special ed classes for SL LOL

MaureenB: I might be there forever :)

KathySc: As soon as you go in, you are plunked on Orientation Island.

LeticiaE: I've got to go thanks Midge for the info, bye Leticia waves

KathySc: Takes a couple of hours, and not all at one time.

MidgeF: bye and sleep tight

VernaLynnG: Do you know if there is an orientation island for teen life

KathySc: There is not.

KathySc: Well, I say that...

MidgeF: That's 'cause they are born knowing how to do this....

SusanR: go in an hour at a time

KathySc: I don't actually know. I will have a student create an account and find out.

VernaLynnG: OK

KathySc: Four school districts bought an island (Lighthouse Learning Island) on the main grid. Come over any time.

VernaLynnG: I have looked at teen life a few times and can't decide if I want to try it

MidgeF: So, hopefully everyone found something worth clicking tonight

MidgeF: and we gave each other new things to think about

KathySc: You cannot go to the Teen Grid, Verna.

VernaLynnG: I was thinking for my class

KathySc: You have to have a real CORI security check done and be associated with a project there.

KathySc: Your kids can go anywhere, but that would not help since you would not "be there" to teach and guide in-life.

MidgeF: Sue, do you follow my session tonight?

VernaLynnG: I see

BJB2 nods to Midge about Sue

BJB2: and School Counselors and ADD+ is after that

MidgeF: I forgot to look at the calendar

MidgeF: OK, are there anymore questions?

VernaLynnG: BJ what is the ADD+ session about

SusanR: which session

SusanR: Yes, I do follow

VernaLynnG: school counselors and ADD+

KathySc: Midge, thanks for letting me "talk" and participate.

BJB2: about resources and working with ADD kids and others with various LD diagnosis

VernaLynnG: Cool

VernaLynnG: I am the LRT at my school that would be good for me

SusanR: I am heading out. Thanks great discussion and super links

BJB2 applauds everyone for their contributions to the discussion

ShayneTr: Thanks Midge (and Kathy and Jeff) for resources worth exploring.

MidgeF: It was great to have all of you come. Next month we are going to discuss escrapbooking

VernaLynnG: I didn't come in right away will I still get a full transcript of the whole session

KathySc: Nice job, Midge!

VernaLynnG: or just when I came in

BJB2: you will get the script from when you entered the room, Verna

MidgeF: Thanks! I don't think you missed very much Verna

VernaLynnG: OK thanks guys

BJB2 doesn't think Verna missed much either

KathySc: Night all!

VernaLynnG: I came in when you were talking about quest garden

MidgeF: That was mostly the beginning

BJB2 waves goodnight and heads for the K-3 discussion

MidgeF: **MidgeF@MidgeFrazel.net**

VernaLynnG: OK Thanks

VernaLynnG: cya

MidgeF: Goodnight all!