

Title of Session: Becoming a Webhead

Moderator: Susanne Nyrop, Rita Zeinsteijer, Hala Fawzi

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Room: Webheads in Action Group

SusanneN: and hello everyone, I'm Sus in Denmark, and I'm a(nother) Webhead!

RitaZ: an EFL Webhead in Argentina, welcome all!

SusanneN: Hi Elizabeth and all - I wonder if we have to wait for someone to start this session on becoming a Webhead - where do we begin?

BJB2: welcome to the BAW discussion, everyone.

BJB2: we usually start discussions with introductions. Can you please tell us where you are located and what you teach?

PatV: suburbs of Philly, PA and I'm a school counselor

MarleighG: Hi! I'm in Montreal, Quebec and I work in a Learning Centre in a cegep (sort of like a college)

BrendaE: Jersey shore, Computer Lab

JudithH: Philadelphia suburbs, speech-language pathology

LindaBM: PA teach remedial math 1-8

SusanR: I am Sue ..born in Montreal

HalaH: Helloo. Hala, teaches EAP at university level .Khartoum, Sudan

SusanR: now living in Ontario

RitaZ: Argentina, EFL teacher and proud member of Webheads

MichaelMa: Provence France - Videowebhead

SusanneN: I'm in Farum near Copenhagen, Denmark, currently working with online conference management

MichaelMa: I'm from NJ too

SusanneN: How many of you are NOT yet familiar with Webheads? could you give us

PatV: I have no familiarity with webheads

JudithH: I'm new to tapped in today...

RitaZ: so here we are, as members of a robust community of practice, does everybody know what a CoP is?

LindaBM: I am totally new to the whole site

JudithH: Nope

SusanneN: Welcome to TI, Judith and Linda

BrendaE: I'm fairly new to Tapped In also. I am enjoying the experience.

DeborahCP: Community of practice

LindaBM: what?

JudithH: OK

HalaH: CoP

BrendaE: I have never visited Webheads.

RitaZ: a community of practice is a group of likeminded people who meet regularly

SusanneN: yes, and Webheads in Action are really a global Community of Practice, mostly language teachers

RitaZ: to discuss

HalaH: The best CoP ever

BJB2: a community of practice is a place where educators collaborate to share best practices in education...

RitaZ: investigate and share findings with colleagues all over the world

SusanneN: and to explore online communication tools together

MichaelMa: and have fun together

RitaZ: and share results and experiences

BJB2: Webheads are a CoP of EFL and ESL teachers as well as many Language Arts teachers

SusanneN: and practice as guest teachers in each other's classroom

MichaelMa: Good point Sus - would love to do more of that

SusanneN: Michael, you're welcome to send me an invitation

MichaelMa: Except that I don't have any regular online classes now

RitaZ: http://www.geocities.com/vance_stevens/papers/evonline2002/webheads.htm

HalaH: enable members to share knowledge

RitaZ: you can see what we do here

ElizabethH: As Hala says, sharing knowledge and practice are very important.

SusanneN: we have several files and links stored right in this very room!

RitaZ: ...and you can also meet our faces...;-) if you click on that link

SusanneN: I believe that Hala has prepared something for us today

BJB2: one of the purposes of the festival is to showcase some of the many events and groups that use Tapped In

RitaZ: many of us give presentations online, and we all join in and help and learn together

RitaZ: Dafne Gonzalez, from Venezuela, for example, asked us to show different presentations on bridges round the world to her architecture students

RitaZ: that was a month ago, her stds loved them and learnt a lot!

SusanneN: and it was such fun to prepare new material for them

SusanneN: Daf is in Caracas, Venezuela

RitaZ: and Sus, from Denmark, Tere, from Lisbon and I from Argentina, showed photos of bridges online!

SusanneN: and Elisabeth from Japan

SusanneN: and also a Canadian Bridge engineer

RitaZ: so you see the potential of a CoP when likeminded people meet together to share!!

SusanneN: this was these students were encouraged to communicate in English only

SusanneN: and they have also blogged their impressions and comments

RitaZ: and enjoyed learning and using English at the same time

SusanneN: likewise, these sessions had a side bonus because the students were meeting teachers as learners themselves

MichaelMa: Maybe Brenda and Paddy would like to introduce themselves now?

SusanneN: as we're new to using the presentation techniques and experimenting with many different formats

SusanneN: Brenda and Paddy, where are you from?

BrendaE: Hi, I'm from NJ. I have been working in our school's computer lab for the last two year. I guess you could call me a "Geek-in-Training". Love learning lots of new stuff and ways to integrate technology into the classroom.

SusanneN: you've come to the right place, then, Brenda

BrendaE: I was a classroom teacher for many, many years

SusanneN: among like minded

RitaZ: if you want to see one of Dafne's stds' blog here's the link
<http://vanessamartini.blogspot.com/2005/06/paranass-bridge-ritas-presentation.html>

HalaH: A good link for members is
<http://www.malhatlantica.pt/teresadeca/webheads/wia-index.htm>

SusanneN: thank you Hala and Rita

RitaZ: any questions on Webheads?

BrendaE: What exactly is Webheads?

BJB2: Webheads meets in Tapped In every Sunday at 12 noon GMT

SusanneN: waves hello to Georgia

MichaelMa: Webheads = CoP as explained above, basically

HalaH: a very informative link <http://www.malhatlantica.pt/teresadeca/webheads/wia-index.htm#session%202005>

RitaZ: a group of educators, Brenda, who meet online to share

BrendaE: Are there specific topics each week, or is it more of a general share-session?

RitaZ: we've been meeting for about 4 years now, and learning together on the use of Computer Mediated Communication tools

RitaZ: for Language Learning

RitaZ: we know each other and rely on each other as friends by now

SusanneN: Webheads started in 1998 as an online experiment language teachers and their students, but from 2002 we had regular teacher courses up to the yearly TESOL convention - and these courses were encouraging new teachers to Become a Webhead

RitaZ: and we have even traveled to meet f2f!

HalaH: I would better just forget about my presentaion

GeorgiaJ: Is the discussion more based on how to use technology in the language classroom?

RitaZ: kind of, Georgia

SusanneN: Hala, you're so welcome to tell us about your experiences bringing the internet into your classroom in Sudan?

PaddyG introduces himself as asked earlier - I'm Paddy from Viseu in Portugal EFL teacher

HalaH: I have tried to look at WiA from a different angle

SusanneN: as well, also the social and pedagogical aspects I would say

RitaZ listens to Hala

SusanneN gives the scene to Hala!!

HalaH: It is entitled: When Connections are Created Between a Developed Country and the rest of the World through Collaboration

RitaZ: the floor is yours, Hala!

HalaH: Tech is already here

HalaH: but no one

HalaH: knows about TPD

SusanneN: TPD - teachers' professional development?

HalaH: EFL teachers here knows only teacher training

HalaH: yes

ElizabethH: Yes, so often teacher training stops at the door when teachers graduate.

HalaH: then when I become a webhead

ElizabethH: And technology marches on so fast.

HalaH: this has changed

HalaH: When Tere and Daf

SusanneN: Hala - you started in our workshop this year in January, right?

HalaH: told me to come over here today to tell about my dispalce paper, I had to change the topic of the paper

HalaH: I have started [ijnEVO2005](#)

HalaH: and then my whole life has changed

HalaH: to the best ever

SusanneN: why so, Hala? What happened in your life when you started to become a Webhead?

HalaH: In Sudan

RitaZ: all our lives changed, Hala, that's true!

HalaH: WiA has opened the door wide for me to build a career in online learning and

HalaH: CoP and its role

HalaH: in collaborative learning

HalaH: social interaction

SusanneN: You're teaching English language in Sudan Hala, at which level?

HalaH: university level

RitaZ: and thanks to what I have learnt through my colleagues all around the world I am giving presentations here in Argentina, to teachers who are now learning from me!

BJB2: part of a community of practice is the progression from novice to expert that many of the webheads have experienced

RitaZ: so Webheads are changing the educational world !!

HalaH: When you talk about communities of practice here

BJB2 agrees with Rita

GeorgiaJ: I have a question, please.....are most of the Webheads teaching English as a second language?

HalaH: no one knows it. They only knows online environment

RitaZ: or as a foreign lang, as well

HalaH: or a foreign

BJB2: many of the ideas the webheads use also work well for any language program, including language arts

RitaZ: are you a teacher, Georgia?

HalaH: building confidence

GeorgiaJ: Yes, I teach in the USA, but I teach French and Spanish to English speakers....high school age students

HalaH: for a teacher is also a credit to webheads

BeeD: French? I teach at the Franco-Brazilian school in Sao Paulo

RitaZ: if you joined WIA we could prepare project work with our students!

BeeD: high school students as well...but I teach them English as a foreign language

GeorgiaJ: Yes, I noticed your profile, Bee

GeorgiaJ: Does most of the discussion center around using technology in the classroom?

GeorgiaJ: I would think that any such discussion would be useful to any teacher, language or otherwise.

HalaH: No, not necessary

SusanneN: Yes, Georgia, in the classroom and online

GeorgiaJ: I know that many language teachers find it difficult to use technology in their classrooms, at least here in the USA

RitaZ: we share anything that can be useful for improving language teaching, Georgia

GeorgiaJ: ahhh, wonderful!

SusanneN: and for online learning

RitaZ: exactly, Sus

SusanneN: Georgia, this is a new world we're conquering and inventing

GeorgiaJ: And I have been trying to do it all alone! How wonderful there is a place I can go to "steal" and share ideas.

RitaZ: and there are people involved in technology who assist us, most generously

SusanneN: we have many supporters, so we're also involved with the tool design and testing

SusanneN: and we're often presenting in different contexts when there is a call for an online conference

RitaZ: computer savvies lend us virtual spaces to try out, different platforms which help us see possibilities

HalaH: One becomes a teacher that knows how to learn collaboratively, think critically

SergeiG check out Graham's new project at <http://www.pod-efl.com>

SusanneN: you see - there will be an online conference in November

GeorgiaJ: Sounds great. In fact, I am right now taking a class given by Intel which is teaching how to use some web-based tools for higher order thinking skills.

SusanneN: hello Sergei! so good to see YOU back online

HalaH: and we have our conference too

SergeiG you may invite the guy to share, Susanne

GeorgiaJ: A conference for Webheads?

HalaH: in November

RitaZ: good, Georgia! and how come you learnt about Tapped In?

SusanneN: yes, I'll look for the link

GeorgiaJ: I stumbled on it two years ago, and have checked in occasionally. But, I would like to become more involved.

SusanneN: Georgia, can I have your email please - the conference is in the making and I'm not sure the page is ready yet

RitaZ: you are very welcome to join us and share findings, Georgia

GeorgiaJ: Thank you, I will certainly join.

HalaH: bridging the gaps

HalaH: <http://www.d-oliver.net/WiA/cfp.htm>

SusanneN: and so are anyone with an interest in Computer Supported Language Learning etc

RitaZ: this is my email, Georgia rita@zeinstejer.com

RitaZ: I can send you more info

GeorgiaJ: thank you Rita, I would like that.

SusanneN: Ok, Hala is now showing us the draft page for the conference in November, good

ElizabethH: A good way to start is to join the Becoming a Webheads session at the Electronic Village in Jan-Feb.

SusanneN: yes, you're right Elizabeth, we almost forgot to tell

SusanneN: I'm going to blog about this session later tonight, it is at <http://worldofwebheads.blogspot.com> - and I'll put in some relevant links

RitaZ:to add sth else, ...we deliver online seminars, using different platforms like Learning Times, using text chat and voice chat, and we have an expert on the use of voice, Michael Coghlan!

BeeD: and experts on video like Michael and Elizabeth who will be presenting soon

SusanneN: any last minute questions?

HalaH: I Thank you

SusanneN: I'll look forward to your

SusanneN: your session, Elizabeth and Michael

SusanneN: no worry, Hala, we have to improvise when our session leaders could not join us

BrendaE: Thanks for sharing. This group is not in my realm of teaching, but nice to hear what you are all doing.

GeorgiaJ: Thank you so much for all the information. I look forward to working with you Webheads.

RitaZ: so we hope you will all join us, come in to our next meeting on Sunday, here, at 12 GMT

RitaZ: (midday)

SusanneN: very very early for those folks in the US time zones, hehe

RitaZ: thank you all for coming!

BeeD: See you later and thanks for coming...I have to make lunch now but will be back soon

BeeD: ciao4now