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.

BJB2: Pam, would you like to start with introductions?

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

MarkEW: I'm Mark, I'm an English 11 teacher from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

MarkWG: I'm also Mark, and I'm a high school business teacher in Stafford County Virginia

MinervaS: Minerva here. I'm a library teacher from Long Beach, CA

MeganBl: I'm Megan, a middle school Teacher Librarian in Los Angeles

RenateJ: I'm Renate from Long Island, NY. I was a computer teacher/staff developer until 5 yrs. ago. Just started to get back into the swing of things by taking workshops, going to tech conferences and am hoping to consult/teach soon.

AnneYL: I'm Anne, I'm a French teacher in LA. I'm in a class in the Teacher Librarian Program at Long Beach with you, Minerva

PamB : I'm also a teacher-librarian

PamB : Welcome everyone!

PamB : I wanted to share two fun tools with you this evening.

PamB : have you used Wordle?

RenateJ: Not yet

AnneYL: I haven't

MeganBl: no

BJB2: hmmm. Someone sent me an invitation to join, but haven't gotten around to it yet

MarkEW: I haven't, but my wife says she has--she also teaches ENG 11.

MarkWG: no

BJB2 hopes it wasn't Pam who sent the invite!

MinervaS: what is it?

PamB : It creates "word clouds" which comes from the Web 2.0 concept of tag clouds...

HarmonyV: great

RenateJ: Cool, I've been wondering about the tag clouds.

PamB : Are you familiar with tag clouds from programs like delicious and Flickr

HarmonyV: yes

AnneYL: A tag on a photo that makes you find other photos with that tag?

RenateJ: I use delicious and Flickr, but haven't used the tag clouds.

MarkEW: I just checked it out...seems to be good for vocabulary development.

PamB : tags are keywords you give to bookmarks or photos that you are saving to be able to retrieve them later...

PamB : well these programs create "tag clouds" ...

PamB : tags that are used most are represented larger and darker than others...

PamB : the program Wordle took this concept and do it with words rather then tags.

PamB : Let's go look at wordle...create one for yourself and come back in 10 minutes.

MarkEW: Looks like a greeting card I once received.

HarmonyV: ok

PamB : http://wordle.net

PamB : if you want to make the word larger, then type it in 2 or three times.

MinervaS: is there a way to keep the words together?

PamB : not that I have figured out.

PamB : try changing the font and other custom features

AnneYL : I keep pasting text and clicking on "submit", but the system tells me there are no tags found for it.

MarkEW : if you want to keep the words together, don't use spaces

HarmonyV : this is so neat! what a great way to make a creative display of words!

PamB : Mark, I have done that and if you use caps it sometimes separates them

PamB : Anne, try typing in words

AnneYL : Ok, I was clicking on the wrong button ...

PamB : okay

MinervaS : ok

MinervaS : I put phrases together by adding ~

MinervaS : between words

MinervaS : minerva~samayoa

PamB : great idea, Minerva

MeganBl : I love this... It is great!

MinervaS : thanks

PamB : is everyone back?

BJB2 nods

HarmonyV : yes

MinervaS : back. Saved it to my favorites. thanks Pam

PamB : do you have any ideas on to use this tool with kids?

AnneYL : yes

MinervaS : physical characteristics of a character

MinervaS: maybe learn parts of speech

MinervaS: using a thesaurus

PamB : or maybe to describe a book they have read

PamB : or their own reading interests

AnneYL: yes, or a text studied. I find it great that I could use it for French too

PamB : you can copy and paste two text to compare them...

MinervaS: poetry

PamB : such as a speech by Obama and another one by McCain

HarmonyV: maybe word association or a brainstorm of words for a topic/concept

MeganBl: yes

AnneYL: I like the idea of comparing two speeches!

MarkEW: My wife uses it for character descriptions in a creative way, and yes it begins to resemble poetry

PamB : Or kids can copy and past their won writing to see which words appear the largest....the ones they use the most.

MeganBl: I used the blog by Meg Cabot, and the biggest words seemed to be in line with her writing style. It gives kids an idea of her main thoughts

HarmonyV: oooh. I like that idea

AdrianaB joined the room.

MinervaS: that is good Megan

PamB : it such a simple tool but can be used in powerful ways.

AnneYL: Yes, thanks for showing it to us !

RenateJ: Are we still on Wordle? I can't get anything to work.

MinervaS: give us another one. I'm eager to hear about something else

AdrianaB : hello all... sorry I'm late

AnneYL: Hi Adriana !

BJB2: A Tapped In member, Sheryl McCoy, has created a Wordle group in Diigo

BJB2: welcome, Adriana

AdrianaB: hi Anne

PamB : another idea is to have kids to create a wordle to diescribe themselves, hang them around room and have the kids figure out who wrote which wordle.

AdrianaB: sounds like I missed a lot!

PamB : Let's look at ourstory.com

PamB : come back in 10 minutes after you explore a few.

HarmonyV: ok

BJB2: http://ourstory.com

AdrianaB: did I miss anything suitable for High School?

BJB2: Adriana, we just looked at http://wordle.com

AdrianaB: is that for HS level?

PamB : wordle is good for all ages

AdrianaB: ok thx

MarkEW: the timeline is cool...could surely be used in high school for a limitless number of applications. wordle is good for all ages, but I'm not sure some of my higher-ability kids would be all that into it...they sometimes need a little more POP than this...it's not what I would describe as a mental challenge.

MarkEW: timelines would be especially useful used in conjunction with a novel--think Faulkner's material with this...(gasps)...oh my

PamB : Mark, which one is not a mental challenge?

MarkEW: wordle wouldn't challenge my higher-ability 17 year olds

PamB : perhaps used to create poetry ...it might.

MarkEW: but perhaps my perspective is limited with it?

MinervaS: timelines are great, but I am having a hard time clicking on anything

PamB: it's more of a quick tool to analyze prose.

MarkEW: I can see that certainly, quick word associations with a concept or character

PamB: or create representations of ideas and concepts.

PamB nods

MarkEW: with a touch of randomized personal creativity

AdrianaB: the timeline looked interesting, though I didn't try it out. I could definitely see it for history projects

AdrianaB: but I'm not too sure what wordle was all about

PamB: definitely history and also biographical work

AdrianaB: indeed

SusanR joined the room.

HarmonyV: maybe literary timelines too

PamB: yea!

MarkEW: we do an Immigration Project in my American Studies class that ourstory.com would be IDEAL for, adding to the wealth of personal research

SusanR pops in quietly

AdrianaB: Pam, could you elucidate on wordle a bit?

AnneYL: Yes, it can certainly make the timeline of events very clear... as it name suggests!

PamB: Adriana, Wordle creates "word clouds"...

PamB: you can type in words or copy and paste text...

AdrianaB: hmm... not familiar w/the concept

PamB: the more times a word is used, the larger it will be represented.

PamB : it's similar to "tag clouds"

AdrianaB : oh... like in delicious or libraryThing?

BJB2: One use for Wordle was One of the middle school social studies teachers I work with now has her students copy and paste their reports into wordle to look at how focused the report is on the subject and for word variety. The word variety self-assessment came about when a student put her report into wordle and saw that "also" was the largest word, She showed it to her teacher and said, "I guess I use "also" too much." The teacher made a lesson out of it and now the students are much more aware of the word choices they make.

PamB : Yes! exactly

AdrianaB : ok

AdrianaB : ok

PamB : kids can describe a book they read...

PamB : or themsleves or their reading interests...

MeganBl: I love that idea of showing kids how repetitive they can be

AdrianaB : BJB, that's a great way to self-assess repetitiveness

PamB : yes, it's a very visual experience

BJB2 nods

AdrianaB : I bet "and" comes up a lot!

PamB smiles

AdrianaB : are there any other tools you'll be introducing tonight, Pam?

PamB : well, we have time for one more.

AdrianaB : yay

HarmonyV: yay

PamB : let's look at http://flowgram.com

HarmonyV: ok

AnneYL: ok

PamB: it a presentation tool that combines many sources.... go look and come back in 5 minutes.

MarkEW: NICE...

AdrianaB: wow, this is awesome!

BJB2: Flowgram is free?!

AdrianaB: oh, is it free??

MeganBl: I really like it!

HarmonyV: this is so neat! I love it! talk about a high tech presentation!

PamB: I think so.

AdrianaB: I'm both impressed, and overwhelmed!

MarkEW: all of these are great, but this gets the A++...possibilities in the classroom (and beyond) are truly unlimited, and I agree with the edublog.com quote on the home page

PamB: I haven't made any flowgrams yet but I was impressed with what I saw.

AdrianaB: how did you come across this, Pam?

PamB: I'm writing a book on using Web 2.0 tools to support learning and my co author found it.

AdrianaB: very cool

SusanR: Here is an example of a Flowgram http://www.flowgram.com/p/t6t77d67amfj3g

HarmonyV: sounds like a must have book. I'd definitely buy it

MarkEW: these type sites make me glad I live in this era of history...and like Sierra Mist--it's Free!

PamB: thanks! It's been a lot of work, but I have enjoyed researching and using the tools.

MinervaS: thanks Pam

AdrianaB: (Sierra Mist is free? the soda?)

HarmonyV: thank you so much for sharing your hard work

PamB : you're welcome

AnneYL: Yes, and the more we go, the more of these will become available... to use in education

AdrianaB: yes, thanks Pam

JeffC: Flowgram was ranked #1 of the best Web 2.0 sites at http://snurl.com/bestweb

BJB2: Thanks, Pam. Some great sites.

JeffC: Another site with over 100 excellent Web 2.0 apps is http://snurl.com/web2tools

PamB : what are some of your favorite sites?

BJB2 appreciates Pam taking time from her busy schedule to share WebTools for Education with the Tapped In members each month

PamB : thanks BJB

JeffC: hmmm... Tapped In Pam? ;-)

BJB2 smiles at Jeff...good answer!

PamB laughs

JeffC didn't want to get thwacked for suggesting anything else!

MarkEW: thanks Pam, thanks Jeff for that last link, and everybody else--this has been great for a first timer. I'll be back w/o the cat troubles :)

MarkEW: thanks bjb, too

AnneYL: I'm trying to go to the websites from this page, but nothing opens up

BJB2: The next WebTools for Education is tentatively scheduled for December 3

BJB2: Anne, hold down the ctrl or shift key when you click on the url to override pop up blockers

MeganBl: Thank you!

BJB2: or use the Pasteboard from the actions menu

BJB2: or wait for your transcript

PamB : Good night everyone!

AnneYL: Oh yes, that is what you said earlier, thank you, I had just been typing in the addresses in my browser

PamB : thanks for coming!

BJB2 . o O (which will be sent about 10 minutes after you log out)

AnneYL: Thank you and good night too

BJB2 waves bye

SusanR : Thanks Pam