

Title of Session: Targeting Librarians! Social Networking

Moderator: Lesley Farmer

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Room: Cybrarians Group

BJB2: I've been reading so many interesting things about social networking tools like My Space and YouTube...

BJB2: I hope the nay-sayers don't ruin it

DavidWe joined the room.

BJB2 waves hi to David

DavidWe: Hi, Lesley. How are you?

LesleyF: it really doesn't matter what the nay-sayers say, social networking is here to stay for a while.

LesleyF: Hi, David and Heather. Would you say that social networking is a fad or a longer-term reality?

LesleyF: ... and the reason we're using Tapped In is ???

HeatherAB: I think it's here to stay...this is just a new iteration

DavidWe: reality

LesleyF: I find it interesting how some educators are banning Wikipedia, and the feds are threatening to cut school funding if schools don't limit social networking.

LesleyF: What are your thoughts on this?

BJB2 finds it pathetic.

HeatherAB: scary

HeatherAB: I teach middle school kids

HeatherAB: they're not going to be daunted by laws

BJB2 . o O (how are we going to teach kids to use the web responsibly if our solution is to just ban an questionable sites)

LesleyF: so try telling them not to be social ??

HeatherAB: Exactly!!

HeatherAB: right

DavidWe: We made videotapes in high school

LesleyF: Isn't one reason for education to socialize youth?

DavidWe: We didn't drop our trousers and videotape our rear ends - we had a purpose for what we were doing

BJB2 nods. One would think...

LesleyF: We did audio programs in second grade, and were on TV by fifth. And that was in the 50s-60s.

DavidWe . o O (60 minutes examines the Spanish-American war, for example)

DavidWe doesn't think there is very much difference today

DavidWe . o O (ubiquity, perhaps)

LesleyF: So it seems sort of logical that education would embrace social networking, and co-opt it for the "good" side.

DavidWe: we teach kids how to do chemistry experiments - NOT how to make bombs

LesleyF: Remnants of Star Wars in the dangers of denying the shadow side...

DavidWe: They could learn to make bombs, blow-up the schools, etc.

DavidWe . o O (dark side, please!)

LesleyF: Another aspect of education is ethical decision-making.

HeatherAB . o O (don't get me started on that one!)

LesleyF: Tools are tools.

LesleyF: So what are effective ways to use social networking in education?

LesleyF: Note: earlier studies were afraid that students who used the computer a lot would be asocial hermits. fooled them...

HeatherAB chuckles

BJB2: Last night we had Johnathan Chase show us his My Space site for his Learning From Lyrics ...

LesleyF: Are you hearing a lot about web 2.0? It's being translated into library 2.0.

BJB2: and how he had musicians making comments on student projects

LesleyF: That sounds neat, BJ. Tell us a bit more...

BJB2: John does a really cool project where he has his students design memorials to people...

BJB2: and then has the students choose appropriate songs with applicable lyrics to go with the memorials

LesleyF: do the students create their own music?

BJB2: . o O (he and his students are MUCH more knowledgeable about current music!)

BJB2: no, they use published songs

LesleyF: but production would be a next step, right?

HeatherAB nods

BJB2: and then John contacts the musicians and lets them know about the project

HeatherAB: sounds logical

BJB2 agrees

LesleyF: That idea of democratic (e.g., everyone) publication/production is a cornerstone of Web 2.0/social networking. Not just being passive consumers.

LesleyF: my cynical side says that for some people (even the feds?), that such power is threatening...

HeatherAB: My students **expect** to be able to interact with others..whether

HeatherAB: an expert on something they are researching...

HeatherAB: or just coming to TI when they are home ill...so they won't miss out on class.

LesleyF: Perhaps what is fearful is the worry that people can't handle/manage these tools. Seems like a good rationale for educating youth in purposeful social networking (both intellectual and psychological well-being).

LesleyF: I'm reading

LesleyF: The World is Flat, which mentions education a little, but doesn't push on the potential flatness of teacher/student -- and the use of experts with youth -- as already mentioned here today.

BJB2: I think the fear factor is from the adults...certainly not from the kids

DavidWe: almost always

HeatherAB nods

LesleyF: is the phrase "community of practice" used much in your settings? This seems like a big overlap of social networking.

DavidWe: We use it to refer to Tapped In, Lesley

LesleyF: right, BJ. particularly since many students don't think they have much power/control in ed, social networking is a real positive in their lives.

LesleyF: exactly, David.

BJB2: I've only used the term to discuss TI...but learning communities are used. Wenger uses the term a lot in building communities

HeatherAB: But the power struggle is still controlled by the adults

HeatherAB: How do we help the adults learn to be less afraid?

LesleyF: One of the assumptions about web 2.0/soc.net. is that it is built on trust. hmm.

DavidWe: Germans have apparently been discussing allowing teenagers (pre-18) to vote

BJB2: ahhh...an interesting topic, Lesley...

BJB2: we had a TI member logged in today with a group of teachers...

HeatherAB: Wasn't there a real political campaign that was also running in Second Life?

LesleyF: Yes, Heather. I think that's a main issue. Adults trusting kids, kids trusting each other -- and knowing whom NOT to trust.

DavidWe . o O (child abuse)

BJB2: and the teachers wondered how we can control whether TI members are really teachers

DavidWe: license for parents?

LesleyF: it doesn't take too much to be a parent...

HeatherAB: How did you answer that one, BJ?

BJB2: we expect professional behavior...

BJB2 . o O (nothing more than the teachers should expect of their students)

HeatherAB: right

BJB2: Jeff and I actually did discuss this a bit

JeffC: that was a good answer... because she asked me the same question and I didn't get a chance to answer... but would've said that there are safeguards in place here.

LesleyF: so tied in with this trust/power business is the factor of reciprocity/two-way conversation and learning.

BJB2: and we concluded that as a community we make sure that the members are being responsible.

JeffC: someone *could* pose as a teacher and set up a classroom... but the minute they tried to collaborate with another teacher, and acted inappropriately with their students... they'd not only be booted and reaped, but we have their IP address.

BJB2 nods to Lesley. Some teachers have a problem with that in their classrooms!

LesleyF: another educational agenda that we've always tried to instill in youth.

DavidWe thinks "civics" should be taught in school

HeatherAB agrees (painfully) with BJ

JeffC: I had to deal with a "myspace" incident last night...

LesleyF: It would make sense to build upon youth's "natural" interests of social networking as a means to make responsibility -- and education -- real.

JeffC: my son now has an account and he gets a bulletin from a friend saying "click this and you can have 90,000 friends tomorrow."

JeffC: of course I said "NOOOOOOOOOO!!!!" and immediately wrote to my son's friend and told her what the situation was... and also about spam, phishing, porn, etc. I also talked to her on the phone and talked with the girl's mother.

LesleyF: another aspect of social networking lies in the developmental aspects of youth: the need to belong, the need to take risks, the need to build a self-identify.

HeatherAB nods

LesleyF: Sometimes schools forget/ignore the developmental factors of kids. they're kids first.

JeffC: which is of course very important Lesley... and one of the things that MySpace and SecondLife are very good for. What adults don't understand though is that the kids have taken a rather capitalist approach to sites like myspace. They become "myspace whores" (their own terminology) and look for ways to have as many "friends" as possible. As if it's a contest... as if quantity over quality is where it's at.

HeatherAB: Lesley, do you have any suggestions for a curriculum that will help kids/parents/teachers?

LesleyF: have you seen "23 lessons"?

HeatherAB: No...url?

LesleyF: just a sec?

HeatherAB: I'm sorry, Lesley! I didn't mean to interrupt the flow.

LesleyF: Here's the website that I wanted to share with you in terms of tech curriculum -- it's targeted to adults, but could be applicable for all ages if well crafted. Although the adults may need it more...

LesleyF: ready to view a social networking curriculum? Icing on the cake??

LesleyF: <http://plcmcl2-things.blogspot.com/>

LesleyF: take a quick look.

BJB2: one important thing I noticed right away is "life long learners"

BJB2: and "nurturing your own learning process"

SusanR: interesting incentives

LesleyF: that's been a big trend in education these days: going from transferring knowledge to lifelong learning

LesleyF: it's an interesting case of self-paced social learning

BJB2: kind of a conflict if you ban the sl sites

LesleyF: sl??

BJB2: social learning

BJB2: . o O (getting too lazy!)

LesleyF: just figured it out -- duh

BJB2: Tapped In has nurtured that lifelong learning attitude, Lesley

SusanR: TI exemplifies life long learning

BJB2: which is why I enjoy participating in your discussions and all the other interesting discussions

LesleyF: I think there's a need to have a social-networking focused curriculum as part of staff development. For the students, I think that social networking tools can serve as motivators/means to engage in different subject matters.

BJB2: ahhh...great point, Lesley.

LesleyF: Well, TI is a wonderful model for ethical, professional social networking, and we more of those models for youth.

LesleyF: I'm not sure if teen 2nd life is easy and accessible enough for all students (and the school's computers) to do in real time.

HeatherAB: It's problematic because it requires a software installation

HeatherAB: Tech support doesn't like that at all!

LesleyF: there have been social networking venues for kids for a while: ThinkQuests, edl. wikis, Global Schoolhouse, etc. But now they can be easier and more transparent to use.

BJB2: interesting discussion taking place in Learning Times about Second Life

LesleyF: I think there's a happy medium between 2nd life and pokey email.

MaryannA joined the room.

BJB2: welcome, Maryann

MaryannA: Hi

LesleyF: Hi, Maryann. We're talking about social networking and libraries.

MaryannA: Great, what kind of social networking, online?

LesleyF: We're noting the need for adults to become more knowledgeable about it so they can incorporate it more effectively in school and libraries in general.

SusanR: an interesting article <http://www.advancinginsights.com/mybiz/web-2-0-and-social-networking-to-the-classroom>

LesleyF: Good question -- we've been using sort of operational practices: Web 2.0, blogs, wikis, MySpace.

LesleyF: We need to acknowledge IM, RSS, Flickr, YouTube, ...

LesleyF: socially constructed cyberspace

MaryannA: I hear there is a Web 3.0 coming, has anyone heard about that?

LesleyF: I'm not surprised, but we're dealing with the current 2.0, which hasn't been well developed yet -- or even well defined.

SusanR: people are still struggling to get their heads around Web 2.0

LesleyF: Thanks, Susan, for the article!

LesleyF: Here's another article to start with:
<http://teentechweek.wikispaces.com/Online+Social+Networking>

LesleyF: YALSA (Young Adult Lib. Services Assn.) has their own blog now:
<http://www.technorati.com/search/http://blogs.ala.org/yalsa.php>

LesleyF: ALA's site is <http://www.techsource.ala.org/blog>

LesleyF: ALA = American Library Assn.

LesleyF: And being a librarian, there's always a bibliography:
<http://m.fasfind.com/wwwtools/m/2788.cfm?x=0&rid=2788>

LesleyF: oh, yes, don't forget podcasts, videocasts, vlogs,...

BJB2: A reminder before it gets too late, that the next Targeting Librarians discussion is March 21

LesleyF: yes, and I'm wondering if we want to continue in this topic, but narrowing down the factors to either focus on a tool or two, or to look at ways that librarians can use social networking with either teachers or students.

BJB2 wonders if anyone has input on a topic?

LesleyF: we COULD call the session Library 2.0: how Web 2.0 impacts libraries.

BJB2: ahhh...that works

LesleyF: Noting how it might change how we "do business"

BJB2: how do you mean, Lesley?

LesleyF: (might >>> should). That is, librarians need to foster two-way communication, facilitate student communication/production, manage knowledge dynamically, etc.

LesleyF: also model "flatter" teaching/learning

BJB2 nods

LesleyF: Librarians also need to incorporate these tools more: podcasting storyhours, create streaming videos about visual literacy, do IM-based reference services.

BJB2 wonders if Heather, Sue or Maryann has any comments?

LesleyF: I'm wondering too

BJB2: oh, cool, Lesley!

SusanR: Michael C. Habib makes some relevant points on the academic 2.0 Library

SusanR: <http://www.techsource.ala.org/blog/2007/01/the-academic-library-20-model-an-ala-ts-blog-interview-with-michael-c-habib.html>

LesleyF: and social networking can facilitate HS to college success.

BJB2: all those tools facilitate presenting information in a variety of modes...sound, visual, kinesthetic

LesleyF: How about HS Jrs. and Srs. having college sophomore ebuddies?

LesleyF: multimodal? That's my bag...

BJB2 nods. absolutely

LesleyF: hmm, I wonder if anyone has talked about social netWORKers? We tend to think of social networking online as PLAY, but maybe it involves more WORK principles than we care to admit...

BJB2: sounds like the topic for your next book, Lesley

SusanR: a good topic, Leslie

LesleyF: do we want to focus on using social networking to transition between HS and college, or do we want to focus on Library 2.0?

LesleyF: or on play/work in social networking..

LesleyF: You folks can decide; I can play/work with any of these approaches.

BJB2: I think we also need to define what constitutes play...and whether playing precludes work

BJB2 . o O (we as educators tend to take all the fun out of learning!)

LesleyF: I hope that play / work aren't separate...

BJB2 hopes so also

LesleyF: very interesting topic...

LesleyF: help me out, folks.

BJB2: sounds like you might just do a series, Lesley...all based on social networking

BJB2: that would allow you to cover all the topics you suggested

LesleyF: I agree. Maybe Library 2.0 to start with, and then we'll feature these others, OK?

BJB2 nods. I know with your guidance they will all be fascinating!

LesleyF: at at least good playwork -- plork? woplay?

HeatherAB smiles

BJB2: I need to get to the ASO for Bernie Dodge's discussion on WebQuests

LesleyF: worplay?

LesleyF: as opposed to wordplay?

BJB2 . o O (fun in education?)

HeatherAB: that's the spirit!

LesleyF: thanks, folks...

LesleyF: have a good evening.

HeatherAB: Thanks, Lesley. Looking forward to the next discussion.

SusanR: thanks Lesley

LesleyF: enjoy the resources...

BJB2 waves goodnight