Title of Session: ISTE Media Specialists – Assistive Technology
Moderator: Lesley Farmer
Title of File: 20091117ISTEmsat
Date: November 17, 2009

Room: Cybrarians Group

LisaPe joined the room.

DanaWo joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Lisa and Dana

DanaWo: hi bjb

BJB2: this discussion will start in about 10 minutes

DanaWo: great

DanaWo: are you thinking 90 minutes, or one hour?

BJB2: one hour

DanaWo: Awesome

BJB2: welcome to the Tapped In community, Dana!

BJB2 . o O (I see you just got your membership today)

CarolynGo joined the room.

DanaWo: thanks

BJB2: Hi, Carolyn.

DanaWo: I got the ISTE SIGMS email from Laurie Conzemius

BJB2: good. Nice to see networking taking place

DanaWo: I am really excited about the chat

BJB2: have you ever been in Tapped In before?

BJB2 . o O (looks like you're doing just fine in this environment ;-))

DanaWo: I am a digital native.

JudiRe joined the room.

DanaWo: I grew up in an environment like this.

BJB2: ohhhh...that means you're a youngun!

BJB2 . o O (I was born before the internet was invented)

BJB2: Hi, Judi

LesleyF joined the room.

JudiRe: Hi everybody!

BJB2: are you looking for the ISTE Media Specialists discussion?

LesleyF: Greetings, folks!

BJB2 hugs Lesley! Our fearless leader!

BJB2: we'll start in about three minutes

BJB2: I'll announce. Everyone just ignore the announcement. You are all in the correct room.

LindaWa joined the room.

LesleyF: While we're waiting for the big hand to go to 12, let's introduce ourselves.

BJB2: welcome, Linda.

LindaWa: Thanks

LesleyF: I coordinate the librarianship program at California State University Long Beach.

LesleyF: And I'm the inviter here....

DanaWo: I am a library media student at St. Cloud State University in MN.

LesleyF: For those who haven't used TI before, just type in the little dialog box below the conversation box.

LindaWa: I'm the Librarian/Media Specialist for Oak Hill Academy in Dallas, TX - a

small private LD school

LesleyF: You can also enlarge the text and detach this box for easier handling.

BJB2: to enlarge text and/or detach go to Actions in the top right of the chat window

LesleyF: Linda, does LD mean Latter Day Saints or Learning Disabilities?

BrendaDA joined the room.

BrendaDA: Hi

BJB2: good, Brenda. Welcome

LindaWa: Learning Differences

LesleyF: hi, Brenda; we're just introducing ourselves

LesleyF: thanks, Linda. I hear that Texas is in the forefront of that effort; one of my grads moved to Texas because of that service for her children

BrendaDA: Okay, I'm an Instructional Specialist for School Library Media Programs in Montgomery County, MD

DanaWo: any tweeters out there?

BrendaDA: I tweet

DanaWo: http://twitter.com/woodsdana

LindaWa: Yes Dallas specifically has a large number of schools specializing in this area

BrendaDA: I'm BrendaDAnderson in twitter

LindaWa: I just joined twitter this week, but haven't really gotten the hang of it yet.

LisaPe: I'm leperez1 in Twitter.

LindaWa: I'm LindaWachel in twitter

JeffC joined the room.

BrendaDA: We are attempting to twitter for our department. MCPSSLMP. Our tweets are protected at the moment.

LesleyF: we're using Tapped In for several reasons -- longer conversations, the sessions

are archived, it requires low tech, and it can handle other documents -- the Cybrarian room has several files, and I made a folder for us.

BrendaDA: Hi Carolyn

CarolynGo: hello!

LesleyF: You might want to take a quick look at this --site -- noting the files. We can also use the Whiteboard to leave messages for the group.

LesleyF: Hi, Carolyn. We're just getting started sharing.

LisaPe: First step for me...make the font bigger :)

BJB2 . o O (not to mention the kind and courteous helpdesk volunteers ;-))

LesleyF: universal design, there

LesleyF: The super service is special though...

BJB2: to enlarge the font go to Actions in the top right of the chat and select Larger text...and you can also select DETACH

BrendaDA: So we can come and visit this room anytime to check out the resources?

LindaWa: thanks for larger text tip....I hadn't scrolled down far enough. much better

BJB2 nods to Brenda. You can also join this group so you can post your resources to the discussion board

BrendaDA: Great where do I join?

LisaPe: I like detaching the chat window...makes things easier to view

BrendaDA: Ah, I detached and made the font bigger. Great!

BJB2 . o O (for the transcript: to join Cybrarians come to this group room, find the green i in the welcome note, click on the green i, select Join this group from the top of the group ID page)

LesleyF: So welcome to the first online chat session for the ISTE MS SIG international group. I'm not sure we have any non-US folks today, but that will come...

LesleyF: In any case, do some of you work with students who come from other countries?

SusanR joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to Sue

LesleyF: hi, Susan. Welcome

MaryMS joined the room.

BrendaDA: Working at the district level, yes, we have students from all over the world.

LesleyF: Welcome, Mary

SusanR waves to everyone

LesleyF: That would make sense, Brenda.

LisaPe: While I don't work directly with students, our district services students from several hundred countries.

MaryMS: Thanks.

LindaWa: We have students who have been adopted from other countries.

LesleyF: In California those staff who work principally with students with learning/physical/mental differences are hired and supervised at the county level.

LesleyF: that's a good point, Linda.

CarolynGo: Brenda and I are in the same district - although many of our students are not from other countries, their parents are.

LesleyF: that is also part of the topic of intl. interest since we work with parents with different cultural experiences and expectations. Do you see that playing out in terms of assistive technology?

LisaPe: Would some cultures view some assistive technologies as stigmatized?

JudiRe: For families not from the United States we not only have to help them understand the role of the library, but also that the library/m.c. can be a place to go for assistive tech.

BrendaDA: My experience has been that in some cultures, acknowledging that one's children has special needs is not easy, nor culturing acceptable.

SheleeKinG: Similar experience as Brenda, especially in Asia.

LindaWa: Can you elaborate on assistive technologies?

LesleyF: yes, those have been my experiences too. I wonder how IEPs are created with those conditions? do some parents state that they don't want the services?

CarolynGo: At NECC in June, I spoke with an American guy who is working in Japan (under Japanese funding) to develop assistive programs in Japanese

SheleeKinG: Not sure that IEPs are used internationally.

LesleyF: For today's discussion, let's say that AT is Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, that is used to increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities of a child with a disability. (IDEA, PL 101-476)

BrendaDA: I know as a district we try to purchase databases that have certain UDL features so any student can take advantage of the features. And also purchasing AT software to put on all computers.

LesleyF: So your colleague, Carolyn, would fall into this category in terms of developing such software. Can you give some details?

BrendaDA: This is mainly reading text, writing supports. Not the more "serious" needs for physically handicapped.

LesleyF: UDL meaning Universal Design L? (learning?)

BrendaDA: Yes, UDL Universal Design for Learning

LesleyF: I think that libraries tend to supply a broad base so that universal design is a key consideration.

LesleyF: Is everyone clear on universal design?

JudiRe: Here's a link for UDL http://www.cast.org/research/udl/index.html

LindaWa: no :/

CindyA joined the room.

CarolynGo: I would have to track down the contact info on the person in Japan ... if anyone is interested.

LesleyF: great site, Judi. And folks can click on the URL to see it. That's a feature of TI.

JudiRe: And one more http://www.advocacyinstitute.org/UDL/

BrendaDA: Cast is a wonderful site. Their book builder program is great to use to create books for and with students.

BrendaDA: Here's the direct link to book builder. http://bookbuilder.cast.org/

LesleyF: Thanks! Know that on the cybrarian site, I have created a beginning list of AT websites, which I hope people will add to. I'd like to see an intl. bent to it if possible. We can then provide it to the ISTE MS SIG.

LindaWa: thanks for the link...that helps. My school is designed specifically with UDL in mind

LesleyF: So, Brenda, do you work with all students on the book building or just the LD students?

CindyA: There are several UDL links on the SETSIG site. We used them for our UDL playground at NECC last year.

BrendaDA: MCPS has a department that deals with assistive technology. Here's a link to their site which is full of resources. http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/hiat/

LesleyF: Great -- and to what extent do the classroom teachers know about these sites? Do you share these URLs with them -- or put them on your library portals?

JeffC hasn't used Bookbuilder... but has helped a 3rd grade class write books with Tikatok http://www.tikatok.com

BrendaDA: I actually create resources at the district level that can be used with all students. We just started with a new kindergarten curriculum. We had a training on it for ms at our August PD day. About 25 ms took the training.

JeffC: My experience is that they don't know about them and don't use them.

JeffC: how much time have the kinders spent online, Brenda?

CarolynGo: I agree with Jeff - it is difficult for many teachers to 'find time' to integrate many of the resources we have

JeffC: training is one thing... sustained support, access and practice is quite another.

BrendaDA: Jeff - I really have no way of knowing. This year is a pilot for the curriculum. We put technology connections whenever we could. I don't think of them "online" in the true sense, but using technology to learn and create.

LesleyF: To what extent do your libraries work with these students? Do you have

modified hardware for them

JeffC: not to mention that computers are quite often tied up 80%+ of the time for mandated tests, etc. and non-academic uses.

JeffC: I understand Brenda

LindaWa: We just received a grant to purchase MP3 players for our students to use audio books from RFB&D.

JeffC: do they use tech constantly throughout the day (in small groups)? or once a week?

SusanG joined the room.

BJB2: welcome, Susan

SusanG: thanks

BrendaDA: MP3 players have so many uses. Unfortunately, they are not allowed in our district.

CarolynGo: Jeff - I think many teachers would use it more if we had more computers and other share-able resources

LesleyF: Do you work with these students directly -- based on teacher request or self-initiated request by students?

JeffC: sorry to skew the convo from adaptive/assistive tech... but let me broach that subject (then I'm taking off... kids to pick up in the "real" world). how many of you use speech to text in the classrooms... for SPED, ESL, K-4 etc.? and why not?

LindaWa: Why not, Brenda? What are the drawbacks?

CindyA: I am a sped teacher. If MP3 players are in the IEPs, that trumps policy.

BrendaDA: Linda: they are portable devices that students could bring from home and right now that is against regulation. It's based on the format that provided the information, not on the useful of the device.

BrendaDA: Cindy - I like that approach

JeffC: podcast lessons and have kids create their own... post on
http://www.teachertube.com

LisaPe: And some of us have heard a lot from Doug Johnson lately on format bigotry - teachers who accept one format of resources, but not another.

JeffC: mp3 players could easily be assistive tech for *all* students... admin needs to get into the 21st century and support rather than condemn.

DanaWo: @Jeff I just started a project with ESL students doing that very thing

LesleyF: So how do visually impaired students create podcasts?

JeffC: great Dana!

DanaWo: http://apolloprojectpodcast.blogspot.com/

DanaWo: good question Lesley

JeffC: please set up a virtual classroom for your students *here* (I give tours and support of the K-12 Campus on Saturdays-- check the Tapped In Calendar).

CindyA: I am also a sped faculty member and former consultant. If adaptive tech is recommended by the IEP team, it needs to be provided. Of course, that does not prevent the recommender from having their school evaluations affected.

BrendaDA: Lesley: I suppose it would depend on how visually impaired to be independent, but Audacity is a software program that probably can be used by visually impaired students with assistance.

CindyA: My hubby is an administrator. He once asked me if he had to buy a laptop for a sped kid. I asked him which is cheaper, the litigation or the laptop.

LesleyF: I would imagine that it would be best to have pod buddies for such productions.

LisaPe: Let's also keep in mind that many assistive technologies also benefit regular ed students.

JeffC thinks that visually impaired should have a laptop with "dragon naturally speaking" from day 1... the program still has problems with younger children... but getting even K-3 students to write books by speaking could do a world of good in developing not only language arts, but self-esteem.

LesleyF: exactly, Lisa. UDL.

LesleyF: what are ways that you insure that your library portals are accessible to all?

BrendaDA: Apple's have adaptive technologies built right in

JeffC: sometimes assistive tech in SPED paves the way for "mainstreaming" ed in general.

JeffC: so does MS. did you know that there's a speech to text program built into Word?

BrendaDA: what version of Office?

JeffC: started with XP

JeffC: I'm sure it's there in Vista (but haven't checked)

JudiRe: http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/office2007/

JeffC: you could set up your libraries with mikes/headsets and enable the program for the students.

LindaWa: We use Gaggle email and it has text to speech....great for dyslexic students

LesleyF: don't forget Mac's simple text and PC's Narration/Narrative features.

JeffC: of course your IT depts. should be notified... should be in the classrooms too.

CindyA: Beware Dragon Dictate for poor readers. If you have LD kids, they need to understand punctuation to use it. My students were not great at this. I recommend word prediction instead.

LesleyF: PD has accessibility features that you can activate

LesleyF: good point, Cindy.

BrendaDA: What is PD Leslie?

DanaWo: Any thoughts about smartboard?

LesleyF: professional development is PD; I meant PC at this point

JeffC: there are a number of assistive tech devices for LD kids... I went to a convention a few years ago and saw dozens of specialty hardware and software depending on the disability

DanaWo: this is a youtube video for how teachers use the smartboard for students with autism http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDyqvz6lZHk&feature=player_embedded

LesleyF: Smart Board is good for kinesthetic learners

LesleyF: yes, I've heard great results with SmartBoard and kids with autism.

SusanR . o O (Vocaroo is one I suggest as well)

SusanR: more info here

SusanR: http://paulhami.edublogs.org/2009/02/25/vocaroo-online-resource/

LesleyF: Is the library likely to have these tech tools -- or do you circulate them?

LisaPe: Many of the computer-based books, such as sold by Capstone, have great uses for all students.

CarolynGo: What is our role in promoting/training on these tools

CindyA: I hate to say it, but sped people will not necessarily know these tools.

LesleyF: that's true too, Cindy

LesleyF: good question, Carolyn. What does the group think?

JeffC: there's also a yahoo group for smart board usage. I'd recommend getting classes to collaborate with smart boards and perhaps a conferencing tool like Skype or WizIQ... so kids could talk to each other

LindaWa: We bought mobile stands for out smartboards so we could circulate them among different classrooms....the stands are in storage. Teachers requested their boards mounted (so they didn't have to share)

BrendaDA: I think as media specialists we model the use of the tools when we are teaching to start with

LesleyF: How involved are you in IEPs and these students?

DanaWo: @Cindy is it any different than mainstream ed teachers not knowing any other tech tools?

LisaPe: And in large districts, it is often a challenge for the Library Dept and the Special Ed Dept to communicate effectively. We've begun communication in our district.

LesleyF: I would think that any teacher who has students with some kind of difference would benefit from this info -- and they might be more inclined to identify student needs...

JudiRe: One issue with assistive tech tools is that even though you might have heard of them you usually don't pay attention until you have a need. So m.s. need to be proactive and find out what students with disabilities are in your school now and seek out those teachers to share solutions.

CindyA: Nope. I think tech is a sharing situation. My hubby's district tech folks and I (I teach tech to future teachers.) share neat things that we find. I think that this is the way to go.

BrendaDA: We did have the HIAT team present to our media specialists a couple of year ago, but probably wouldn't hurt to provide reminders.

LesleyF: yes, if you don't work with the tools regularly, you forget. What is HIAT

BrendaDA: HIAT - High Incidence Accessible Technology

BrendaDA: Just what our district calls it

LesleyF: sounds interesting -- tell us more

BrendaDA: Here's the link to their website http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/hiat/

BrendaDA: They do a lot with providing curriculum in alternative formats for special needs students.

BrendaDA: They also provide after school training on various assistive technology.

CarolynGo: Brenda - that group also spoke at an afterschool mcemsa (media specialists association for our district) last year. Challenge again is learning and then, as you say, remembering to integrate modeling of available tools when appropriate

JudiRe: That's why the HIAT website is so helpful-it's a visible memory!

CarolynGo: ... and for those of us who are 'memory-impaired' (ha ha) ??

LesleyF: that's where maintaining a list of resources makes sense. Do folks do that on their library portal?

DanaWo: Should we start a wiki now?

CarolynGo: Excellent suggestion

LesleyF: I can gather the ones we're sharing now and add them to my list.

LindaWa: We have a staff wiki where all staff can contribute.

LesleyF: We have a wiki space within ISTE, so this can be a page therein.

DanaWo: awesome

LesleyF: that's a good next step.

JudiRe: Linda, do many of your staff share resources? If so, how did you get them to participate?

LesleyF: what else would be useful for you?

LindaWa: I ended up having to put most of the resources out there. One or two of our more tech savvy staff contributed.

CindyA: Check with SETSIG the sped tech SIG. We have some of those resources on our WIKI. We are also holding NING discussions this year. Right now it is 21st century tools for disabilities.

BrendaDA: Lesley: I am interested in sample library portal sites that do support all learners' needs

LesleyF: I should share what the Calif. School Library Association is doing: it's an online PD on assistive technology: http://discoveringat.csla.net

LesleyF: It's open to anyone for free

CarolynGo: Examples are always helpful

LesleyF: thanks for that info, Cindy. Perhaps we should just send our URLs to you.

LisaPe: We should also compile them at the sigms website and link over...I like the idea of sharing with SETSIG.

BJB2 . o O (and possibly post the urls to the ning and wiki here, Lesley)

CindyA: Both SIGs are better.

LesleyF: that makes sense, Lisa and Cindy.

LindaWa: Enjoyed the discussion...gotta go. Thanks,

BrendaDA: Multiple postings is great. Access at various places, meet people where they live online

BJB2: thanks for coming, Linda

LindaWa left the room (signed off).

LesleyF: I have the feeling that we've reached a good stopping point. What would you like to discuss next month at this time?

CarolynGo: So where is this discussion archived? Under cybrarians?

LesleyF: BJ can give that info about archiving

JudiRe: How about the International Children's Digital Library?

BJB2: all members are automatically emailed a transcript of the text chat when they log out

BJB2 . o O (the email is sent to the address you entered when you filled out the membership form)

LisaPe: That is a great idea Judi...perhaps Ann Weeks and others can join us, too

CindyA: That is great!

BrendaDA: Sheri Massey also worked on ICDL and is a media specialist in MCPS, maybe I can get her to join us.

JudiRe: That would be terrific Brenda!

JudiRe: I think Sharon Coatney presented about it at AASL.

LisaPe: That is a great resource that I think our librarians would enjoy learning about to use with their students.

LesleyF: there's been lots of press about IDCL. Maybe we can talk about other ebook collections as well, especially those with non-English titles.

JudiRe: Even better Lesley!

JudiRe: Use the ICDL as the jumping off point-

BrendaDA: I'd love to know about other collections

BJB2: Lesley, please keep me posted so I can add info to the blurb for your next discussion. You are planning a next discussion?

LesleyF: so let's call that a "go" and plan for Dec. 15 at 2pm PST to have that discussion, OK?

SusanR: Thank you Lesley, a provocative discussion!!

DanaWo: Great

JudiRe: Sounds good to me-

BrendaDA: Thanks everyone!

LesleyF: good start, folks. Now each person can bring a person...

DanaWo: I will invite a professor of SPED and AT to the discussion

CarolynGo: Cheers - taking off

DanaWo: He would have been here tonight

DanaWo: but he had class

LesleyF: share the archive with him

BJB2 smiles happily. This has been inspirational, everyone!

JanetTa: Is this sessions for LS589 at Clarion

CindyA: Dana:

BJB2 . o O (you can forward the transcript)

LesleyF: hi, Janet. We'll be meeting tomorrow at 4:30pm PDT for the same topic.

JanetTa: I thought it was tomorrow evening at 7:30 eastern

LesleyF: PST

CindyA: Oops, Dana, hit the return too soon. You had a person here who is sped and AT.

JanetTa: ok   thanks...see you then!

LesleyF: so your info is correct, Janet.

LesleyF: Thanks, folks, for sharing. Lots of good stuff to act upon

CindyA: Also, I am secretary of SETSIG. If you want to collaborate, email me at canderson@roosevelt.edu

DanaWo: I invited him, but he couldn't make it. I will be sharing the notes with him over coffee.

BJB2 waves bye and heads to take the dogs out

BrendaDA: Bye everyone

BJB2: Thanks, Lesley, for organizing this

LesleyF: I guess we know how to take ourselves out...

DanaWo: See you all in December!

LesleyF: thanks, BJ, for your support as always

BJB2 bows deeply