

Title of Session: Web Tools for Education

Moderator: Pam Berger

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Room: Web Tools for Education Group

BJB2: Welcome, everyone, to Web Tools for Education.

BJB2: Pam, would you like to start with introductions? I'm going to announce....everyone just ignore the announcement. You're in the correct room

BJB2: everyone please give a brief introduction: where you are located geographically and what you teach or hope to teach

DianaHar: Just checking my crazy computer to see if anything is going on

ShaunaK: I am in San Diego and I teach math.

SusanTal: I teach music kindergarten through second grade in Escondido, California

PamB : I'm Pam Berger. I'm a consultant from NY- I work with school libraries and educational technology.

SandyJS: Hi, I'm in San Diego County, currently substitute teaching, hoping to teach middle school math but also interested in all things k-12 and technology!

BJB2: I'm in Pennsylvania and am a retired communications/arts teacher

LeslieBC: I'm from a small rural community in Louisiana and teach 7th & 8th grade language arts

PamB : Welcome! Tonight we're going to look at two very different tools - flowgram and skype.

DianaHar: Hi I am a stay at home mom, I am getting my MA at CSUSM. I think Shauna and I are in the same class

ShaunaK: Yes, I believe we are! :-)

ShaunaK: I'm also a stay at home mom right now.

PamB : have you used either of these tools?

SusanTal: No

ShaunaK: I have not.

MayelaH joined the room.

BJB2: I've used Skype

LeslieBC: NO - I confess I'm clueless!

SandyJS: no, but my children have used skype and something called team speak

BJB2 . o O (one way to add voice to Tapped In, but not the best solution)

PamB : well, skype has been around a while but is now starting to catch on while flowgram is pretty new.

MayelaH: what is flowgram?

PamB : I'm glad you asked!

PamB : Let's look at it first...

DianaHar: I have not used skype

MayelaH: ok

RenateJ joined the room.

BJB2: Welcome, Renate. Pam is just about to show us FlowGram

PamB : It a web-based tool that allows you to combine powerpoint, websites, photos and more...

DianaHar: sounds awesome

PamB : and you can add narration to whole thing.

ShaunaK: I like it already.

PamB : Let's go look at it, explore and look at the examples...

PamB : and then come back in 10 minutes so we can talk about it...

MayelaH: where?

SandyJS: wow, sounds great

BJB2: when Pam shows you the url, hold down the ctrl key to override pop ups

PamB: the url is <http://www.flowgram.com>

SandyJS: where are we going?

RenateJ: Sounds great....It is my first time in Tapped In.

DianaHar: I am sorry, i may have missed the directions of how we explore flowgram

BJB2 checks to see if everyone got that url

SandyJS: so we leave, and come back after we've checked it out

BJB2: Diana, click on the url and see if a new web window opens for you

LindaJS joined the room.

PamB: to look at flowgram

BJB2: welcome back, Linda

BJB2: Pam just gave us the url for flowgram <http://www.flowgram.com/>

LindaJS: o.k., I'll try and look at it, thanks.

DianaHar: its ok I found it

SandyJS: I'm loading an update for Flash to see it in action....

DianaHar: I see it is associated with Flickr

RenateJ: I just watched the demo of flowgram...awesome!

MayelaH: hello

MayelaH: I want to see it how do I do that?

BJB2: <http://www.flowgram.com/>

BJB2: open a new browser window, Mayela and enter that url

BJB2: the video is on the homepage

MayelaH: ok

PamB : Diana, I'm not sure it is associated with Flickr. I think they are using Flickr as an example.

DianaHar: Yes I got that now too

SandyJS: ok, I'm back, saw the video, it's great!

ShaunaK: I love this idea. I just registered as a member and tried it out.

DianaHar: I'm back too

MayelaH: wow

SandyJS: free?

PamB : Look at this flowgram. it's quite good for a university lecture on Web 2.0 tools
<http://www.flowgram.com/p/xdu2grcf5ccuyc>

PamB : yes, it's FREE!

MeganT joined the room.

LeslieBC: impressive tool

PamB : yes, you pull together a variety of examples for teaching, create a voiceover and save it.

BJB2: welcome, Megan

PamB : is everyone back?

BJB2: we're looking at this demo of
Flowgram: <http://www.flowgram.com/p/xdu2grcf5ccuyc>

MeganT: Thanks, had trouble logging in!

ShaunaK: I'm still finishing listening to the last link.

SandyJS: I've heard of moodle before, what is that?

DianaHar: yes, I love that students can get the information any time anywhere

PamB : there are some very good websites in the last flowgram I shared.

SandyJS: still watching the show; should I continue?

PamB : let's come back to talk about it.

SandyJS: ok

BJB2: the urls will be in your transcripts when you log out

ShaunaK: I'd like to listen to this one again. There are some GREAT tools.

SandyJS: yes, this is wonderful

ShaunaK: Okay, I'm back.

PamB : how do you see using it with your students...now and in the future?

PamB : I think both visual and audio learners will like it.

SandyJS: It would be a great way for classmates to share projects

ShaunaK: I think it's a great option for projects. Much more dynamic than the usual powerpoint.

PamB : yes, and it requires development of more skills, also.

SandyJS: Love the multi-media aspect

PamB : planning what will be said as well as the visuals.

PamB : the flowgram can be posted to a blog, also.

ShaunaK: This can also help teachers with staff development.

ShaunaK: I can see making one of these to explain a technology skill and sharing it.

SandyJS: That flowgram was so terrific! So many resources!

PamB : what grades do you think it's best for?

ShaunaK: Teachers can then check it out on their own time.

SandyJS: Kids will love this stuff!

PamB : you can upload excel, word and PDF files to it also.

ShaunaK: I think all grades but probably middle to high school??

MeganT: This is cool! Sorry I missed the first part!

DianaHar: I see this working great for third to twelfth grade in particular

PamB : I agree, for production, but younger if the students are just watching and listening.

ShaunaK: Would K-5 kids be able to do this? I think it would be tough for the little ones.

MayelaH: do you think I can use it with GATE students?

DianaHar: Right, I think younger grades will be engaged in the multimedia aspect to watch

PamB : Wouldn't it be cool to have kids write a book with their voices telling the story.

DianaHar: Upper grades can take part in creation

ShaunaK: Oh! I love that idea!

PamB nods

SandyJS: I know teens will enjoy it, but I think it might be a great way to use technology with the younger students, too, because it will provide a sophisticated means of sharing information for them, which they might not be able to do, say, with writing.

ShaunaK: YES!

PamB : yes!

SandyJS: Also infinite class projects which could be shared with the public or whomever

MayelaH: hello

SandyJS: Gate students would love this

DianaHar: I love the book idea as well

MeganT: Kids could be so creative and really develop higher levels of thinking! It could be great in any subject area!

SandyJS: How long has this been around? I'm surprised I've never heard of it before.

PamB : I think it was introduced this past summer.

ShaunaK: Pam, are you going to talk about Skype today? You mentioned it and I don't know what it is.

BJB2 . o O (Tapped In has been around since 1997...had you heard of that before? ;-)

PamB laughs at BJ

PamB : yes, are you ready to move on?

SusanTal: Okay

ShaunaK: Yes.

SandyJS: I guess I live a sheltered life...

MayelaH: I am currently teaching GATE students and I think that by using this program they will be able to incorporate their multiple intelligences

SandyJS: yes

RenateJ: I'm ready....just watched the FLOWgram.....lots of info.

LindaJS: yes, I'm ready

MeganT: Ready, I will go back to this site later!

MayelaH: kids get so excited when they have the opportunity to use technology

ShaunaK: Absolutely.

BJB2 smiles...that wasn't my point, Sandy...it's just that the discussion leaders do a great job of finding resources for you...Take advantage of their expertise!

PamB : skype is totally different. it free software you download and install and it allows you to talk , just like a regular phone, but over the Internet -- for FREE!

ShaunaK: Interesting!

MeganT: Cool!

SusanTal: I thought it also worked with video

PamB : if you are talking one to one, you can use a video cam and see each other...

SandyJS: Yes, I know! It's all awesome, and thank you!!

PamB : if there is a group, then you just hear each other ...like a conference call.

SandyJS: ok, so why is skype free? I'm always thinking about ulterior motives....

PamB : I love it! I talk to friends and colleagues all over the country.

MeganT: So this could be good for group projects and student collaboration?

DianaHar: what type of other equipment do you need for skype

PamB : yes, many schools are starting to use it to talk to...

PamB : authors, experts, other classes...

SandyJS: Do you need a special headset?

PamB : you need speakers and a headset, the video cam is optional.

SandyJS: great

MeganT: You could do projects with people across the globe. International pen pals, but over the internet.

RenateJ: videoconferencing, without the expensive hardware/software??

ShaunaK: Can you use a regular microphone or do you NEED the headset?

PamB : let's go to the skype page and read about it and then come back in a few minutes

PamB : <http://www.skype.com>

PamB : any microphone and speakers will do.

DianaHar: This may be a weird question...

DianaHar: But do you need to know the people you are working with or ...

DianaHar: is there some sort of way to communicate with experts that you don't know

PamB : I brought a logitech videocam that has speakers and a microphone built in so my hands are free- it was only \$90 and the video resolution and sound is very good.

PamB : I don't know of any site that lists experts that's a good idea.

BJB2 . o O (try Tapped In ;-)

BJB2 . o O (Pam is the expert today)

BJB2 sits on her hands and promises to stop yakking

PamB : I use skype everyday. I'm writing a book and my co-author lives in PA and I'm in NY so we skype!

ShaunaK: Should we download Skype right now?

DianaHar: It was just interesting to me the international idea

DianaHar: But I don't know anyone internationally

PamB : no don't download it now...wait till later, after our session.

SandyJS: I just found out one of my sons has skype and he says he uses it all the time! I guess I need to talk to my family more...

PamB : <http://www.skype.com>

RenateJ: ok...just tried downloading, and lost you guys...back now

SandyJS: this is fantastic!

ShaunaK: Okay. Is there a place on the website to check it out?

ShaunaK: never mind.

ShaunaK: I found it.

SandyJS: it says "use skype"

SandyJS: but we don't use skype with Tapped In?

ShaunaK: Yes. :-)

PamB : you can even call someone who is on a regular phone...only it costs \$\$ - but not much, less expensive than a regular land line.

ShaunaK: Wow! That is so cool.

PamB : to do that you need to buy "skype" time with your credit card.

PamB : I purchased the minimum \$10. and It only costs me .87 cents to call MX for 15 minutes.

ShaunaK: What's MX?

BJB2 . o O (Mexico)

ShaunaK: Ooh.

MeganT: That is pretty amazing. I have a friend who uses it from Grenada to work in California everyday

PamB : Well, two very different tools, but they both support communication.

MayelaH: hi

SandyJS: my son says it's easy to use

DianaHar: I think I am stuck here

PamB : it's very easy to use and has lots of purposes in education.

SusanTal: I'm thinking skype could be used for tutoring

PamB : yes, it is!

LindaJS: My eyes glaze over when I read about actually setting it up

BJB2 . o O (I've used it to communicate with my husband when he's on his computer in another room in the house ;-)

MeganT: I can really see it being beneficial for HS students for collaboration. Also homework help like tutorials

ShaunaK laughs

BJB2: it can't be that hard, Linda, if I did it ;-)

PamB : another good tool for online tutoring is Eluminate.com <http://www.elluminate.com/>

MeganT: Thanks I will check it out!

PamB : you can have three people at a conference for free...

DianaHar: I think tutoring is one of the best ideas for this

LindaJS: well, you may be a brilliant computer user.

PamB : and it has a white board and other features that skype can't do.

DianaHar: I was reading in a class that students wish they had 24 hour homework help. This would be great

RenateJ: Pam, did you say that Skype can be used for a number of people to conference call at one time?

PamB : yes, it's called the "conference call" on skype.

PamB : you can't see them but everyone can hear each other...

PamB : and another nice feature is that...

MeganT: I like the elluminate site too. It seems almost more useful for tutorials, like it is geared for teaching

RenateJ: Now I can see how that can be used in classrooms!

PamB : everyone has an icon and when one person is talking...

PamB : the icon is highlighted...

PamB : so you know who is taking.

PamB : I use it for committee meetings since my committee is spread across the US.

JimHi joined the room.

JeffC: one caveat... note that most school districts will block skype.

BJB2 waves hi to Jim

SusanTal: I would like to set up conference calls for high school students to talk to college students studying in the field they are interested in.

DianaHar: thank you Pam for these great internet tools

MeganT: That is a cool idea Susan

PamB : you need to work with your administrators to do pilot projects and get it unblocked!

PamB : great idea Susan!

MeganT: we have to offer guidance about these tools and not be so afraid they will be

misused!

BJB2: you also might want to look at WiZiQ for that, Susan

RenateJ: Pam, thanks for the info.

ShaunaK: Yes. It has been very helpful! I look forward to attending another one of these conferences. Thanks, Pam and BJ

PamB: you're welcome!

PamB: see you next month!

MeganT: Sorry I was late! This was a useful session!

BJB2: The next Web Tools for Education will be November 5

LeslieBC: Thanks for the great information

ShaunaK: Bye!

SusanTal: Thanks much. I've got lots to think about.

PamB: try skype and flowgram and let us know how you did,

PamB: good night!

MeganT: Good Night!

BJB2: Thanks, Pam

BJB2: Thanks, everyone, for participating in the discussion!

PamB: Thank you BJ for all your support!

PamB hugs BJ

BJB2 smiles and hugs Pam. Take care and be safe!