Title of Session: Web Tools for Education - Search Engines
Moderator: Pam Berger
Title of File: 20080305webtools
Date: March 5, 2008

Room: Web Tools for Education Group

PamB : I'm Pam Berger, a library and educational technology consultant from NY

ElizabetAP: I'm Elizabeth Pourciau, teacher/administrator from San Diego, CA

JulieGr: I'm Julie Graves, doctoral student CU in Boulder, CO - in Educational Psych. Have a TI group called Diversity U.

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania and teach remedial communication

PamB : Welcome everyone!

JulieGr: a logistical Q: I saw somewhere that I can make the font bigger here...how do I do that?

BJB2: go to actions and select larger text

PamB : I was going to introduce a few search engines that we could use with students....

PamB : rather than always using Google...

ElizabetAP: much easier on the eyes

BJB2: google is so easy...why would we want to use a different engine, Pam?

PamB : Elizabeth's population is too young to use search engines....

PamB : what grades do you work with Julie

JulieGr: aaaah, indeed Elizabeth. :) thanks!

JulieGr: mostly adults -

PamB : BJ, google is great at finding info but not the best at presenting results...

ElizabetAP: so you know Pam, my credential is in Elementary Ed...

PamB : kids don't understand the context and other search engines can have added value for them.

BJB2 nods

PamB : I posted a list of a few SE on the WebTools page...on the bottom right. Do you see it?

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SEARCH ENGINES

Quintura
http://www.quintura.com
http://kids.quintura.com

Clusty
http://clusty.com

PageBull
http://www.pagebull.com

KoolTorch
http://www.kooltorch.com

Intelways
http://intelways.com

Scandoo
http://www.scandoo.com

Ask.com
http://www.ask.com
=====

BJB2: most of those are new to me, Pam!

PamB : let's take a look at the first one, either the adult version or the one for kids and then spend 5-10 minutes playing with it. Come back and we'll talk about it. Quintura

ElizabetAP: ok

JulieGr: okay...

PamB : be sure to move your cursor over the TAG CLOUD and see what happens.

ElizabetAP: where do I find the TAG cloud Pam?

ElizabetAP: I'm on Kidsquintura

JulieGr: yes I'm doing the tag cloud now actually... once it's got me locked in to something, how do I move back out to broader?

ElizabetAP: ahh ok

PamB : the tag cloud is the visual of the keywords floating above

ElizabetAP: yes! thanks

PamB : Click on the first topic you entered

ElizabetAP: that is very neat

PamB : I agree

PamB : Julie, Elizabeth, Bj are you all back?

ElizabetAP: yes

PamB looks around the room

ElizabetAP: has a sip of her tea

PamB thinks Julie and BJ are hiding

JulieGr: I'm here... LOVE the site!

PamB smiles

PamB : isn't it cool?!

ElizabetAP: it really is

PamB : It's very helpful for students to test out different topics...

BJB2: I'm back..was reading science riddles and jokes

PamB : to narrow down topics and explore a little

ElizabetAP: I found that I don't even need to click , if I hold the cursor on something it takes me there

PamB : I think that's one of the best parts...being able to move your cursor and explore.

ElizabetAP: nods

PamB : I have a few more visual SE -- all very different. Let's take a look at page bull...

PamB : it might load slowly because it's so graphic intensive.

PamB : come back in 5 minutes after you explore pagebull

ElizabetAP: ok

ElizabetAP: still loading....

PamB : mine too

PamB : mine timed out

ElizabetAP: still loading...

PamB : did anyone get pagebull?

ElizabetAP: timed out

ElizabetAP: but I'm on a laptop using a router

PamB : maybe we should go on to another SE

ElizabetAP: agrees

BJB2: I'm not getting it either

JulieGr: me neither... it's just spinning...

PamB : my whole system is slowing down

ElizabetAP: how bout kooltorch

PamB : let's look at KoolTorch

BJB2: We can try that engine later

ElizabetAP: wow it even has a custom Ebay button!

PamB is struggling with her slooow system.

PamB : Kool Torch's graphical interface is not so friendly at first...

PamB : but HS students think it's cool and have no problem with it.
PamB : we are looking at search engines

PamB : there is a list on the bottom right

JulieGr: I think it's very cool too!

PamB : it has lots of info on one screen- they say they spatially optimized it!

JeffC: I've gotta new one for you... http://www.chacha.com ...I just signed up... it's still in beta, but it's *live support* (which is what I signed up for giving)... they pay like .25 a search/answer... so... human search + net search + (maybe money) = chacha.

ElizabetAP: Esp the reference one, wow!

JulieGr: are these pages - Quintura, Kool torch and these others - more limited that say Google in the info they can find?

PamB : yea, it's a social search engine...the collective intelligence stuff at work.

PamB : I think so Julie. google is still the most powerful but....

PamB : it helps to have students learn about these because they help kids to explore and make meaning with what they have found.

PamB : Let's look at one more - Clusty...

PamB : be sure to look at the clusters and the tabs on the left. and also hit the remix button and then...

PamB : we'll come back and talk about it.

JulieGr: can someone say a bit more about the 'social search engine' versus these we're looking at, and say the usual Google - I don't get it.

ElizabetAP: the Clusty pg reminds me a bit of Google

PamB : with social search engines, when someone searches the SE remembers and uses that info the next time you come back and when other people search on the same topic.

ElizabetAP: not many choices, just type in and search

ElizabetAP: ok now I see the choices!

PamB : when kids type in broad terms, the SE clusters the concepts...

PamB : and they can also look at the results by sources and sites.

JulieGr: where is 'remix'?

PamB : If you don't find what you want use the REMIX button and it will offer you more choices that didn't make the first cut.

PamB : it's next to the ALL RESULTS total number of hits

PamB : Which one do you like the best so far?

ElizabetAP: a lot to look at on Clusty....

ElizabetAP: I think I like Kooltorch

JulieGr: all cool... but I'm in love with Quintura Kids... perhaps because I never get to work with learners THAT young!

ElizabetAP: I like the interface

PamB : I think Quintura is my latest favorite although I sue Clusty a lot.

ElizabetAP: I meant quintura

PamB : Here's the last one and it's a fun site...

PamB : http://liveplasma.com

JulieGr: Pam - do you use them in your own work, or mostly with kids to assist them in theirs?

ElizabetAP: wow, I just typed an artist and it gave me at least 20 others that are similar!

PamB : I work with school district and help teachers and school librarians.

BJB2 looks at the clock on the wall

PamB : once you go on to liveplasma you spend hours!

ElizabetAP: my goodness, yes

BJB2: Pam's next WebTools will be on April 2

ElizabetAP: well, thank you Pam for your time!

PamB : thanks for coming

JulieGr: a logistical aside: is there anyway - in this chatbox - the get the most recent entry to NOT be right at the bottom of the window... so that I can focus my eyes near the top of the window, not always at the bottom?

ElizabetAP: all great SE's

BJB2 hugs Pam. Lord willing and the creek don't rise, we'll see you in April!

ElizabetAP: have a good evening!

BJB2: resize your chat window, Julie

PamB : see you in April

ElizabetAP: waves bye

JulieGr: This has been great - thank you Pam!!! Bye all!

PamB : or maybe before

BJB2 . o O (always good to see you Pam :-))