

Title of Session: Benkyoukai - Technology at your Fingertips

Moderator: Keiko Schneider

Guest Speaker: Carly Born

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Room: ASO

KeikoS looks at the watch, is it just about time to start?

CarlyGuest2: OK with me.

KeikoS: OK, first what I would like to do is to introduce each other.

KeikoS: Then Carly will go over the summary, then on to Q&A.

KeikoS: If you go to Actions, you will see detach option. That will make the window bigger.

KeikoS . o O (Carly, you wanna start?)

CarlyGuest2: Sure,

CarlyGuest2: My name is Carly Born and I am currently working as technical and curricular support for the foreign language departments at Carleton College (Northfield, MN)

KeikoS: I am Keiko Schneider. the organizer of benkyoukai.

KeikoS bows

KeikoS: who else is here?

JohnF: John Fahey from U of Texas at El Paso, Liberal Arts Center for Instructional Technology

ChrisGuest1: I'm Chris Evans from CU-Boulder. I manage a pair of computer classrooms setup similarly to Born sensei's facilities. I'm also coordinating standards for computing in foreign languages at CU.

KeikoS: Sachiko sensei?

SachikGuest6: I'm sachiko mishima from the University of Cincinnati. I teach Elementary Japanese and Intermediate Japanese.

KeikoS: Welcome everybody!

KeikoS: I wanted to thank Carly sensei and participants.

KeikoS: I want to ask Carly sensei to present some short summary.

KeikoS . o O (please)

KeikoS bows

CarlyGuest2: Well, I've been working at Carleton for two years now, which is the amount of time we've had the new Language and Dining Center (LDC). And I got to thinking about how this building has impacted the teaching that goes on there.

CarlyGuest2: I started talking with faculty and finding out some interesting things. First, most feel that they are not using very much technology at all. And second, that actually they WERE using technology, but that it was becoming so natural to them that they didn't even notice it.

CarlyGuest2: One [of] the reasons why I wanted to start presenting this topic to others is that some schools may wonder if having so much technology available would really make a difference to the teachers and students. And I think we are finding that it is

making a difference, but that it is on a small scale and will take place over a longer period of time.

CarlyGuest2: Teaching in the LDC here at Carleton is evolving everyday, in sometimes small ways. But we're finding that the technology in these rooms is being used and it's being used well.

CarlyGuest2: So I guess I hope it encourages some others who may have been skeptical about spending a lot of money on wired classrooms and gives hope to others who are struggling with ways of incorporating the tech into their teaching.

ChrisGuest1: My rooms are unique on campus for the level of tech present, and we too have seen varied amounts of adoption/usage from various disciplines (not just language).

CarlyGuest2: One interesting story:

CarlyGuest2: I asked one of my teachers if they were using any tech and how. She said "No, I'm not really using anything at all."

KeikoS chuckles

CarlyGuest2: Then she said "OK, well but sometimes I use the document camera" and then she said "And of course we play audio through the CDs and the computer

CarlyGuest2: So she really was using tech quite a lot, she just didn't have to work that hard to make it work

CarlyGuest2: I thought that was kind of telling and let us know that we were doing an OK job in making the tech transparent.

KeikoS . o O (good thing)

CarlyGuest2: Probably the biggest key to our success in this building has been the Panja units.

ChrisGuest1: I was going to ask about those...

CarlyGuest2: These things are great, you can program your own custom menus.

CarlyGuest2: Did you have a specific question?

ChrisGuest1: What do they do? My rooms have a system from Robotel (www.robotel.ca), which is basically a big KVM switch for the whole room. SO here, all students are at computers too. In your presentation, it looked like the Mac/PC station was only for the instructor?

CarlyGuest2: In most classrooms, there is only the teacher presentation station.

CarlyGuest2: So the Panja controls most devices in the rooms, including switching between the Mac and PCs. But also turning on the projector and the receiver, etc.

CarlyGuest2: The labs that we have with student computers don't all have the kind of system that you have.

CarlyGuest2: We do have one room that has that system, but no one ever uses it.

ChrisGuest1: So it's a combination controller and switching device?

CarlyGuest2: It's just a controller. We have other hardware that does the switching. We have KVMs from Gefen that will switch between the machines.

CarlyGuest2: But our classroom tech guy can program into them to control the DVD player, the VCR, the audio receiver, etc.

CarlyGuest2: Now we are working on programming greater control of the DVD player from the Panja so the instructor does not have to walk over to the closet where the device is.

CarlyGuest2: No remote controls for any of these devices are ever given out for use, they don't need them.

ChrisGuest1: Who makes the Panja? -or- got a website for it?

CarlyGuest2: Sure, hang on just a second.

CarlyGuest8: <http://www.panja.com>

CarlyGuest8: I don't do the programming myself, but our classroom tech guy does and says it's not so hard.

KeikoS looks around. Did it work?

ChrisGuest1: yep...

DebB: yes

CarlyGuest8: If there is one piece of technology that our teachers really love...

CarlyGuest8: it's the document camera.

ChrisGuest1: I'm very interested in making the tech less obtrusive, so I'll be looking into the Panja unit.

CarlyGuest8: They are always talking about how wonderful they are.

CarlyGuest8: Our teachers also LOVE the Panja

JohnF: In "Growing Up Digital: The Rise of the Net Generation" Don Tabscot wrote "To them the digital technology is no more intimidating than a VCR or toaster. For the first time in history, children are more comfortable, knowledgeable and literate than their parents about an innovation central to society." I wonder if this is what is happening in your classes because of the ease of use.??

ChrisGuest1: We have a doc-camera here too, but it doesn't get used as much as I'd think.

CarlyGuest8: Well, that's interesting. Because every time I think the students are going to catch on before the teacher, there are a few students who seem to fear the tech.

ChrisGuest1: John: I agree w/ that. Plenty of times we've seen a teacher in these tech environments that clearly feels less comfortable than the students.

CarlyGuest8: With our classrooms, the T only has to know one setup. All rooms are identical, and so they can confidently walk into any room in the building know what they are doing.

CarlyGuest8: That is probably helping with their confidence level a lot.

ChrisGuest1: Another good idea...

CarlyGuest8: In fact, there is now a call to have classrooms in other buildings on campus designed the same as in our LDC.

ChrisGuest1: My rooms require the T to have a training session with me before they start (mostly to learn the Robotel system).

CarlyGuest8: I can't quite make it a requirement, but I certainly try to make it so that I can train them on the system before they start teaching.

CarlyGuest8: One other nice feature is having the Language Center right there in the building.

CarlyGuest8: The tech assistant in the Language Center (who is part time) is usually right there or the student assistants can sometimes help, too.

CarlyGuest8: also, I always make sure the departmental secretaries know everything because they are usually asked to help in a crisis situation.

JohnF: One of the problems those of us with more primitive technology is that is not always consistent and is subject to failure.

JohnF: which frustrates the users.

ChrisGuest1: Right (Carly)-- our facility is again unique on campus b/c I'm here full-time, and/or have student worker coverage during all classes.

CarlyGuest8: That's exactly true. Even if you can't fund huge purchases, focusing on making things consistent across rooms may be another strategy.

DebB: Do any of you use web cams? I have a keypal who wants a live "chat"...any advice?

CarlyGuest8: Sure, Chris. I work for ITS, so I'm not in the building full time (though most of my time I am there!).

CarlyGuest8: No use of web cams here that I am aware of.

CarlyGuest8: But I can't even get most of my Ts to do chats.

KeikoS: Anybody else?

ChrisGuest1: No 'official' webcams for CU.... though there are a few.

KeikoS: Anybody has comments or Qs to Carly?

ChrisGuest1: From what I saw online, it looks like your LDC and my (also new) building have a lot of commonalities.

ChrisGuest1: But Carly, your rooms are only used for language classes?

CarlyGuest8: Yes, mostly.

CarlyGuest8: We have so many sections of language classes that they don't all fit on certain days of the week.

CarlyGuest8: Occasionally, some other classes get into the building. But not many.

ChrisGuest1: Is that a pattern at Carleton? ...for departments/disciplines to have dedicated facilities?

CarlyGuest8: Mmmm....yes and no.

CarlyGuest8: The languages really petitioned for this to happen with them.

ChrisGuest1: Gotcha.

CarlyGuest8: Before this building, they were truly scattered to the winds and they hated it.

CarlyGuest8: They are very happy to have everyone in the same building and together with the Language Center for a few reasons.

ChrisGuest1: Same here.... though they also wanted my position to be filled by someone who spoke Japanese. 8-D

CarlyGuest8: First, they can do 20 minutes in the audio and then return to their classrooms.

CarlyGuest8: Second, they are learning a lot just by being around each other while teaching. They wander past a Hebrew class and see something cool. Then they go and have lunch with the Hebrew teacher to talk about it.

CarlyGuest8: They are doing more collaboration than ever before.

ChrisGuest1: Hmm... my rooms are hyper-secure, with electronic door locks, no open access, etc. Do you have security issues?

CarlyGuest8: Actually, not really.

CarlyGuest8: The labs are secured with fiber to the machines and a keypad at the door.

ChrisGuest1: But students are given the key-code?

CarlyGuest8: But the classrooms are not. The teacher stations are built such that it is very difficult to get equipment out of there and all the cables are very hidden.

CarlyGuest8: NO! The Language Center is in charge of opening and closing the labs. They are always monitored.

ChrisGuest1: Do you find much variety in who uses what tech? Across languages? ...or other disciplines?

CarlyGuest8: It's pretty much all over the map.

CarlyGuest8: I think it depends on who is teaching what and what they have time to play with.

CarlyGuest8: Recently all of our Coffee and News classes have been into the Smartboard, and that happens in Spanish, French, Japanese, and Russian.

CarlyGuest8: It also depends on who shares their ideas.

ChrisGuest1: Same.... here we have "Distributed Technology Coordinators" assigned to the various schools. They're supposed to help teachers integrate tech w/ teaching.

CarlyGuest8: We've had these events called TechnoLunches which have been very fruitful.

ChrisGuest1: "...various schools..."

JohnF: "Coffee and News" Is there a connection between Language and Dining? <grin>

ChrisGuest1: 8-D

CarlyGuest8 laughs

DebB: or teaching and caffeine (bigger grin)

CarlyGuest8: I can tell the Language and Dining story if you want.

ChrisGuest1: Now TECH and caffeine, that's a given.

DebB: Yes, please tell the story

ChrisGuest1: (where's my green tea?)

KeikoS listens intently

CarlyGuest8: Well, originally the college said we needed a new dining hall. So someone presented the Trustees with a plan for a one-story dining hall.

CarlyGuest8: The Trustees said "You all are complaining about not having enough teaching space, go do it again!"

CarlyGuest8: So they did a survey (on what criteria, I have no idea) of who needed space the most and the languages won.

CarlyGuest8: So they got lumped together with the dining hall.

CarlyGuest8: It's actually working out quite well, now they never have to leave the building. They can work and eat without ever going outside. !

CarlyGuest8: We were worried about the classrooms smelling like lunch, but that doesn't happen at all.

ChrisGuest1: Heh... I'm super-strict about that b/c these rooms were so pricey.

JohnF: If they offer authentic International cuisine, it could be a cultural asset for the language classes.

CarlyGuest8: Well, I don't think they do. But they try fake Mexican sometimes.

CarlyGuest8 smiles

ChrisGuest1: Carly, do you have any info about what was spent on the tech? I know our Robotel system cost almost \$1,000/seat.

CarlyGuest8: Well, I don't.

ChrisGuest1: No worries...

CarlyGuest8: But I can get you in contact with the person who would

JohnF: I like the way you converted your powerpoint to quicktime on the webpage.

CarlyGuest8: Thank you.

CarlyGuest8: I did that using Keynote from Apple.

ChrisGuest1: <Apple fans clap>

CarlyGuest8 smiles

KeikoS: ANYbody needs URL for Carly sensei's paper with QT presentation?

JohnF: Sorry to call it powerpoint

CarlyGuest8: Well, are there any final burning questions before we wrap up?

DebB: yes, , I'd like the URL

CarlyGuest8: No offense taken, John.

KeikoS: OK, Here we go.

KeikoS: <http://www.people.carleton.edu/~cborn/benkyokaipres.html>

CarlyGuest8: I'm happy to answer any additional questions or comments over email, too.

CarlyGuest8: Or at IALLT, if you will be there.

ChrisGuest1: One more: what's the breakdown of rooms in the LDC as far as "labs" w/ computers to these classrooms w/ the media closet and Panja box,etc.

KeikoS: Well, then, maybe it is time to thank Carly sensei for her wonderful contribution?

DebB DebB claps and bows

ChrisGuest1: my bad!

JohnF: Thanks Carly.

SachikGuest6: Thank you.

ChrisGuest1: Thanks much indeed!

CarlyGuest8: To answer Chris, we have 9 classrooms with the tech closets plus two labs.

DebB: Merci!

CarlyGuest8: The labs also have the same teacher stations as the classrooms.

CarlyGuest8: Sure thing!

CarlyGuest8: I hope it was interesting.

KeikoS: Thank you so much for participating everybody.

ChrisGuest1: great to make the contact...

DebB: Glad I finally found TI2...there's no connection here from the old site!!

ChrisGuest1: have a nice long weekend! Oh good, thanks - I was going to ask for the transcript.

CarlyGuest8: Long weekend? We're on trimesters, still in school

ChrisGuest1: Memorial Day

CarlyGuest8 frowns

CarlyGuest8: We don't get Memorial Day off.

ChrisGuest1: !!!

CarlyGuest8: Yep, I know.

KeikoS: <http://www.tappedin.org/transcripts/artshumanities/>

JohnF: Bye

KeikoS: Thank you again everybody.

KeikoS bows deeply

CarlyGuest8: Thank you all!

KeikoS: doumo arigatougozaimashita.

KeikoS: Great.

ChrisGuest1: thanks again!