

**Title of Session:** Web Tools for Education

**Moderator:** Pam Berger

**Title of File:** 20060322webtools

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Room: Web Tools Group

**BjB:** Welcome to the WebTools discussion. We usually start all Tapped In events with introductions

**BjB:** can you please tell us where you are located and what you teach or what interested you in this event?

**BjB:** I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania and will be facilitating Pam's discussion

**PamB:** I'm a school library/technology consultant from New York

**NinaH:** My name is Nina, I'm in Columbia, Maryland, I am a 6th grade science teacher in Silver Spring, Maryland

**TramN:** I'm a student teacher

**TramN:** I live in Houston, TX

**TramN:** I'd like to know more about technology education and how to integrate it into the curriculum

**EmilieCh:** I'm a software engineer with a strong interest in e-learning development for higher education. Currently, I'm pursuing my masters at JHU in Instructional Technology.

**PamB:** Welcome!

**SusanVa** joined the room.

**PamB:** I had planned to visit a great site called SOS for Information Literacy.....

**BjB:** welcome, Susan. We've just done introductions.

**PamB:** however just minutes ago I found out it's not up...I think they are having problems with their server.

**SusanVa:** I'm from Montreal - an educational consultant

**PamB:** I'm so surprised..I use the site a lot and never have any problems.

**PamB:** Hi Susan

**PamB:** we can try once more....

**PamB:** if it doesn't work I have another plan.

**PamB:** the url is <http://www.informationliteracy.org>

**BjB:** I got the site, Pam

**NinaH:** it's working for me

**PamB:** hurray ! I got in also.

**EmilieCh:** works for me

**BjB** cheers

**TramN:** I've got it

**TramN:** thanks

**JamesC** joined the room.

**BjB:** welcome, James.

**BjB:** we're looking at <http://www.informationliteracy.org/default.php>

**JamesC:** Hi. I'm rusty at this. Haven't done it in a while. Wiki discussion?

**BjB:** Pam has chosen to show us a different site to start, James

**PamB:** I think you can register and get in almost immediately...unfortunately I couldn't test it out ahead this evening because it wasn't up.

**JamesC:** Thanks, Bj.

**TramN:** are we supposed to register now?

**BjB** nods to Tram

**PamB:** yes, please register.

**TramN:** thanks

**PamB:** If you get in, look under RESOURCES, then LESSON PLANS on the top of the screen.

**PamB:** S.O.S. is a free Web-based resource intended to showcase the efforts of library media specialists and classroom teachers nationwide as they develop and share lesson plans and other teaching materials that motivate K-8 students to learn or sharpen their information literacy skills. All lesson plans are evaluated.

**BjB:** . o O ( FINALLY finished filling out the membership form! )

**TramN:** is it Search Lesson Plans?

**BjB:** yes, Tram

**TramN:** thanks

**PamB:** Emilie, Tram are you in?

**SusanVa:** Are we going to look at wikis?

**TramN:** yes I am

**PamB:** I didn't plan to look at wikis, but we can if everyone would like to...after taking a peep at SOS.

**TramN:** doesn't matter to me

**TramN:** sounds good

**BjB:** we're looking at <http://www.informationliteracy.org/default.php> Jeff

**PamB:** Susan were you able to look at SOS?

**NinaH:** on the calendar it stated that we were looking at wikis, I think that's why Susan asked

**EmilieCh:** I'm in SOS now. where are we supposed to be?

**PamB:** I'm sorry, that's my mistake.

**EmilieCh:** yeah, I thought this discussion was supposed to be on Wikis

**NinaH:** The title is: "WebTools - Wikis"

**EmilieCh:** no prob.

**PamB:** I wanted you to look at the variety of lesson plans in SOS.

**NinaH:** ok, cool!

**JeffC:** SOS was the acronym for my consultancy: Sustained Online Support... what does it stand for in this context Pam?

**PamB:** OK let's switch and look at wiki...

**BjB:** since we're at SOS, why don't you share what you wanted us to view, Pam?

**BjB:** then we can go to Wikis...lots of time

**PamB:** First let's take a look at wikipedia...the most famous wiki...for a minute and then come back here.

**BjB** nods

**PamB:** <http://en.wikipedia.org/>

**JeffC:** I'm registering there now... and wonder if I should say "I'm very satisfied with my level of expertise" or "satisfied and always looking to improve" (wants to say very satisfied and always looking to improve!).

**PamB:** According to Wikipedia...it's a multilingual Web-based free-content encyclopedia. It exists as a wiki, written collaboratively by volunteers, allowing most articles to be changed by anyone with access to a web browser and an Internet connection. The project began on January 15, 2001, as a complement to the expert-written (and now defunct) Nupedia, and is now operated by the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation.

**PamB:** it recently reached it's 1,000,000 article in English

**TramN:** wow

**PamB:** all written by volunteers.

**TramN:** how accurate though?

**PamB:** What do you think? Should students use it?

**EmilieCh:** in one of my classes now, we're working on a Wiki project. it's pretty cool!!

**JamesC:** Wikipedia is a great resource. I usually Google things I want to learn about, but a few times I have went straight to Wikipedia. I have found Wikipedia very accurate.

**JeffC:** it's as accurate as the pagemakers make it... people edit out mistakes... of course... there are always people who spoof.

**EmilieCh:** I think students should use it as it allows for class collaboration

**BjB:** as in any resource, you should verify by comparing several sites

**DavidWe** joined the room.

**NinaH** . o O ( I was thinking the same thing Pam )

**BjB** hugs David. Welcome

**JeffC:** it is an \*excellent\* tool for creating collaborative K-12 projects... you'd need to make it so that only your students (and other students in other classes that you wanted to collaborate with) have access to the particular wiki you're working on.

**DavidWe** waves

**PamB** waves

**JamesC:** I think a science study was done and Wikipedia had on average five errors per topic when Britannica had three.

**TramN:** thanks Jeff

**TramN:** that is new information to me

**EmilieCh:** thanks for that info, James.

**PamB:** I think Jeff is talking about wiki in general, not wikipedia, right?

**NinaH:** Does wikipedia have multimedia as well, like video clips and pictures?

**TramN:** I bet it does

**DavidWe** . o O ( it's digital )

**EmilieCh:** I know w/ wikicities, it allows you to upload pictures on its site, but I'm not sure about videos

**JeffC:** well... wikipedia still needs a login if you want students to work on a particular subject... unless you're talking about using it just as a reference.

**PamB:** I read an article that stated Wikipedia had no more mistakes than three other print encyclopedias.

**JeffC:** it can also be a collaboration... you could assign students to create their own wikipedia page on a subject.

**JulieGer:** The disclaimer information for the site makes one wonder, though.  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Disclaimers>

**JulieGer:** It is encouraging that they are working on a way to review some articles or be able to certify some for validity.

**PamB:** it's interesting to look at Community Portal on the side of the page.

**TramN:** right

**PamB:** it's what the "community" is working on currently. Take a look.

**NinaH:** WOW, you can really just edit the page

**JeffC:** yes... you can just edit it

**NinaH:** I wonder how many (bad) people have edited the pages incorrectly or inappropriately

**JeffC:** there are backups... and page moderators.

**EmilieCh:** here's an example of Wikis being used in the classroom for collaborative learning. it's for my Integrating Technology class  
[http://schoolcomputing.wikicities.com/wiki/Teaching\\_With\\_Technology](http://schoolcomputing.wikicities.com/wiki/Teaching_With_Technology)

**TramN:** same here

**PamB:** thanks Emilie

**EmilieCh:** each of us picked a topic of our choice that's related to Teaching with Technology

**NinaH:** My other concern is that the language is very high level, my 6th graders might have trouble comprehending this

**EmilieCh:** I did mine on Emerging Technologies

**NinaH:** Em, did you create this?

**JulieGer:** Emilie, that's a neat looking site.

**EmilieCh:** I did the Emerging Technologies section. this page  
[http://schoolcomputing.wikicities.com/wiki/Emerging\\_Technologies](http://schoolcomputing.wikicities.com/wiki/Emerging_Technologies)

**NinaH:** WOW, good job Emilie!

**PamB:** Emilie, do students edit and add to each others' pages?

**EmilieCh:** the first link..are just links to our class project

**DavidWe** reads a very nice-looking web page

**EmilieCh:** it's pretty cool

**DavidWe** agrees

**TramN:** awesome job, Emilie!

**JulieGer:** With what institution is this class taken?

**EmilieCh:** other students did their on technology in math, science, social studies, language arts, etc

**JeffC** thinks Emilie might want to post that back to S.O.S.

**NinaH:** JHU

**EmilieCh:** Johns Hopkins

**PamB:** Great job!

**TramN:** wow

**PamB:** is wikicities free?

**DavidWe** smiles

**DavidWe** . o O ( Compliments are nice but where is the ca\$h? )

**DavidWe** gets his wallet out

**EmilieCh:** I did a page on Wikis. offers some classroom uses if you like to read about it  
<http://schoolcomputing.wikicities.com/wiki/Wikis>

**JamesC:** I have been searching for info on student created Wikis and success using Wikis. In that search I have ran across this site: [http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Main_Page)

**EmilieCh:** for those interested in using Wikis in your classroom... WikiSpaces are now offering free hosting for K-12 teachers and schools

**EmilieCh:** you can read more about it here <http://blog.wikispaces.com/2006/01/free-wikispaces-for-teachers.html>

**TramN:** good to know

**TramN:** thanks

**EmilieCh:** you're welcome

**JeffC:** great stuff Emilie!

**PamB:** I use wikispaces and it's very reliable, but low on features. Basic but good.

**JeffC** has to run but will lurk as usual.

**DavidWe** smiles

**JulieGer:** I like how is says there is no advertising - that's one of the downsides of many free resources.

**DavidWe:** I agree with Jeff, Emilie, those pages are very impressive

**EmilieCh:** Pam, I just saw your question about do students edit each others pages. Yes, we do. so far, it's mainly students w/in our class

**EmilieCh:** we use the discussion tab located at the top of the page to leave comments for other students if we choose not to edit directly

**EmilieCh:** thanks David

**DavidWe** . o O ( you're welcome )

**PamB:** Has anyone used wikis with students?

**NinaH:** no, but I'd like to

**DavidWe** smiles

**DavidWe:** Go for it, Nina

**PamB:** Any ideas?



**NinaH:** I teach at a school that is a magnet school for IT, so we have some of the technology, I'll share it with my team

**JulieGer:** I think my honors students could get into this when doing group novel units. They could put together a page on the novel with outside resources they used, etc.

**BjB:** you also might want to read the SIGTC transcript on wikis from 2/28/2006 that is archived at [www.tappedin.org/transcripts](http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts)

**PamB:** I had an interesting discussion today with a group of teachers who think wikis could be much more powerful learning tool than blogs because of the collaborative nature...learning is social, etc.

**JamesC:** I have been toying with the idea of having students create a Wiki. I might try it with a student that wants extra credit. Student would have to use their own access, because of lack of tech time.

**EmilieCh:** I agree Pam

**JulieGer:** For people who have used them in the past, due to their open nature on the web, have instructors contacted parents before doing the project? I wasn't sure if it would be considered a privacy issue.

**NinaH:** good issue Julie

**EmilieCh:** Blogs are usually focus on just one author, whereas w/ Wikis, it allows for a multiple of authors

**DavidWe** imagines there COULD be multi-author blogs

**PamB:** On wikispaces I think you can make it a private wiki space. Does anyone know for sure?

**PamB:** I think that's the power of wikis---multiple authors

**EmilieCh:** I'm not 100% sure, but I believe so.

**PamB:** we could use open source wiki software and load it on an Intranet in a school

**PamB:** so only kids and teachers in that school have access.

**PamB:** its limiting but solves the privacy issue

**JamesC:** Has anyone used any open source Wiki software?

**JulieGer:** True. With parents' consent, it might not be an issue, but then there also might be outside users editing the content. private access of some sort could be a plus. Is it possible to limit who gets to edit? If you discussed this before I came in, I apologize.

**PamB:** thanks very much for sharing the wiki examples and resources.

**PamB:** yes, we think you can limit editing when using a wiki on wikispaces.

**DavidWe:** Thanks, Pam

**TramN:** thanks

**PamB:** it's the same issue when using blogs, although blogger.com now has comment moderating.

**NinaH:** Thanks Pam, I enjoyed learning about Wikis!

**JulieGer:** Thanks for the info. This will be something to look more into.

**PamB:** thanks to everyone!

**EmilieCh:** yes, Thanks Pam for this discussion.

**DavidWe** waves bye and hustles off to Social Studies Forum

**DavidWe:** Thanks for sharing your pages, Emilie

**JamesC:** Thanks Pam. Until next time.