

Title of Session: Targeting Librarians-Visual Resources

Moderator: Lesley Farmer

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Room: Hot Tub Conference Room

LesleyF: Good afternoon -- or whatever time it is your way...

SharonEE: I am from U. of Missouri

DonnaJS: Ditto MU

LesleyF: I'm in southern California -- how about the rest of you?

ValerieJa: I'm near St. Louis, Missouri

AdelaideW: St Louis MO

EmilyW: I am in Dallas, TX

DonnaJS: Laddonia, MO - Near Hannibal & Mark Twain Lake

LesleyF: are you folks in a class?

SharonEE: yes, Dr. Howland's class

LesleyF: and what are you studying?

ValerieJa: yes, I am working toward my Master's in library science

AdelaideW: yes, Learning With the Internet

LesleyF: Great -- so have you used Tapped In or other collaborative communications tools before?

ValerieJa: no, this is my first time!

AdelaideW: no, not at all

SharonEE: no, this is my first time

DonnaJS: First time also

LesleyF: great -- well, we're stretching this a bit because although this mode is pretty textual, as you can see, we're going to focus on visual sources.

MaryJM joined the room.

BJB2: before we officially start....

LesleyF: Hi, Mary, are you from the Missouri area too?

LesleyF: Yes, BJ

BJB2: a reminder to go to the action menu and click on DETACH

BJB2: that will make the chat larger and easier to read

LesleyF: yes, and you can change the font size too using the same Action box area...

BJB2: if Lesley shares URLs, hold the ctrl key down on your keyboard as you click on the hyperlink

LesleyF: As a bit of an intro, I coordinate the Library Media Teacher program at California St. Univ. in Long Beach, and have a big interest in visual literacy.

BJB2: would everyone please give a short introduction telling us where you are located and what you teach or hope to teach?

LesleyF: yes -

SharonEE: I work as a children's librarian in a public library in St. Louis. I am planning to be a school librarian, which is why I'm taking this class.

BJB2: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania

ValerieJa: I live in Villa Ridge, Missouri and am working toward my master's in library science. Right now, i am leaning toward being a librarian in a school although public libraries aren't ruled out yet! I stay at home with my kids right now.

AdelaideW: Currently working as a Library Assistant at a large public library in the Reader Advisory Dept. Working toward MLS through Mizzou

LesleyF: good to see different types of libraries represented

EmilyW: I am Emily and I am in Dallas, TX. I am a recent college graduate and web designer. I hope to develop virtual libraries.

DonnaJS: MU student from Laddonia, Missouri- Masters Program LMS

MaryJM: I work in an alternative school as a Recreation Therapist plus I've taken on the media specialist duties to some degree. I am working towards my master's in library science

LesleyF: What I'd like to start with is a sense of how you conceptualize visual literacy.

SharonEE: The ability to look at an image and decode it--think about why the artist/photography chose the colors he/she did, the context of the image, etc.

DonnaJS: I am starting from the beginning on this - I do not know how to define visual literacy.

ValerieJa: I am with Donna

LesleyF: that's fine

EmilyW: pictures and images that relate to text

LesleyF: A good place to get started with this concept is the Intl. Visual Literacy Assn. Basically, they define visual literacy as the ability to understand and make meaning of visual representations. They also note the use of technology to PRODUCE visual images. Realize that visual images can/and usually do stand alone. However, I'll show you some picture book sites that will show the relationship of text and image.

LesleyF: SO, to just set up the main concept, take a couple of moments to look at the IVLA site, OK?

CynthiaSA joined the room.

BJB2 reminds everyone to hold down the ctrl key as you click on the url

CynthiaSA: Sorry to be late.

LesleyF: The main thing I want to emphasize is that visual literacy is not the same as media literacy, which should probably be called mass media literacy since it deals more with the agenda/meaning of commercial enterprises' messages.

LesleyF: That's OK. Cynthia. We're just about to look at the visual literacy site. BJ, could you let these folks know how to get a transcript so they don't have to spend a lot of time writing down URLs?

BJB2: if you are logged in as a member, when you log out you'll automatically be emailed a transcript of this discussion

BJB2: the transcript will include all URLs discussed

AdelaideW: that's a nice feature

LesleyF: Are you ready, folks, for the URL? it's <http://www.ivla.org>

LesleyF: Just click on the URL to see it.

LesleyF: What did you see?

EmilyW: I am not really sure what I am suppose to be looking at

MaryJM: The first thing that catches my eye is the logo, I wonder what it's meaning is

SharonEE: a good list of websites related to visual literacy (when I clicked on resources)

DonnaJS: Strangely, a website that was rather bland looking!

EmilyW: I went to resources too

LesleyF: yes, Sharon, the list of resources is probably the most salient part for you folks

ValerieJa: I think the meaning of the logo is reaching out to others using visual sources

LesleyF: Each site is a megasite pointing to several different collections and aspects of visual literacy.

LesleyF: good interpretation of the logo, Valerie.

LesleyF: As BJ knows, there are several principles and elements in visual arts.

BJB2 nods

EmilyW: I also looked at the what is ivla?

BJB2 . o O (www.artsconnected.org is a good resource for principles and elements)

EmilyW: and noticed the members are in lots of different areas

LesleyF: IVLA -- as I mentioned earlier -- standards for Intl. Visual Literacy Assn.

DonnaJS: And that there are varying definitions.

LesleyF: that's right, Donna. Let's look at the site that BJ posted and then I'll show you another good site about art that's geared to elementary/MS.

LesleyF: So click on www.artsconnected.org

CynthiaSA: I love the homepage design.

BJB2: click on art gallery and then artists toolkit

ValerieJa: ditto

MaryJM: I went right to the make it area!

LesleyF: It does make sense for an arts splash screen to reflect good visual design. What do some of the rest of you think?

EmilyW: I like the shapes and bright colors on the toolkit page

MaryJM: Great design, colors, and sound it pulls you right in

BJB2: Kevan Nitzberg leads a tutorial on artsconnected each month. His next session is April 26

AdelaideW: some sound effects too

ValerieJa: the subjects are all connected so it reinforces the message of the web site

LesleyF: so ready to look at another site?

ValerieJa: sure

LesleyF: it's <http://www.sanford-artedventures.com/study/study.html>

AdelaideW: OK

LesleyF: there's lots to look at -- and has activities

EmilyW: the picture was the first thing I noticed

EmilyW: I like the bottom with the different colors

ValerieJa: I like the timeline

LesleyF: it gives you an idea of the intended audience

CynthiaSA: this is the kind of site kids use for reports.

LesleyF: I agree

ValerieJa: handy for homework help right?

MaryJM: For the students I work with the visual way the text is presented for a topic makes reading it seems less overwhelming than many websites

LesleyF: it would be easy for them to jigsaw art principles and styles, for instance

AdelaideW: area under styles is beautiful

EmilyW: the create art section is great too

LesleyF: that's one great thing about the net -- kids in Boise Idaho can see great art almost as easily as kids in Los Angeles.

EmilyW: when you click something to create, the layout and the pictures really get your attention

LesleyF: let's see how this plays out in picture books. Often we focus so much on the text that we forget to look at the art for itself --

DonnaJS: Surfer that I am, I really want to go back and visit the art museum. Good ideas to create art!

SusanR joined the room.

LesleyF: oh, I have some great sites for you, Donna, so hold the thought...

LesleyF: Hi, Susan.

SusanR: Hi Lesley

LesleyF: Picture books are a wonderful way to start to help children become visually literate.

LesleyF: This RUL provides a detailed list, by art element, of features to look for in picture books. Ready?

SharonEE: yes!

ValerieJa: yes

AdelaideW: sure

DonnaJS: Ready!

LesleyF: www.uwstout.edu/lib/irs/art.htm

BJB2: Picture books work with older learners also

BJB2 . o O (non threatening)

BJB2: one thing that I always try to remember is that visual literacy is based on prior knowledge

LesleyF: so how do you think you could use this simple age?

LesleyF: yes, BJ, and it's culturally defined. We'll get to that...

BJB2 nods. Sorry, Lesley

CynthiaSA: It gives students vocabulary to talk about what they see

LesleyF: simple page and picture books...

LesleyF: yes, Cynthia -- art does have its own vocabulary

ValerieJa: what about photographs that are used in childrens books, like photos of animals. is this considered art?

LesleyF: well, I would certainly think that Weston, Adams, and Arbus think so...

ValerieJa: i was just thinking about the comment BJ made about prior knowledge and what young children know or have seen

EmilyW left the room.

LesleyF: we have actually 3 ideas going on here. Let's start with the simplest --
picturingbooks.imaginarylands.org

LesleyF: it helps teach how to read info from a visual image. Let me type this again:
<http://picturingbooks.imaginarylands.org>

LesleyF: find something you like?

DonnaJS: Collage - One of my favorites! Tried to replicate Frederick once. Not as easy as it looked!

LesleyF: gives one more appreciation for the artist's skill

DonnaJS: Amen!

SharonEE: The section about "parts of a picture book" gives good examples from actual picture books

LesleyF: but it's fun for students to create an image in the style of an artist

RebeccaH joined the room.

DonnaJS: The time line was interesting. 1600's a picture dictionary with woodcuts!

ValerieJa: I was looking at the part about traditional literature under resources

LesleyF: finishing on picture books as we transition to a comment about cultural context, let me note a megasite on picture books and visual literacy. MANY good links. It's a bit old but still good: <http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/picture.htm>

SusanR . o O (50th anniversary of The Purple Crayon)

LesleyF: I remember that!

MaryJM: I've done a unit with students in the style of Eric carlson

LesleyF: One of the links on Dr. Ramsey's page is a fascinating visual literacy exercise that uses Japanese woodblocks to get at the sense of visual language -- and the impact of text. You've see this already, BJ

BJB2 Nods...love it

LesleyF: So ready to take a quick look? I URGE you to go back to the following site because to really get the jist of it takes about 45 minutes -- it's a great exercise to do with students. So --- ta da: <http://www.csuohio.edu/history/exercise/vlehome.html>

MaryJM: That is a great site.

LesleyF: Basically, the instructor shows each image and asks what info you can derive, then he gives you the caption and some cultural info and it really ramps up the meaning of the visual.

SharonEE: thank you, I will come back to this site

AdelaideW: I will try and go back to take the visual literacy exercise. You do get in the habit of missing things if your eye isn't trained for it.

LesleyF: Here's a good site that gives lots of ideas for ways to tie in visual literacy and curriculum. Ready?

SharonEE: yes

CynthiaSA: the description really makes a huge difference in what you percieve.

AdelaideW: yes

ValerieJa: yes

CynthiaSA: yes

DonnaJS: yes

MaryJM: This is type of site that is designed for the class use of a projector and the internet

LesleyF: Take a peer -- remember that we are whizzing through these sites so you can use them at your leisure the rest of the year...

<http://members.ozemail.com.au/~leemshs/visual.htm>

AdelaideW: liked the skilled use of typography examples

LesleyF: any inspirational ideas?

LesleyF: yes, I like to use typography in a visual way -- great communication vehicle

DonnaJS: Reading/interpreting facial expressions and body language -- Kids need some practice here!

CynthiaSA: Love all the ideas for digital photos.

MaryJM: creating nature art, using the camera to preserve something that will decay

LesleyF: yes, apparently it isn't until middle school that kids can read nuanced expressions...

SharonEE: the quote about students today learning so much from seeing and the importance of developing their visual literacy is very apt.

LesleyF: All good points...so the question came up earlier about photography being art. The following website is sort of at the high end of that question, but it does look at photography's beginning and its consequences with the visual. Ready?

DonnaJS: Yes,

CynthiaSA: yes

LesleyF: http://www.usask.ca/art/digital_culture/horowitz/

SharonEE: yes

RebeccaH: Yes

MaryJM joined the room.

AdelaideW: ok

BJB2: Mary, we're looking at http://www.usask.ca/art/digital_culture/horowitz/

MaryJM: ok

AdelaideW: there is some deep thought in there about "masculine gaze" in photography and patriarchal attitudes

MaryJM: There is a lot to think about on these pages

LesleyF: yes, there are some fascinating sites that look at gender issues in art. .. I'll see if I can dig one or two of them up in a moment. if you want your students to know more about digital photography, here are a couple of good sites:
<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/main.html> and
<http://www.surfnetkids.com/digitalphoto.htm>

AdelaideW: never thought that much about how subjective photos can be

LesleyF: very much so, Adelaide. rather than look at those much in detail, I'd like to pick up on the virtual library person here. Here's a wonderful megasite

SusanR: I am inspired by The Portraits of Learning on the adobe site
<http://www.adobe.com/education/digkids/contest/main.html>

LesleyF: take a look at this museum of online museums:
<http://www.coudal.com/moom.php>

MaryJM: I forgot it was a quick look and got lost in a website

LesleyF: that's ok, Mary.

DonnaJS: Online museum - enjoyed Vermeer and saw lots of great links -- Not so sure about Gallery of Birth Control Packaging! Art in the eye of the beholder?

LesleyF: well, the concept of museum transcends art...

LesleyF: this is one site you probably want to look at before springing it onto the students.

MaryJM: I found the moom site interesting because it present the information in a horizontal scroll instead of vertical

LesleyF: yes, we get used to certain protocols on websites quickly...

LesleyF: now one thing we haven't touched on here, and is where I want to finish, is the idea of being a critical viewer of visual images. Just as we talk with kids about evaluating the verity of print and Internet, we need to think about the truth of visuals.

LesleyF: Paintings were supposed to represent truth to a degree in the Renaissance, and Henry VIII divorced Anne of Cleves based on a misleading miniature portrait, remember?

CarolN joined the room.

LesleyF: Hi, Carol, we're finishing up on visual sources -- and literacy

DonnaJS: With the ability to manipulate images digitally, I am never sure what is true in printed images anymore.

LesleyF: Exactly, Donna, especially in the digital age.

CarolN: Hello all. Sorry I'm so late. Thought I would join the ending.

LesleyF: SO, Snopes has a great urban legends site, which includes fascinating photos that you need to determine if they're TRUE or not. Ready?

SharonEE: yes

AdelaideW: yes

ValerieJa: yes

DonnaJS: Yes! Do you think those are really photographs of aliens on the supermarket tabloids?

DonnaJS: Ignore that. Could not resist!

LesleyF: Hmm, do aliens frequent supermarkets?... in the meantime, here's the site:
<http://www.snopes.com/photos/photos.asp>

LesleyF: what do you think?

AdelaideW: kind of gross

ValerieJa: I'm glad they give warnings

LesleyF: there are a couple of other sites on the Net that offer the same kind of exercise, so you might want to scout around.

SusanR: . o O (disturbing)

MaryJM: I must be missing something, disturbing or gross?

LesleyF: depends on which you look at...

MaryJM: oh, I just looked at the first three

SharonEE: poor Michael Jackson, his poor nose.

ValerieJa: Michael Jackson's picture was kind of disturbing!

MaryJM: except I skipped the spider one somehow, I see gross

CarolN: I've heard of snopes, but haven't much familiarity with it. How reliable is the site and who creates it?

SusanR: . o O (Woman is smuggled into the USA hidden in a car's dashboard.)

LesleyF: The site is done by Barbara and David Mikkelson.as the send-off, here's a sophisticated visual literacy bibliography: www.al-mousawi.org/bib.html

LesleyF: And what have you learned today that you can use?

DonnaJS: Definitely the art sites where the students can create art projects. Certain virtual museum tours.

BJB2 hopes everyone will participate in the artsconnected tutorial on April 26

CynthiaSA: Lots of sites for the visual learners

SharonEE: as a librarian, knowing about these sites will help me serve library patrons who are looking for materials related to visual literacy. Also, the picture book sites are very interesting to me as a children's librarian. Thank you for letting us know about them, Lesley.

SusanR: visual literacy is a vital form of communication

LesleyF: glad to be part of your learning.

AdelaideW: Peoples' brains (and I guess it's easier to learn this when you're young) need to be trained to look at visual objects from different perspectives

ValerieJa: thank you!

LesleyF: yes, visual literacy is part intuitive, but much is learned

CynthiaSA: thanks

AdelaideW: thank you Lesley it's been fun.

LesleyF: pass on your thoughts in class -- and in the library

DonnaJS: Thank you for the educational information and the links. Very interesting event!

SusanR: Digital tools are playing an increasingly important role in advancing visual literacy

LesleyF: absolutely, Susan!

LesleyF: and it's great to have students take images and "spin" them to tell a different visual message

RebeccaH: Sorry I missed so much (I'm on the Reference Desk), but some of these sites will be great for our Children's Literature (library science) course. Thanks!

LesleyF: I still do a little reference work == keeps one multitasking

LesleyF: I'm writing a book on literacies in the digital age, focusing on gender issues, for McFarland press.

SusanR: Thanks Lesley. This was invaluable

LesleyF: all of you are welcome!

LesleyF: have a great time learning, folks...