

Title of Session: WebTools

Moderator: Pam Berger

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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

BJB2: welcome to the festival session on WebTools with Pam Berger

BJB2: we start all events in Tapped In with introductions

BJB2: please tell us where you are located and what you do or teach

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

SarahRB: I will be returning to the classroom this fall as a 7th grade English teacher in Atlanta, GA.

SusanSi: NE Texas-4th grade math, science & TX history Atlanta, TX !

PamB: I'm a library/technology consultant who lives near New York City.

Maggi: I teach business English freelance in companies in Germany

CarolF: I am a 2nd grade teacher in Azusa, CA

PaulFe: I'm an elementary education grad student in Connecticut and I teach phys ed now.

ReneeH: K-6 math specialist

SusanneN: I'm a Danish education community and conference developer , and a Tapped In member since 2000

ReneeH: Hey Susanne. A year ago I was in Copenhagen at the Intern'l Conf of Math Educators.

GailC: I'm a speech therapist in schools in the Philadelphia suburbs

SusanneN: great Renee, I live not far from Copenhagen, 20 km up north

PamB: Any more introductions?

PamB: Welcome to Web tools

DeborahCP: I teach a 4th, 5th, 6th grade class in Stockton, CA.

PamB: Web Tools meets once a month and explores various tools and resources on the Web...

PamB: Today I wanted to share a great site called the International Children's Digital Library...

PamB: Have any of you seen it yet?

ReneeH: Never, but would love to

SusanSi: briefly

CarolF: I did yesterday

PamB: ICDL is a project of University of Maryland's Human-Computer Interaction Lab, to create a comprehensive library of international children's literature, available to all children across the globe. They have a vision to use technology to help strengthen existing libraries worldwide by providing a large-scale digital archive of literature for children ages three to thirteen. It currently has over 750 books in the collection.

PamB: To begin let's explore the library. While you are doing this I would like you to take particular notice of two things: the search variables, what criteria you are given to narrow down your search, such as type or size of book and also the types of readers that are offered to read the books.

SusanneN: it is a wonderful resource

PamB: I'll give you the URL and when you click on it another window will open <http://www.icdlbooks.org>. Any questions before we go exploring? Let's come back in 15 minutes - that should give you enough time to use the library and look for the two things I mentioned.

PamB: To begin let's explore the library. While you are doing this I would like you to take particular notice of two things: the search variables, what criteria you are given to narrow down your search, such as type or size of book and also the types of readers that are offered to read the books.

BJB2: you're in the right place, Brenda

PamB: and coming back in 13 minutes to talk about it

BrendaE: 3:27 return?

PamB: be sure to check out all the ways you can search for a book

BrendaE: ok, thanks

PamB: that's about right.

CarolF: Hello. The search engine was great. I will be back

ReneeH: what do the colors mean?

HalaH: is it free?

HalaH: Can I access the whole book?

PamB: yes, it's totally free

PamB: yes, all the readers allow you to read the entire book...

PamB: my favorite reader is the Spiral - it's the kids idea.

HalaH: ICDL book reader? can I have a link to read about it? first time to hear about it

PamB: <http://www.icdlbooks.org>

Maggi: really interesting

PamB: first you choose the book, then the reader

PamB: Are most of us back?

Maggi: I have some kids for tutoring in English and I will show them this

HalaH: This is considered a treasure for us here, in Sudan, a country with poor resources

Maggi: they are at 12 at the upper limit

PamB: the books are in the original languages that were published in

SusanneN: I'm back

SusanneN: I found that I had a choice between four different reader formats

SusanneN: you'll have to play a bit with this

PamB: the reading tools are available in 9 languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Filipino/Tagalog, German, Hebrew, Persian/Farsi, and Spanish. You can become a member and then specify which language you prefer when you login. Very cool.

SusanneN: yes, another advantage

BeeD: This is very useful indeed

HalaH: Fantastic

PamB: which format did you use?

PaulFe: Do those tools include translation?

PamB: the comic book one is fun

SusanneN: I used the Spiral format, it is Java based and opened fine in mac os X

PamB: no, there is no translation.

SusanSi: I tried to download a book, after waiting, there was an error, and unable to launch

SusanneN: the pages are scanned, so they're actually pictures

PamB: but kids don't seem to mind. Some look at the illustrations.

PamB: yes, they have all been scanned

PamB: a big job!

CarolF: Some of the books appeared to not be in English, but when you look at the text - surprise!

EmilyW: who scans them?

PamB: libraries all around the world are donating books to the library

PaulFe: I like the kids' reviews. Very helpful.

PamB: a team of students at the University of Maryland in US

SusanneN: you could also use Adobe reader - everyone has got that nowadays

PamB: it's funded by NSF

CarolF: The simple search would be great for my students. Each button fine tunes your selection.

PamB: BJ will you announce the festival drawing winner for this session?

SusanneN: a fine project - also for places where books are hard to get

PamB: The prize is a one subscription to my newsletter, the Information Searcher.

PamB: drum beats....

BJB2: the winner is Susan MS!

PamB: congratulations!

HalaH: What do these students study?

HalaH: Scanning needs

SusanneN cheers for Susan

BeeD2 claps

HalaH: Alright! The best for the best! congratu.

PamB: Did you notice the way you could search for a book? by color, by size...

Maggi: yes, gives a choice

BJB2 wonders if searching by color makes librarians cringe?

Maggi: lol

PamB: picture book, chapter book...

DeborahCP: It had a lot of different ways to search.

PaulFe: As far as searching goes, it is nice to see your chosen search criteria at the top and the split screen is nice too. Although, it was a little confusing at first to see the question mark in the square after selecting a search option.

PamB: the kids decided on these criteria

SusanSi: that is what they look for at the library!

DeborahCP: If it gets a kid to read a book they might otherwise ignore, why not?

PamB: no catalog uses color of a book....

BJB2 smiles. I'm not arguing

PamB: but kids I had always asked me for the red book about dogs or that great yellow book about cars, etc.

CarolF sounds familiar

PamB: adults think it's crazy. I like it - it's real.

PamB: kids are an important part of the development team. You can read about it on the website

SusanneN: that's how I recall book covers as well - as images

PamB: icdl is going to start to make the website more interactive for kids.

SusanneN: and from the types used on the back, that's what you see on the book shelf

PamB: right now kids can make suggestions...on their books...

PaulFe: How are the books categorized by color? Is it the primary color of the cover?

PamB: but ICDL wants to be able to let kids have their own "book bags" to put their favorite books.

SusanneN: hehe, a typical adult question, Paul

CarolF: I like that idea!

PamB: yes, Paul, the cover color.

SusanneN imagines a classroom discussion about how to categorize a very colorful book

PaulFe: no problem

SusanSi: I could see a high school Spanish teacher in the states using this as well

SusanneN: I'm now looking at a collection of BROWN books!

SusanSi: (or any other language)

SusanneN: and I've found ONE rainbow coloured book!

PamB: in the advanced search, under type, you can search for books by how they make you feel: happy, sad, etc.

CarolF Go Susanne

BeeD2: oh...a rainbow coloured book must be a lot of stories together

PamB: kids could search for red happy books in German about real people....

CarolF: A search based on emotions is a great idea.

PamB: searching becomes fun, while they are learning how to expand and narrow their searches.

PamB: kids read the books and categorized them

Maggi: very appealing

PamB: ICDL has lots of uses to support the curriculum and develop literacy, cultural understanding.

SusanneN: it is a very active reading opportunity

CarolF: This is great for 2nd/3rd grade study of fairy tales!

PamB: Tell your colleagues about it.

PamB: I love the fairy tales!

SusanneN: great, Carol

CarolF lol

BJB2: A reminder that the Festival is an opportunity to showcase some of the regular events that take place here. Pam leads a monthly WebTools discussion and has a WebTools group. Please check future calendars for Pam's events.

PamB: I hope you'll come back and join me for more Web Tools session...

CarolF: I will! You are a great resource!

BJB2: the WebTools group is part of the groups poster session so you are able to visit the room to view resources posted there.

PamB: and also go to my blog at <http://www.infosearcher.com> to keep in touch.

BJB2: the group poster session starts in the TI Groups Lobby

PaulFe: The comic book section is a great section. Columbia Teacher's College is working on a Comic Book Project to help kids develop their storytelling skills by creating comic books based on educational themes.

MeganCH: thank you

MeganCH: that sounds like a great idea to engage kids

MeganCH: for what age group?

BJB2: Paul, were you a guest speaker who discussed that comic book project?

PaulFe: Elem age. I was not the speaker, rather it might have been my professor, Dr. Bitz

PamB: Are there any questions before we leave/

BJB2: . o O (I think we have an archived transcript about the project..yes, that name rings a bell)

BJB2: Archives are located at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

CarolF: When does your monthly discussion occur?

BJB2: Check the calendar for Pam's sessions

CarolF: Thanks!

BJB2: or join the WebTools group so you get posts reminding you of the sessions

PamB: Web tools are on different nights each month, usually around 7pm EST. It will be posted on the TI calendar.

PaulFe: I think it's an excellent medium for engaging students in learning to read and generate greater interest in reading and storytelling.

PamB: we explore all different types of web-based tools and resources.

CarolF: Thank you Pam for the resource.

PamB: there is a listing of some tools on my blog at www.infosearcher.com under the Resource Center - Web Tools

HalaH: Thanks Pam for the treasure

PaulFe: thanks Pam for introducing this resource. I will definitely use it.

PamB: your welcome. Thanks for coming and participating. It was nice to meet everyone.

SusanneN: Thank you Pam

BeeD: Thanks Pam...I will add your link to my favourites

SusanneN: I usually missed your sessions because I'm in bed when you're working, I'm in Denmark

BrendaE: Thanx, Pam.

SusanneN: but I've often read your transcripts