

Title of Session: Targeting Librarians - Knowledge Management

Moderator: Lesley Farmer

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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

LesleyF: Welcome to today's chat. We have a group of teachers who are joining us today.

BJB2 applauds wildly

LesleyF: They are new to online so give them some slack.

KariSc joined the room.

BJB2 thinks about Lesley's comment

LesleyF: Today's topic is knowledge management.

CurieGst12: Well, maxi your window will make it even bigger! ^_^

BJB2: Welcome, Kari. We're just about to start

LesleyF: This topic is of interest to teachers increasingly -- it had been in the arena of business up to a few years ago.

LesleyF: Hala, are you from outside California?

HalaH: From Sudan

HalaH: Africa

LesleyF: wonderful -- what is your job?

HalaH: Teaching ESP

LesleyF: what is ESP?

HalaH: English for

HalaH: Specific purposes

CurieGst12: What kind of specific purposes? ^_^

LesleyF: We have English teachers here too. If you folks will introduce yourselves.

HalaH: Academic .for example

CurieGst12: Hi! I'm Curie, although I'm an art teacher, ^_^

BJB2 . o O (or hotel management, international business, etc)

FeliciaA: I am Felcia A from Long Beach California. I teacher gifted students about 9-10 years old

MichelleMF: I teach English and science

BJB2 is an art teacher too in Pennsylvania

MariaRT: Hi, Hala. I'm Maria, I teach first grade.

KariSc: I am Kari, a high school English teacher

LesleyF: So today we will be talking about knowledge management.

BJB2 listens to Lesley

LesleyF: This is a systematic way to share information.

SusanAA: hi, Hala. I teach special education.

HalaH: what's special ed.

ShawnaH: hello!! I teach adapted physical education

LesleyF: To what extent do teachers in your school or district share information, such as lessons, learning activities, resources, class managements, etc.?

HalaH: They share nothing, because we have very limited resources anyway

HalaH: still teaching old methodology

BJB2 thinks Lesley would have been interested in last night's ENC Teacher Isolation discussion

LesleyF: Sometimes by sharing what information we have, including needs of individual children, we can help them more.

SusanAA: students with disabilities receive special education services the is in small group settings with a lot of individualized instruction to support their learning

MichelleMF: what do you mean by the old methodology?

HalaH: still using grammar-translation method, for example

LesleyF: In the United States, students with special needs (such as hearing impairment or physical limitations) get individual learning plans. They are developed by a group of teachers and parents.

HalaH: tech is new for us

SusanAA: do you have a computer in your classroom

LesleyF: So, Susan and Shawna, want to share about IEPs?

HalaH: only at private schools, not public

ShawnaH: can you say paperwork!!!!!!!!!!

BJB2 laughs. I agree, Shawna

CurieGst12: What do u usually use the computer for in the classroom? ^_^

SusanAA: each student in special education has a specially designed education plan that is developed after assessing their present level of performance. It is reviewed and updated annually.

LesleyF: This planning process happens in all public schools. However, the plan is shared only with the students' teachers and the family.

HalaH: for listening activities

HalaH: ok

LesleyF: Hi, Jeff. We're talking about knowledge management, and setting up the context for it.

JeffC nods

HalaH listening attentively

LesleyF: Another area of sharing information is student records, such as attendance and grades.

LesleyF: However, when we think of knowledge management, we are usually referring to the knowledge that we of us has about our teaching practice and the resources we use.

LesleyF: For instance, beginning teachers tend not to have many available materials such as handouts, lesson plans, displays, guidesheets, etc.

LesleyF: If they are lucky, veteran teachers may share their ideas or materials.

CurieGst12: Beth, does your school district have a tech plan? ^_^

MichelleMF: Are most of your coworkers willing to share?

LesleyF: Has this occurred with any of you?

BethD: Yes

SusanAA: I was fortunate to have a stockpile of resources when I began teaching.

CurieGst12: So how old is it? And what sort of things does it include? ^_^

LesleyF: Good question, Michelle. Each school has a specific culture and set of norms, which encourages -- or discourages -- such sharing.

KariSc: my master teacher shares everything

MichelleMF: I started from scratch and my coworkers were beginning teachers as well and were not helpful

MichelleMF: some teachers were very competitive and did not want to share

LesleyF: Curie brings up a good point too. A school or district tech plan can be a way to facilitate sharing.

BethD: It has been my experience that my staff is very willing to share resources, ideas, etc. I think it is what we do best --

ShawnaH: I started with a lot of resources as well. my university professors made sure I was well prepared. I also have a collection of great books with great teaching ideas!!

KariSc: in fact, a teacher came and borrowed her stuff for teaching Lord of the Flies today

HalaH: sometime teachers would be afraid to share sth they think will arise competition. so they keep it for themselves

FeliciaA: Michelle that's why it's great to have a grade level team leader with some experience

MichelleMF: I moved to a different team now but it was like that in the beginning

BethD: I work at a middle school where teaming is done and sharing is a strength.

MariaRT: in my experience teachers who are beginning are more willing to share

FeliciaA: But when you don't, you have to collaborate and brainstorm for some interesting ideas

LesleyF: In a way, the library is a system of knowledge management in that it organizes educational information. If the library collects and circulates student/class videos of student presentations, then that gets closer to the spirit of knowledge management.

MichelleMF: This new team collaborates a lot

FeliciaA: I often see veterans that are stand offish to new teachers

FeliciaA: Did you have a new teacher coach?

LesleyF: I agree, Maria, that newer teachers are more likely to share. However, they sometimes can't draw as much from their own experiences -- except for the new learning -- which more veteran teachers might find very useful

HalaH: I am doing this myself now, very frankly. I am going to share a topic with others after I submit my Phd proposal. I am afraid takes it and just do it before me.

MichelleMF: Yes, she was a specialist

FeliciaA: Good luck with the PhD

FeliciaA: That's an awesome resource

LesleyF: What happens is that each of us has tacit knowledge. When we share it with someone else it becomes overt knowledge.

HalaH: so it depends on the situation sometimes

HalaH: what's overt?

LesleyF: When the other person internalizes it, it becomes part of their own repertoire so that it can be used when needed. BTW, the term for shared knowledge is usually explicit knowledge.

LesleyF: Overt means open.

BethD: are many of you classroom teachers or media specialists?

MichelleMF: classroom teacher

FeliciaA: I'm a classroom teacher

FeliciaA: and loving it!!!!!!!

SusanAA: itinerant teacher

MariaRT: classroom teacher, first grade.

KariSc: beginning teacher

SusanAA: I teach kindergarten through 12 grade

BethD: so how can a librarian help you in management?

LesleyF: So the goal of knowledge management is to make this sharing of information systematic: organized and retrievable whenever needed.

LesleyF: Oftentimes the librarian is the one who organizes this knowledge into a database that can be used by the teachers/admin/staff.

FeliciaA: and students

MichelleMF: Most of the time I get millions of papers with the information and most goes in the trash

LesleyF: In Kentucky there is a statewide database of lessons. Imagine that for California.

SusanAA: sc-ape is trying to establish an ape lesson plan data base in California, but it hasn't gone well.

LesleyF: The closest we have to that in California is the following web site. I will type it, and then you can click on it, and see what is there. OK?

KariSc: sounds good

LesleyF: it is <http://www.score.k12.ca.us>

LesleyF: So click on it, and explore for a few minutes.

HalaH: that's fantastic

BethD: I'm curious why as a classroom teacher you don't ask your librarian for whatever units you need lesson plans for or ideas for curriculum integration. it's part of our job to point you to resources.

LesleyF: all of these lessons have been developed by practicing teachers so they know that they work.

LesleyF: Good point, Beth.

HalaH: so anyone can adapt this and make his own modifications for his school!

LesleyF: that's right, Hala.

BethD: however, if your school is not staffed with a professional then I understand why.

LesleyF: In defense of some classroom teachers, Beth, many elementary school -- especially -- have no credentialed librarian.

LesleyF: California has the highest student/librarian ratio -- that is, 1 librarian for over 5000 students. In some states, the ratio is more like 1 librarian for 500 students.

KariSc: I work at a school where the librarian isn't a credentialed librarian

LesleyF: California is trying to develop a digital library of educational resources but not enough material is being seeded there.

LesleyF: However, a Californian DID develop a neat site that collects and organizes learning objects.

LesleyF: Learning objects are simulations, web tutorials, activities, and other resources that one can use in their teaching and learning.

SusanAA: the only librarian I know at one of my schools isn't too fond of me, because I use a portion of the library to teach physical education when the weather is cold or rainy. She is very protective of her space.

HalaH smiles

LesleyF: it could be because the library is supposed to providing material for all classes.

BethD smiling

MariaRT: at our school we have a library technician that mainly helps students check out books and read alouds for k-3 grades.

MichelleMF: For us, library time is limited to 25 minutes a week because we have over 1000 students

LesleyF: So want to see that site that has many learning objects?

BJB2 nods

HalaH :nods

LesleyF: The neat thing about knowledge management systems is that they can be accessed outside of school.

LesleyF: They make good use of technology, and enable people to share information without regard of time and space.

LesleyF: so here it is: <http://www.merlot.org>

LesleyF: Click on it, and explore it for a few minutes. Look at how you can find resources. The history section is particularly good.

BethD: hasn't anyone heard of the Marco Polo site?

LesleyF: yes, that is good too.

SusanAA: I looked at that site when we were discussing rubrics.

LesleyF: Here is the URL for that: <http://www.marcopolo-education.org>

LesleyF: The MERLOT site is more for HS/university, and Marco Polo is more for K-12.

LesleyF: Compare these two sites.

HalaH: Yea. I found that now

HalaH: I could make use of MERLOT material for my Medical students

ShawnaH: that's a great site!!!

LesleyF: yes, indeed, Hala.

HalaH: not the marcopolo

LesleyF: I agree in that it is more elementary.

LesleyF: In both of these sites, teachers contribute or locate good resources, and review them for acceptance into the site. Can you see why that is important?

HalaH nods

SusanAA: it helps weed through all of the material.

LesleyF: A new feature that MERLOT has is a speaker's bureau. Teachers can volunteer to serve as a guest speaker online, either in a chat as we are doing now or in a video conference.

HalaH: weed through???

LesleyF: weed means to select.

HalaH: ok

LesleyF: Some resources are not high quality so they are weeded -- or not accepted.

LesleyF: How do you see this speakers' bureau being useful in terms of knowledge management and sharing?

MichelleMF: teachers who have particular questions can get advice at their fingertips

SusanAA: if the speakers are, in fact, experts, then it is a great way to pick their brains.

MariaRT: the websites are always a great resource

HalaH: are they there all the time?

LesleyF: right -- and no flights to take. Yes, Susan, the speakers have to be recognized as experts.

FeliciaA: By asking an expert..teachers can also get reliable information

LesleyF: Each speaker lists their availability, and you would arrange with them when you want them to communicate with you and your class.

HalaH: convenient enough

LesleyF: An advantage of online chat, as we are doing it now, is that the conversation is archived -- permanently. BJ can explain.

HalaH: send to our emails

HalaH: I save them

LesleyF: that's right. Good, Hala. Tapped in must be a way for you to keep up to date, right?

BJB2: you can access the archives at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

ShawnaH: can you review past chats as well or only ones you took part in???

LesleyF: Indeed, This service -- Tapped In -- is a form of knowledge management because it collects and organizes information in the form of transcripts, newsletters, files, and so forth.

BJB2: Shawna, all the transcripts from events that are on the calendar are archived

MichelleMF: Is there a way to look at specific transcripts based on what you want to know.

LesleyF: So we're seeing that knowledge management requires several factors: expertise, a willingness to share, a means to organize information and make it retrievable (usually with key words and the use of metatags), and a server, be it a web server or some kind of network server for a site (used as an intranet).

BJB2: the scripts are filed by topic

LesleyF: One other factor: maintaining it. Sometimes information becomes old and inaccurate.

HalaH: 2005 is not there BJB

BJB2: they just haven't been added yet, Hala

HalaH: so I was lucky to save mines:smiling

LesleyF: By managing knowledge, communities of practice can form and be productive more easily.

LesleyF: How do you see communities of practice being implemented in schools, districts, or through professions?

HalaH: I believe TI is based on this sharing of knowledge

LesleyF: TI is what?

HalaH: Tapped In

LesleyF: duh... Exactly right, Hala.

LesleyF: I'm used to seeing IT: information technology. My eyes must have crossed.

LesleyF: I have an article on knowledge management (KM) and communities of practice, which I uploaded in the Hot Tub room. You can look at it when you want.

HalaH: not yet. You are still young

HalaH: where is that? and how?

LesleyF: I also have a couple of web sites on communities of practice, which you can explore Want to see them?

HalaH: yea sure

LesleyF: It's in the files section of the Hot Tub Conference Room listed as KM.

LesleyF: The web sites are: <http://www.fullcirc.com/community/communitymanual.htm>

LesleyF: <http://www.co-i-l.com/coil/knowledge-garden/cop/lss.shtml>

BJB2 . o O (you may need to attach your chat window to see the link to files)

LesleyF: I think my students are getting eager to work on their last projects, so do you Hala and Beth have any more questions or comments on knowledge management -- or have ideas of what you would like to talk about next month>?

BethD: I'm good here. thank you for your chat.

LesleyF: If not, how about talking about the hidden web, especially the use of subscription databases?

HalaH: I hope I will be able to talk to u about the challenge of tech. in developing countries,

MichelleMF: bye

HalaH: thanks a lot

HalaH: bye

LesleyF: that would be very interesting, Hala. I plan to teach in Hong Kong this summer.

MariaRT: bye

HalaH: It was great. Very fruitful les. thanks and hope to meet u soon.

LesleyF: yes, it was great to hear your comments, Hala.

ShawnaH left the room (signed off).

MichelleMF left the room (signed off).

LesleyF: Thanks, BJ, as always.

BJB2: thank you, Lesley. Your class was refreshing!

LesleyF: Most have never done this before so it's a learning curve-- I'm teaching educational technology this month

LesleyF: Ciao!