

Title of Session: Blogstreams Salon

Moderator: Bee Dieu and Aaron Campbell

Title of File: 20050731blogstreams

Date: July 31, 2005

Room: Blogstreams Salon Group Room

AaronPC: how are things with everyone?

Maggi: so far so good

BjB agrees with Maggi

AaronPC: excellent

AaronPC: I'm having a good time here in Missouri.

AaronPC: I really love the open spaces and the fresh air.

Maggi: fresher than Japan?

AaronPC: Being back in the US is a nice change of pace for me.

Maggi: I bet

AaronPC: Oh yes...the air in Japan isn't too bad where I live, but not nearly as fresh and clean as it is out here in the countryside of Missouri.

JosephU joined the room.

JeffC joined the room.

Maggi: can it to take back with you

AaronPC: Hello there Joseph and Jeff.

EmilyW joined the room.

JosephU: Hi

AaronPC: Well...I wish I could Maggi.

AaronPC: I'll just have to stick with the memories.

Maggi: Hi Em and guys

AaronPC: Hello Emily.

EmilyW waves hi to all

EmilyW: how is everyone?

JeffC: doing ok Emily

AaronPC: Doing fine here Emily.....on vacation right now.

JeffC . o O (Vacation at Tapped In... a new virtual reality series)

AaronPC: lol

AaronPC: Tapped In vacation tours.

AaronPC: Has anybody been working on any interesting projects/problems this week?

EmilyW: not really

BeeD joined the room.

BeeD: Hello there! I am sorry I am late

AaronPC: Hi Bee.

EmilyW: I have a few new ideas for my blog

Maggi hugs Bee

BeeD: it took me some time to open the chat

AaronPC: What do you have in mind Emily?

EmilyW: ideas for my entries

BrianB: Hi everyone, first time on this website, how is everyone today?

AaronPC: Happy here Brian.

BeeD: I am just fine here in Sao Paulo, Brazil. It was a glorious sunny Sunday

AaronPC: Were are you from?

EmilyW: I have been communicating a lot with people in nonprofits and reading their blogs and got some ideas from that

AaronPC: Sunny and warm here too Bee.

BrianB: I am from New York

JeffC: Forest Grove Oregon

EmilyW: someone was on Tapped In the other day and I read their blog, they blogged about the TI Festival

EmilyW: I am in TX

JosephU: New York City here!

JeffC: Do you have that URL Emily?

EmilyW: I think I saved it

AaronPC: Great Emily! I love finding inspiration to blog and share ideas.

EmilyW: I might also write an entry about it

BeeD: This is an inspired idea Emily!

EmilyW: I am looking for the blog entry

BjB would also like to hear more about this

JeffC: I'd like to take a moment to introduce Joseph Ugoretz, who is an English Professor and Director of Teaching and Learning with Technology at CCNY. He is very much into electronic portfolios... and created a group here (take a look at his profile). Please join that group if you are interested.

AaronPC is all ears.

BjB waves welcome to Joseph

EmilyW: I am interested in E-portfolios

BeeD listens attentively to Joseph

AaronPC: Thanks for the intro Jeff...

AaronPC: and welcome Joseph.

AaronPC: Do you have a group here at Tapped In?

AaronPC: Yes...I'm reading the profile now.

JosephU: Thanks for the intro, Jeff! I'm actually at BMCC, which is one of the campuses of CUNY (CCNY is another one).

JeffC: oops... sorry!

JosephU: No problem--it's a common mistake.

AaronPC: I'd love to hear a little about what kind of projects/research you are working on.

JosephU: We're looking to start an eportfolio pilot for our students in the coming year. So I'm actively researching right now, and my head is somewhat schpinning. It would be good to get more input.

RitaZ joined the room.

BeeD welcomes Rita

JosephU: My past research has been on online discussion, and student-created multimedia projects. More to the point of *this* group, I've also used blogs with my students in the past.

RitaZ thanks Bee and greets everybody

AaronPC: Wow.

EmilyW is still looking for that blog

AaronPC: How did you find the experience of using blogs?

AaronPC: That is....with your students?

BeeD eyes get wider and wider

JosephU: Well, it had some very positive moments--I was kind of feeling my way, without enough prior planning, so there were some surprises (positive and negative). I think the public nature of the blog posts (we had comments on student blogs from strangers, several times) was very powerful for some of them--and a few have kept up with their blogs even after the class ended (last December).

AaronPC: Fantastic that some of them kept blogging!

BrianB: yeah that's great

BeeD: How old and what level were your students?

AaronPC: Do you think you'll incorporate weblogs into the e-portfolio project in the fall?

BeeD: What subject were you teaching?

JosephU: These were community college students--so adults of various ages ranging from 16-65, and it was an "Intensive Writing" course--that's what we call our remedial English course.

JosephU: I'd like to get an eportfolio system that will allow blogging, too--but may have to go with separate products. I wrote the plan and budget originally for just eportfolios, but want to "slip in" blogs and wikis, too.

AaronPC: How many e-portfolio systems out there allow blogging?

JosephU: Well, it's more like blogging systems that people adapt to support eportfolios--there are people using Manila, Wordpress, and so on for eports.

AaronPC: I see. Have you taken a look at Elgg by any chance?

JosephU: Then there are commercial products which offer packages or suites (usually as plugins to Blackboard or WebCT) including eport/wiki/blog. I saw a demo of this one recently <http://www.learningobjects.com/homepage.html>

BeeD: <http://elgg.net>

BeeD: or apcala (which is basically the same thing) <http://apcala.com/index.php>

JosephU: Yes--Elgg is interesting. It's on my list for consideration. I worry about the amount of programming support it would take to customize it for our needs...but that's a worry about most of the choices!

AaronPC: What did you think of learning objects demo?

JosephU: Thanks, Bee, I'll have a look at apcala. I'm not familiar with it.

BeeD: same people...same development as Elgg, Joseph

JosephU: Learning objects seem to have a nice product in a lot of ways. I really liked their collaboration product (essentially a wiki). But overall, I'm disappointed that the whole suite does not have any "doorway" or opening to the outside world. To me, one of

the biggest benefits of blogs/portfolios (not so much for wikis) is the option to make them *public*--in Learning Objects, they're shut off behind password protected interface, with no way to open up.

BeeD: <http://elgg.net/bdieu>

BeeD: <http://elgg.net/annef/weblog>

AaronPC: Yes...it's that access to the world which is so important for eportfolios and blogging.

JosephU: Yeah, if you lose that, you're losing the major advantage of using the technology. It becomes something slightly more convenient than a pen and paper--but without any real addition of pedagogical value.

BrianB: couldn't agree with you more Joseph

AaronPC: Yes..and the potential for students to continue engaging in these activities after the semester is finished increases tremendously.

JosephU: Have you guys had students blogging? What has your experience been like?

AaronPC: It's always an adventure here. I use blogs with Japanese EFL university students and with American students who study in Kyoto.

BeeD: I started blogging with my 11th graders at high school some time ago ...I teach EFL in the Franco-Brazilian school in Sao Paulo, Brazil

AaronPC: I'd say the biggest obstacle is overcoming the tendency for students to see the work they are doing as homework or schoolwork, rather than something that transcends the institution and is their own.

AaronPC: Some of the American students continue to blog, none of the Japanese students do consistently, that I know of.

EmilyW: I finally found the blog entry

EmilyW: http://teachingtechie.typepad.com/learning/2005/07/professional_gr.html

BeeD: Same here...in English...they have their own blogs in their mother tongue

BeeD: Thanks Emily

EmilyW: she is a member of blogstreams

AaronPC: Have you ever had students resist the 'public' nature of blogging, Joseph?

JosephU: Not so far--they're aware of it from the start, so it does place some limits on what they're willing to share. they have the option to make some posts private, but they very rarely use that option.

AaronPC: That's a nice post Emily, showing how free events like the TI festival can expose people to new ideas and applications. It's wonderful.

EmilyW: I thought it was great

BeeD: What kind of work did they develop on their blogs?

EmilyW: I am glad members include their blogs in their information

AaronPC: I wonder what the main difference is between an e-portfolio application and say, a piece of software like Wordpress or Manila or Drupal? I would think you could do just about everything on those that you could with an e-portfolio app.

LeeB joined the room.

BeeD: welcomes Lee

JosephU: Since this was a basic writing class, most of the work was similar to journal entries, or thought or opinion essays. Personally, at least at that time, I didn't really see the blog as a good medium for "serious" or well-developed writing..more for first drafts/spontaneous beginnings/interactive or provocative thoughts.

Maggi hugs Lee

LeeB waves to Bee

JosephU: You know, Aaron, the lines get pretty blurry.

BeeD: a little bit of what I have done as well

BeeD: could you share some of the writings with us?

AaronPC: Yes...I think blogs are excellent for sharing raw, half-baked ideas Joseph.

JosephU: One feature of a good eportfolio app that I set as a criterion is the ability to export the portfolio--to a cd, or whatever, to make it easily transportable. Also, different, separate, interfaces, for editing, reviewing, or presenting/publishing. That's all not so easy to do with the WP or Manila, etc.

AaronPC: Interesting....what in your mind is the best e-portfolio application you've seen for meeting your needs?

JosephU: So far I'm attracted to one from Johns Hopkins <http://cte.jhu.edu/EPWEB/index.htm> but I'm a long way from a final decision. I like what OSPI has to offer, and the philosophy behind it (and Sakai) is very appealing. I also have a big range of departments/academic disciplines who will ultimately want to use whatever we offer--and it's probably impossible to find a one-size-fits all solution for Teacher Education, Multimedia Programming, Video Arts, and Engineering Science, for example.

BeeD: I am having a quick look at the features. What feature attracts you most?

JosephU: I like the three separate interfaces--and it seems user friendly enough to work. Not convinced yet that it's customizable enough. And I spoke to Johns Hopkins about their licensing model. It's quite expensive, but it's a one-time-only fee--then it's permanently yours for unlimited numbers of users--you can even have as many separate installations as you want--no ongoing fees. But it's *not* open source...you're not allowed to mess with the source code (not that I could, myself) at all.

BeeD: hmmm..who is in control? The learner or the institution/teacher?

BjB: Tapped in doesn't have the same features, but it is open source.

JosephU: I'm very new to tapped in (like two hours ago!), but I'm liking what I'm seeing.

JosephU: The JHopkins EP seems to give most of the control over the basic setup to the institution/teacher. Students mainly get to fill in the blanks. they can decide what goes in the blanks, but they can't really set up the blanks for themselves.

JosephU: There are strengths and weaknesses to that approach.

AaronPC: Joseph, would the e-portfolios these students put together be available to public view?

RitaZ needs to go, greets everybody and thanks Aaron, Bee and Joseph, will study sites in detail

AaronPC: Bye Rita!

BjB hugs Rita bye

RitaZ: bye, Aaron and all

BeeD: Is there any possibility for interaction with people from outside the system?

BeeD hugs Rita

RitaZ left the room (signed off).

Maggi hugs Rita bye

JosephU: In the Johns Hopkins system (or whatever we ultimately decide on) the portfolios do have to be available (optionally) to the public--at least to employers, admissions committees, scholarship committees, etc.

LeeB waves bye to Rita

MarshaR joined the room.

JosephU: The JHopkins EP does allow this in the Presentation interface--and also has a second, reviewers, interface--only for invited reviewers (eg, teachers)

BeeD: What about other professors and institutions? What happens when students leave for instance? Can they continue their portfolio on the same application?

AaronPC: I can see how those different levels of access would be helpful in such an approach to teaching/learning.

BeeD: Can their data be easily transported to another application?

JosephU: Yes--they have to be available (in some way) for students after they leave--and they have to be compatible with other applications. Because we're a community college, we have students coming and going at all stages. They're likely to transfer, either before finishing their degree, or afterwards (to complete a BS). We need a solution that will let them do that, and not have to start all over with their e-portfolio.

JosephU: But, listen, I feel like I just came in here as a newcomer and sort of highjacked your discussion! apologies!

AaronPC: No...not at all! We were the ones grilling you with questions.

AaronPC: Well I hope you can share some of those links to their work, either on blogs or e-portfolios, once they are up and running. I would love to see what they are doing.

JosephU: Very fun discussing with you folks! As I learn my way around Tapped In, I hope to meet and talk with more of you, too. And join my e-portfolios group (and help me learn what to do with it!)

BeeD: It was our pleasure to have you join us here today, Joseph!

AaronPC: Yes...thanks so much for stopping by and sharing your ideas and knowledge.

Maggi: thank you!

LeeB: I am looking forward to checking on the sites you gave us. Thanks Joseph.

BeeD: And I would like to announce that on August 14th we will have a special session with Natalie d' Arbeloff (if all is ok this time)

BjB crosses her fingers

BeeD . o O (her aunt in Paris is not well)

AaronPC is looking forward to Natalie's session.

AaronPC: Well...I need to run along. Thanks everyone. Hope to see you next week!

BeeD: Thanks Aaron. Have a great Sunday

BeeD: enjoy your holidays and family to the fullest

BeeD: I must go now as well..have a nice week and thanks for coming

BjB hugs Bee. Take care.