

Title of Session: Next Vista for Learning: Free Online Resources for Multimedia Projects

Moderator: Rushton Hurley

Title of File: 20080207nextvista

Date: February 7, 2008

Room: Next Vista for Learning Group

BJB2: Rushton, would you like to start with brief intros?

StaceyPP: The class I'm taking to help with this led me to Tapped In

RushtonH: Let's do. Please give your name, where you are, and what you do/teach/love.

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania and teach remedial communication.

DavidW: I'm in New Jersey. I work with teachers helping them learn more about educational technology.

StaceyPP: I'm in Virginia and teach a second grade ELL class.

RushtonH: I'm Rushton Hurley, I live in Santa Clara, California (next to San Jose, near San Francisco). I teach Japanese and work to save the world from ignorance through a small nonprofit I founded called Next Vista for Learning (<http://nextvista.org>).

ClaudiaTD: Ft. Lauderdale - Adult ESOL Online & Technology

DouglasGst5: I am in Palo Alt, CA getting my masters in education. I am a History Teacher. I also intern with Next Vista

MonaM: I am an EC-4 student teacher in Humble, Texas. I am currently student teaching in the 2nd grade.

RushtonH: Let's get started!

RushtonH: First of all, know that you'll get a copy of the transcript after you log out. If you don't, write me (rh@nextvista.org) and I'll be happy to send one to you.

RushtonH: BJ - is that true for just the regular members?

BJB2: only for members, Rushton

RushtonH: Doug, I'll get you a transcript - no worries.

DouglasGst5: great

RushtonH: Fasten seat belts, everyone - we'll cover a lot of stuff today.

RushtonH: Broadly speaking, the resources that are available to you fall into two categories: tools and information. We'll talk about both as we go through today's lineup.

RushtonH: Let's start with what you're using (or think you might use) to create videos (the tool). Which program is your choice - iMovie, Movie Maker, Photo Story, Premier, Final Cut, or something else?

DouglasGst5: Imovie for me.

StaceyPP: I've used iMovie and Photo Story before.

MonaM: I use Photo Story and Movie Maker

ClaudiaTD: Photo Story

RushtonH: Great - everyone has at least gotten feet wet with video tools.

RushtonH: A good point of departure is to have a place online where you can learn new things, ask questions, etc. That is, the information for the tool(s) you use.

RushtonH: For the Mac folks, Apple has a site called the Apple Learning Interchange with an area called Videography for Educators, which you can find at:
<http://tinyurl.com/34uz3p>

RushtonH: It's mostly designed to teach the basics of film editing, though the resources section at the end includes a link to a Yahoo group (<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/iMovie-List/>) and an iMovie discussion area (<http://tinyurl.com/34qtot>). Search their archives when you run into problems.

RushtonH: For Windows folks, there is a good site focused on Movie Maker at:
<http://WindowsMovieMakers.net>

RushtonH: Have any of you used a group like one of these before?

DouglasGst5: no

StaceyPP: No, I just did their online tutorial.

ClaudiaTD: no

MonaM: not really

MonaM: I edited a movie once, that's all.

RushtonH: Stacey's move - finding a tutorial and using it - is a great way to get yourself going with almost anything. There are an amazing number of help sites out there.

StaceyPP: I was led to that by an inservice at my school.

RushtonH: Let's take a quick minute (partly to get used to the linking feature) and take a look at any of the ones above. Go take a look for 30 seconds or so, and then return with any impressions you get right away.

RushtonH: Make sure to let us know when you're back!

DouglasGst5: Rushton, I may need to slip away, but I will stay logged in. Thanks

RushtonH: Understood.

BJB2 . o O (reminder to hold down the ctrl key on your keyboard when you click on the url)

GregD joined the room.

RushtonH: Hi Greg!

BJB2 cheers...hi, Greg!

GregD: Hello

RushtonH: Greg, if you could let us know where you are and what you do, that'll catch the others up when they return from looking at a few sites I just mentioned.

GregD: I actually own a company that will be leading one of these sessions later this month so I just wanted to observe and see how they work.

RushtonH: Very nice! What's your company?

GregD: Blue Mango Learning Systems - We develop ScreenSteps software

GregD: it is basically a tool for rapid software documentation

GregD: We are based out of McLean, VA just outside of Washington DC

RushtonH: Great - if we go through our material quickly, I may ask you to tell more about it.

GregD: Sure, no problem

ClaudiaTD: Is movie maker similar to Camtasia

RushtonH: Movie Maker is about bringing together various media, and Camtasia is about capturing screen shots in a way to show others how to use a program, for example.

ClaudiaTD: okay

RushtonH: I can guide you to a tutorial or two later - don't let me forget!

ClaudiaTD: ok

RushtonH: Okay, folks, let's keep going.

BJB2 ties a string around Rushton's pinky finger

RushtonH ouch!

RushtonH: Sometimes the questions aren't about the software, but about larger information issues. One big one is the topic of copyright, which is so complex and widely misunderstood that it can be very difficult to know whether you and your students are staying within legal bounds.

StaceyPP: I have the Tapped In page minimized. Can I close out of that and still chat?

RushtonH: A good place to start for those interested in learning more about copyright issues in an educational context is Hall Davidson's site: <http://halldavidson.net> (click on the "Copyright" link)

RushtonH: The "Two-Page Copyright Chart" he makes available (<http://halldavidson.net/copyrightTEACH.pdf>) is an especially good item to have on your classroom wall.

BJB2: no, Stacey. If you close a TI window you'll lose your connection

BJB2 checks to see if everyone got that pdf?

RushtonH: Perhaps the best effort for making media accessible to students and teachers is through the Creative Commons organization (<http://creativecommons.org/>). At their site you can learn how to apply "some rights reserved" licensing to media and projects you create.

RushtonH: Typically the first place one making a video to be posted to the web runs into trouble is either with copyrighted images or copyrighted music. There are easy ways to avoid either pitfall.

RushtonH: For images, there are heaps and heaps of good pictures to use in

presentations or slideshow videos. Perhaps the best is the Creative Commons area of Flickr: <http://search.creativecommons.org> (you may need to click on the "flickr" tab)

RushtonH: You can get to the same thing from the advanced search functions of the Flickr site, but going through the Creative Commons search page is easier.

RushtonH: Give that a quick look, and let me know when you're back.

MonaM: I clicked the flickr tab and brought me to the video. Am I on the right track?

RushtonH: Try putting any search term at the top of the page ("India" for example) and then click to the right of that field.

MonaM: got it

RushtonH: Did you do a search?

MonaM: Yes, I did "Historical Figures".

ClaudiaTD)) Lost in the Florida Sunset

RushtonH: Searching on "India," for example, will yield almost 300,000 images, all of which are under creative commons licensing, so you could use them in a presentation. Not all at once, I'd recommend.

StaceyPP: Wow! The images under "open photos" are nice.

FredK joined the room.

RushtonH: Hey Fred!

StaceyPP: I could use those a lot in my classroom!

RushtonH: There are some great pictures - just make sure to credit the site and photographer.

RushtonH: Remember that with images, one should include a line on the slide, web page or video giving the site and photographer. Here is an example on the site I use for my Japanese language students: <http://whsnihongo.googlepages.com/>

FredK: Sorry to be late. Just got my Email

RushtonH: Better late than never, amigo.

RushtonH: Another site with very good images, all Creative Commons-licensed, is Morguefile (<http://morguefile.com>). On this site, one isn't allowed to upload small

images - they have to be of higher resolution, which is good for those wanting to use them in video material. The collection isn't nearly as big as that of Flickr, but the quality is very high.

NancyGst9 joined the room.

RushtonH: Hi Nancy!

NancyGst9: hello

RushtonH: Still loads of info to go - you're doing fine. Please tell us where you are and what you do.

RushtonH: For everyone else, Fred is an ESL guru in Oklahoma who runs a group here at Tapped In.

FredK: I am in SE Oklahoma, president of our county literacy council;

RushtonH: Both ESL and adult literacy, yes?

FredK: PCLC Grp

NancyGst9: Nancy 1st grade Sunnyvale, CA

RushtonH: Everyone else - ready to move on?

MonaM: yes

FredK: yes

GregD: yes

SusanCC: yes

StaceyPP: yes

NancyGst9: yes

RushtonH: me, too!

RushtonH: On to audio! A good point of departure is making explicit that using a commercially released pop song is not the idea. Help the students understand that the issue is finding something that works for the piece being created, not finding a new favorite song.

RushtonH: For copyright-friendly music, I have had plenty of success with

PodSafeAudio (<http://podsafeaudio.com>). I typically choose "music by genre" and then search for something that fits my idea of how the video will work. The site isn't wildly intuitive with regard to how you download the music, but it is conquerable.

RushtonH: For example, I chose "Film Music" from among the genres, and then "The Battle" by James Underberg (third one down when I checked on Tuesday). You can listen to it by clicking the play arrow next to the name. To download it, though, click on the title, then the 'music' tab in the middle of the screen, and then the song and the download option appear. Sometimes you have to find it via its album - just keep at it and you'll get there!

RushtonH: Take a couple of minutes to give that site a look if you wish. Another site I'm trying to spend some more time learning about is Jamendo (<http://www.jamendo.com/en/>). They bill themselves as a channel by which folks can get their music out to others to consider. If you end up using it a lot, please let me know what you think of it.

RushtonH: Any initial impressions?

FredK: key word--free

RushtonH: An 'amen' rises from the congregation.

StaceyPP: Wow! There's a lot there.

RushtonH: These sites are getting more popular, which is good for us wanting plenty to draw from.

RushtonH: An even cooler option is to create one's own music. A great example of this is the beatbox genre videos in YouTube, with a young guy from some Scandinavian country (with very interesting hair) setting the bar. Take a couple of minutes to watch some or all of "Hyperactive" at YouTube (<http://youtube.com/watch?v=THQ6tJK01Io>) to see what I mean.

RushtonH: May not be your music of choice, but the kids LOVE it. The point, of course, is to show that one can craft good material oneself.

MonaM: I like it.....

RushtonH: This video is a hoot. He does another one called "Drums and Piano" (I think) - you can find it by searching on the same creator/contributor/user (whatever YouTube calls that).

RushtonH: Go back and take a look later on that one - worth the minutes you'll spend, I believe.

RushtonH: There are plenty of programs for combining 'loops' to create music as well. Apple's Garage Band is probably the best among the free/low cost options. In Photo Story 3 (free download from Microsoft.com at <http://tinyurl.com/4f869>), you can even ask for a certain kind of music, set some parameters, and it'll produce something just this side of elevator.

RushtonH: Photo Story 3 is a tool for combining pictures and audio into simple video files. Very easy to learn, and you can use it with students to create wonderful media pieces.

RushtonH: For actually crafting audio, such as recording your voice over a portion of a song for which you adjust the volume down, the really cool free tool is Audacity (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/audacity/>). Explaining how to use Audacity is beyond the scope of the program today, but there are tutorials out there, such as at Guides and Tutorials (<http://www.guidesandtutorials.com/audacity-tutorial.html>).

RushtonH: What if you need to convert one audio or video file type to another? Are there free online tools for that?

RushtonH: (Everyone shout, "Yes!")

MonaM . o O (yes)

ClaudiaTD: YES!

RushtonH: Where's the choir to back up Mona and Claudia?

FredK: yes

StaceyPP: Do you mean like vinyl to cd?

MarkGst7: YES YES

RushtonH: More like .wmv to .mov

RushtonH: Way to sing out, Mark!

StaceyPP: Right

RushtonH: But I love the thought!

RushtonH: The first one I learned about is Media-Convert (<http://www.media-convert.com/>), though you'll need to be careful figuring out what is and what isn't an ad on their main page. My favorite site for this kind of thing is Zamzar (<http://zamzar.com/>). With this site, you can even feed it a URL from YouTube, and then get the video as a .wmv or an .mov, for example. For the YouTube trick, make sure you click on "URL" in

the first of the four greenish boxes for making it happen at the bottom of the screen. It'll do the change and then e-mail you a link letting you know it's ready for download.

RushtonH: This is a great way to get a YouTube piece so that you can watch it at school, of course - firewalls and slow connections can make such things difficult.

RushtonH: Everyone ready to keep going?

FredK: for sure

StaceyPP: Okay.

MonaM: Yes

MarkGst7: Yep

ClaudiaTD: I'm not sure what you mean by closing the you tube video

GregD: Yes

RushtonH: Claudia, ask that question in another way - I'm not sure exactly which part you mean.

ClaudiaTD: I was uncertain about the youtube trick.

RushtonH: Got it.

ClaudiaTD: I think if I play with it once or twice I can figure it out

RushtonH: Many of us can't watch YouTube at school, because it's blocked, or the connections aren't good enough.

ClaudiaTD: I need time in the sandbox.

RushtonH: With Zamzar, you can get a copy of one of the really interesting pieces as a downloaded file to discuss with your kids.

RushtonH: Stay in touch with me after the session, and I'll make sure you get it.

RushtonH: For anyone looking to build a video production class or unit, there are some strong resources available.

ClaudiaTD: Okay thanks

RushtonH: To get video tutorials for digital ethics, online safety, video production, and a number of other topics, give Nortel LearnIT a look (<http://www.nortellearnit.org/>). The

videos are short and helpful, and are very well done. A good activity is to have students go through one, try it out with a project you assign, and then decide if there is anything that the creator of the Nortel LearniT video left out!

RushtonH: Adobe makes a full curriculum available on its site (<http://tinyurl.com/2zxn55>). There are a load of units on the page as .pdf files, so download as the Spirit moves you. I'd suggest you use this link and bookmark it - it can be a trick trying to get back to it from the Adobe Education home page (I may have been looking right past something obvious, but it was giving me fits).

RushtonH: These sites can get you to stark noob (newbie, beginner, etc.) to has-some-clue pretty quickly.

RushtonH: Any of you teaching video, or having students make them?

MonaM: No

StaceyPP: We made photo stories but not movies.

StaceyPP: The students did use the music tool to "make" their own background music.

StaceyPP: They loved it!

RushtonH: Great tool - what kind of photo stories did the kids make?

StaceyPP: They researched the life cycle of an animal.

StaceyPP: Each slide told about a different part of the cycle.

RushtonH: Very cool. We may need to get the videos (if appropriate) into the Next Vista library!

StaceyPP: I had the students scan in illustrations.

ClaudiaTD: We did photo stories as well with Adult ESOL students preparing for certain occupations and going through the interview process.

RushtonH: Awesome! Video really does have special power to get folks engaged in a topic quickly.

RushtonH: Speaking of photos...

RushtonH: In any media project, you are likely to want at some point to work easily with image files - resizing them, converting the file type, etc. You can spend big bucks on expensive software, or you can download a free program called IrfanView (<http://irfanview.com/>). It does all sorts of great things, and it gets updated all the time. I

love it.

ClaudiaTD: We did not use music but interview questions and responses

RushtonH: Claudia, I'd be interested to see some of those at some point, if that's okay.

RushtonH: For online presentations, you should also check out the fairly new presentation tool at Google Docs (<http://docs.google.com/>). You'll need a Google account, but being able to do word processing, spreadsheet stuff, and presentations at any internet-connected computer without having to carry around even a flash drive is very nice. Not as powerful as the corresponding Microsoft Office applications, but what you lose in features, you gain in convenience and the very powerful ability to collaborate online. That last part has many folks switching away from Office to Docs, I've heard.

ClaudiaTD: okay!

RushtonH: One of the very best things to do to make sure you are finding out where you can get good tools and questions answered to any of these things is to join a good online community. Try VidSnacks (<http://vidsnacks.ning.com/>), for example - there are people there with all kinds of talent for using tools to create videos.

JeffC: Another site to create collaborative office documents is <http://www.thinkfree.com>

RushtonH: Indeed - there are loads of good ones out there.

RushtonH: Finally, as you may have noticed throughout this presentation, there is a great way to take a long URL and make it much shorter. Go to TinyURL (<http://tinyurl.com>) and paste the long URL into its field in the middle of the page. Moments later, you have a short one you can send to others. Very smart tool.

RushtonH: Thanks again for coming! I'll stick around until the top of the hour to answer questions if anyone has them, but I'd encourage you to try some of these tools and let me know what you think. Reach me at my e-mail (rh@nextvista.org).

RushtonH: Also, sign up for the newsletter from Next Vista for Learning (my little save-the-world effort) by going to our site (<http://www.nextvista.org>) and clicking on the 'newsletter' area in the lower right. I send out news on all sorts of stuff about once or twice a month (it's info, not discussion, so it won't suddenly explode in your inbox).

JeffC: I used to use tinyurl, but <http://www.snipurl.com> is better.

RushtonH: What's the advantage?

JeffC: You create your own account and may *edit* the link.

JeffC: therefore... <http://snurl.com/ticalendar> takes you to the tapped in calendar.

RushtonH: Very nice!

JeffC: and it stores everything you've "snipped."

RushtonH: And the world just keeps getting better. 8^)

RushtonH: Any final thoughts for the group?

StaceyPP: Thanks for all the info. I have a lot to explore now!

RushtonH: If you don't receive my newsletter, feel free to leave your e-mail address or sign up on our site - it's always good to have someone to turn to with questions!

JeffC: btw... most school districts filter both tinyurl and snipurl... arguing (wrongly I think) that you might redirect to a banned site. my argument is that if snipurl redirects to a banned site and the filter doesn't catch it... then that's a fault of the filter... not snipurl... which is *invaluable* for educators.

MonaM: Great and useful information. Thank you very much...:waves

ClaudiaTD: Thank you for sharing these resources. I can't wait to play!

FredK: What little time I have been here tonight has definitely been worth it.

GregD: I don't even teach and I learned about a lot of great stuff - Thanks

GregD: Thanks

BJB2: oops...just learned that Rushton will be at a conference in March...so mark your calendars for April 3

RushtonH: Mark, where did you say you are?

ClaudiaTD: which one

RushtonH: CUE in Palm Springs - will you go?

MarkGst7: Is there a way to get this in a file to be able to get all of the links and great discussions?

BJB2 wonders if Greg will be there

MarkGst7: Half Moon Bay

RushtonH: Definitely. E-mail me at rh@nextvista.org or plop your e-mail into this

discussion and I'll e-mail you.

RushtonH: Were you at SVCUE?

ClaudiaTD: I will not be going to Palm Springs, but NECC in San Antonio

MonaM: Will all the sites be on our transcripts?

BJB2 heads to the Teaching Teachers Discussion

MarkGst7: mwb@stanford.edu Yes I am the one

BJB2: yes, Mona

GregD: No, I won't be at CUE

BJB2 waves bye

MonaM: Great!

RushtonH: I'll be at NECC this summer, doing three sessions (two on making videos and one on Google tools).