**Decision-Making Matrix**

**Heading**

The website I chose-Book Creator- can be used by anyone who is interested in creating a digital book. It is made for children and educator users. I wrote my post on this website for my module 3 QQC.

The school that I am working at is trying to become a STEM school. We have a technology grant that gives us one to one ratio of chromebooks to students for the whole school. As part of the requirements for the grant we have to have a specific amount of Professional Development days that incorporate training on blended learning. We also have to be implementing blended learning in the classroom. This is a website that I was trained on at one our PD’s.

We are also doing a program called Expeditionary Learning (EL). It is supposed to get students more involved in their learning in science and social studies. It is not a teacher friendly program and takes a lot of teacher prep and paper. The project I had students use this website on was for a paper heavy project that had them making a research book for the EL program.

The problem was that by the end of the semester a lot of the student research papers were too wrinkled and ugly for me to want to take the time to bind them into a published book. We also switch for students for our reading block, so I needed them to have a final published book in 2 days that they could share with peers, from information gathered over 14 weeks. I used this app with 3rd grades, but it can be used with younger and older students.

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| **Decision-Making Matrix** | |
| **Book Creator** | |
| **Type of Tool** | * Online book creator, peer collaboration & book publisher. |
| **Problem It Solves** | * By the end of the semester a lot of the student papers were too wrinkled and ugly for me to want to take the time to bind them into a book to make a presentable final copy. * Student book publishing and peer collaboration * Teacher time efficiency-quick and easy to learn * Paper waste * Implementing blended learning in the classroom * Finishing projects with a 2 day time limit |
| **Cost** | * Free |
| **URL** | <https://app.bookcreator.com/sign-in> |
| **Description** | * Users create online books, which they can then share and publish for other classmates to read, and listen. They can also look at the books that their peers have created. |
| **Platform** | * Web |
| **Best Used for** | * Publishing books to share with peers. |
| **Level of Expertise** | * **Teacher: Basic/Intermediate**   \*\*My Co-worker used it with her class and she thinks of herself as having poor technology skills\*\*   * **Student: Basic** |
| **Cautions** | * Students may need access to a computer camera. * Signing in was the hardest part, you either need to preprint QR/passwords, or have e-mail accounts set up. * May not know how to search and upload pictures. (Younger students wouldn’t need this) * Searching appropriate pictures * Students won’t know how to initially use the program * Students want to look at others instead of working on their own book * student privacy * creating student accounts * use of student email addresses * recording students * images of students * permissions needed regarding student privacy |
| **Overcoming Cautions** | * All the students had chromebooks so they have access to their cameras. * Students already had gmail accounts, but needed a demonstration of how to log in * Teacher demonstration was given on how to search for pictures and upload them to their book. * Teacher demonstration was given on how to pick out topic appropriate pictures * Teacher walk through on how to use the program and different tools * There are only 4 options in the setting and one of them allows/doesn’t allow them to read each others book until the teacher wants students to. * Student privacy is maintained easily on the teacher page. There are only 4 options that appear when you click on the settings which are, “**Allow Google image search**”, (This makes it so the teacher can decide if they are getting images from the internet or not) “**Students can edit their own books**” (This allows the teacher to decide if they are making their own book or collaborating with peers like a ‘google doc’), “**Students can read their own books**”(This makes it so students only have access to their own book until the teacher decided otherwise), “**Students can publish their books online**,” (This allows the teacher to decide if the book can be found on the internet or not) * Student accounts are created by using a student email account or by using a QR code:   + Email accounts: For me it is easiest to do email accounts because each student is automatically set up with a g-mail account when they are enrolled into granite school district. We are also using chromebooks so they have gmail settings already in their chromebooks set up from the first week of school.   + QR Codes: If students do not have access to email accounts you can click on the Teacher account name in the top left hand corner, a drop down appears with QR codes as one of the options. “You can generate QR codes for students without an email address. When they scan their individual code they'll be signed straight into Book Creator!” ...or they can type the QR code in if they have no access to a camera. The QR codes require the instructor to type in names, and print the codes before hand. * Student images are not posted publicly on the internet unless the instructor goes into settings and select, “**Students can publish their books online”** * Parents sign permission forms regarding student privacy at the beginning of the year or whenever they register. At my school it is kept on the back of the registration card. There is a copy in the office as well as one in my desk from day 1 of enrollment. If the specific privacy pages are not signed I am immediately aware and find another way for the student to complete the task. |
| **Accessibility Concerns** | * Screens are small on chrome books making it hard to read some of the text, but there is a zoom button. * There are also text to speech options for those who have hearing deficits. |
| **Special Equipment** | * May need computer cameras, but can still create a book without one |
| **Additional Vocabulary** | * Texture, Import, Search, Panels, Media, Stickers |
| **Training and Resources** | * Teacher training-Professional Development (10 min.) * Teacher tutorial that walks you through everything when you first log in; it can be reset to the beginning. (10 min. maybe 15 min) |

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| **Decision-Making Matrix (Supplemental Guide)** | | |
| Course Goals and Objectives | The tool helps meet goals and objectives. | Yes |
| Accessibility | The tool follow general rules for accessibility, such as those found in section 508 of the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards, W3C, or the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. | Yes |
|  | The tool is easy to access and to install if necessary. | Yes |
|  | Video has closed-captioning, or a transcript is available. | Yes |
|  | A transcript accompanies audio content. | Possible-Students can create it themselves |
|  | The tool and it’s content can easily be manipulated to accommodate users with special needs. | Yes |
| Technical Requirements | The tool can be accessed and used by multiple operating systems, such as Windows- and Mac based Machines. | Yes |
|  | The tool requires no additional hardware or software beyond that expected of students already enrolled in the course. | Yes |
|  | The tool requires few to no additional skills beyond those already expected of students in the course. | Yes |
|  | Additional support materials are available or can easily be created to help students learn how to use the tool in regard to meeting the needs of the course. | Yes |
| Reliability | The company that operates and maintains the tool has been in existence for a while and has proven stability within the field. | Possible |
|  | The tool has been in existence long enough to be tested such that it is not considered to be in beta form. | Possible |
|  | User and tester comments and ratings suggest the tool is of high quality. | Yes-ratings have 4 and 5 stars |

**PBWMS82**