

Title of Session: Targeting Librarians! Technology for Reluctant Readers and Learners

Moderator: Lesley Farmer

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Room: Hot Tub Conference

LesleyF: So are you folks here to talk about tech and reluctant readers/ at risk kids?

DannaD: Sounds good.

LesleyF: While waiting for others to come... let's do quick intros.

LesleyF: I coordinate the library media teacher program at California St. Univ. Long Beach

DannaD: Danna - Elementary Librarian - St. Louis, MO

DannaD: This is my first year as LMS

LesleyF: cool -- how do you like the job so far?

DannaD: LOVE it. Right now I'm in the middle of Book Fair.

DannaD: Just a little sleepy.

LesleyF: tis the season

JeffC joined the room.

LesleyF: Hi, Jeff. We're doing intros.

DannaD: Almost forgot about tonight and happened to glance at my calendar.

JeffC tries to turn in his overdue book.

LesleyF: Emily, David?

BJB2: David is eating dinner. He's in New Jersey and helps teachers learn to use Technology and math

LesleyF: hope he doesn't get the keys gooey

BJB2: Emily is multitasking. She's in Texas and is a free lance web designer

LesleyF: So let's start. Since the topic begins with reluctant readers, I'm curious as to your experiences with this population

DannaD: What I find is that most of my kiddos are stuck on one thing.

DannaD: They do not branch out and quickly run out of titles they will try.

LesleyF: not big on risk-taking?

DannaD: Mostly fifth and sixth gr boys, but not all

BJB2: reluctant readers are often afraid to try...fear of failure

EmilyW: (actually I am not a freelance web designer, and yes I am multitasking)

DannaD: Aren't we all Emily!

BJB2 nods to Em. Sorry

LesleyF: so we start to label students as reluctant readers about 4th grade thereon, would you say? to keep from making assumptions before they might be developmentally ready to read.

DannaD: Most of my younger students are still pretty eager.

EmilyW: I am a web designer though, but thinking about doing library related work

LesleyF: hope we can snag you, Emily...

BJB2: I think maybe not the labeling but the identification of such students should begin much earlier, Lesley

DannaD: Based on struggling or showing interest?

BJB2: concepts of words, left to right language decoding

LesleyF: yes; if we see a problem, we should at least investigate it early on -- most studies say 1st grade is prime

BJB2: and idea of story

DannaD: Do you think reluctance stems only from difficulty?

JeffC: Do people who are struggling with reading use the Net? Because... there are a lot of cool sites with audio/video and are highly interactive and engaging for the students.

LesleyF: So there are some physical skills, some mental skills, and attitude going on?

BJB2 nods

DannaD: I think they view internet as "easier" even though that is not always the case.

LesleyF: There we go -- what, if any correlation exists between reluctant readers and technology? Are reluctant readers reluctant tech users, for instance?

EmilyW: I am not a reader anymore

DannaD: They would rather type in a word and use whatever comes up.

LesleyF: Right, Danna, most websites have lots of text, most of which is not easy to read.

BJB2: some are and some aren't.

EmilyW: I don't read books anymore

EmilyW: but I spend lots of time reading websites

DannaD: Why Emily?

LesleyF: what DO you read, Emily?

DannaD: Time constraints?

EmilyW: I am addicted to my computer

EmilyW: I used to read when I was younger

DannaD: I hear that!

LesleyF: do you read ebooks?

EmilyW: no

LesleyF: there is a difference between reading online and reading on paper

DannaD: I have come to rely on Audio books in order to keep up with my students.

EmilyW: I don't really enjoy books anymore

DannaD: I do not really like them, but some students might find them helpful.

JeffC: OK... the sites I just posted in Discussion are mainly for younger kids...

LesleyF: some students

EmilyW: I read magazine/news articles online

JeffC: The other day I set them down at <http://www.pbskids.org> ... didn't have to do much at all... once there ... they were rocking and rolling.

LesleyF: .. call themselves reluctant readers, but do read magazines, newspapers, etc.

JeffC: But if you click on Discussion, then Cool Sites!... you'll see a number of others...

EmilyW: it's always been hard for me to focus on reading books

LesleyF: Thanks, Jeff.

BJB2 has been listening to audio books and finds them an interesting experience.

LesleyF: So is there a time issue, Emily?

DannaD: Jeff, will these show up in transcript?

LesleyF: That is a typical issue for reluctant readers -- the long sitting period.

EmilyW: no

EmilyW: no interest right now

DannaD: BJ They are interesting, but very different.

EmilyW: I sit long on the computer

BJB2 agrees with Danna

DannaD: I find myself visualizing more so that is a benefit.

BJB2: Lesley did a discussion on aural literacy

LesleyF: Kids tend to like attractive websites with color and movement

DannaD: But they take longer than just reading them I think.

DannaD: Except now I can read AND drive!

BJB2 nods to Lesley...more like TV and video games

LesleyF: As Jeff noted earlier, the imagery helps the students comprehend the text -- or at least derive meaning from the site

JeffC: The links I posted to discussion aren't in the transcript.

LesleyF: in its best version, that would be an example of dual-coding theory.

DannaD: So how do we relate text comprehension to websites?

LesleyF: well, many sites have lots of words...

DannaD: We use a lot of picture books to model language and writing.

DannaD: Can we transfer that online?

LesleyF: exactly, Danna.

LesleyF: one difference, sometimes, is the concept of sequencing.

JeffC: audio+video+text= dealing with multiple types of learners= increasing motivation

DannaD: Example please?

LesleyF: Turning the pages vs. scrolling or clicking on different pages.

LesleyF: absolutely, Jeff.

LesleyF: Using different parts of the brain.

LesleyF: In some cases, folks mimic the book "metaphor" online with writing for children.

LesleyF: Have you folks seen the International Children's Digital Library?

DannaD: Have not

BJB2 has

JeffC: <http://www.icdlbooks.org/>

LesleyF: So let me give you the URL

LesleyF: thanks, Jeff...

LesleyF: Take a peek for a couple of minutes.

DannaD: Can I click that w/o messing up the screen?

JeffC: hold the Ctrl key down Danna when clicking

JeffC: Clicking a link in chat opens a new window

LesleyF: yes, if it opens up in a new window

JeffC: Clicking links in Discussion opens it up in the top frame

DannaD: Cool! This could be very helpful for ESOL kids. We have several, but do not have the books for them.

LesleyF: yes, they continue to gather more world books

LesleyF: another site, which tends to be targeted for MS boys, which melds tech and reading is <http://www.guysread.com/>

LesleyF: take a look at that and tell me what you think

DannaD: Are these books expired copyright or does the organization have an agreement of some sort?

DannaD: Ah yes, Scieska, right?

LesleyF: they have copyright agreements on all of them; that's why you'll see that the collection/writing quality is a big uneven

LesleyF: Yes, Scieska, Danna

JeffC just added that site to the "Cool Sites" list in Discussion... I will continue to do that as more URLs are generated... please don't reply to that thread (replying eliminates the ability to Edit).

DannaD: I love him!

LesleyF: He's a wonderful speaker too

LesleyF: do you know about the Screen Actors Guild reading children's books aloud?

LesleyF: It "speaks" to Jeff's statement about audio

DannaD: Have not seen that one either.

LesleyF: ready for another URL?

DannaD nods yes

LesleyF: <http://www.bookpals.net/storyline/>

DannaD: Very cool.

DannaD: I had just been contacted by a company selling a program that

DannaD: read books aloud online.

LesleyF: adds a little glamour too...

DannaD: Now I have it free!

LesleyF: indeed!

DannaD: Bad Case of Stripes -- very good book!

LesleyF: And you folks know about OCR scanners that can scan text and read it aloud using Simple Text (Mac) or Narrator (PC)...

LesleyF: even though the voice isn't actor quality...

DannaD: Can many schools afford that technology?

LesleyF: Some students like the change the voice option in Simple Text -- it helps them understand the impact of voice in reading.

LesleyF: Scanners are pretty cheap these days, and OCR software can be purchased for a bit more than \$50. At least one machine should be available -- say, in the library.

LesleyF: We're talking about tech and reluctant readers

DannaD: I had no idea it was that affordable.

DannaD: Available through Library supply distributors?

LesleyF: low-end OCR software isn't great, but it can do straightforward scanning. I'd suggest sources such as CDW or PC World. Maybe TwoCows?

ReginaL: I have reluctant readers but must save everything technological from the web to disk... I teach in a prison

LesleyF: So does one of my students, Gina. She tries to use tech as much as possible.

LesleyF: When you say that you must save everything technological, could you elaborate on that?

ReginaL: my students at the prison can not access the Net

LesleyF: Can you use WebWhacker or the like?

LesleyF: How about CD-ROMs?

DannaD: Curious, do you work with adults or juveniles?

ReginaL: so I find sites I like for research and save the sites using Grab-a-Site

LesleyF: OK

ReginaL: to CD or DVD

ReginaL: and adults

ReginaL: I am the media and tech specialist.. but I help out a lot with writing specifically right now.. for Adult Basic Ed and GED level students

DannaD: What is Grab a Site please?

ReginaL: it is a program... free or cheap.... lets you download a website and 2-3 levels below it...

LesleyF: ...to capture the hyperlinks.

ReginaL: so you can use it from a disk..and the links work until you go outside the range you set (2-4 levels)

LesleyF: NetSquirrel is another product like that, I think

ReginaL: it is from Blue Squirrel www.bluesquirrel.com

LesleyF: There are also a number of technical tricks you can use when you have text that can be manipulated a bit (doesn't work on CD read-only material).

LesleyF: That's what I was thinking of, Gina...

DannaD: Interesting tool!

ReginaL: I am setting up the network in my lab..

ReginaL: so that I can do something that is like a listserve...

ReginaL: just into that

ReginaL: so there is some opportunities for collaboration

ReginaL: are some...

LesleyF: the opportunity for collaboration can also foster reading interest

LesleyF: and the opportunity to write/email can be an incentive to read better.

LesleyF: Some reluctant readers are active learners, so in creating something they learn more -- reading can feel very passive for some.

DannaD: Good point, Lesley. I had not considered that.

LesleyF: Writing prompts like Write Aloud can help students who have trouble spelling.

LesleyF: blogs and IMing are evidence of writing/reading interaction

ReginaL: Write Aloud?

LesleyF: yes

LesleyF: it's from Intellitools, I think

DannaD: I have explored the possibility of a blog...

DannaD: but have not figured out the logistics of security for a young population.

BJB2: Danna, an alternative to a blog is a threaded discussion in one of the student group rooms in Tapped In

LesleyF: WriteOutloud

ReginaL: what is Write Out loud?

DannaD: Oh yes! You can assign passwords and such, correct?

ReginaL: I have just started a few blogs first ones...

ReginaL: with a group I am taking ed tech certificate classes with

LesleyF: here are some tools for students with special needs that would be used with reluctant readers: <http://www.infinitecmedia.org/software.html>

BJB2: if you'd like to know more about K-12 student groups, talk to me later. Yes, you assign passwords and usernames

ReginaL: and for a group of colleagues at work.. for a research project we must do.. and I volunteered to lead

LesleyF: the blogging can lead to digital storytelling too. I have a couple of sites on that.

LesleyF: I'll let you look at the software link first, though.

BJB2 thinks digital storytelling is a wonderful way to encourage literacy skills

DannaD: I must go. Are the Discussion Board links accessible later?

LesleyF: BJ, this is your cue...

BJB2 nods to Lesley

BJB2: Danna, you can access the discussion board in this room at any time

ReginaL: how could I use digital story telling BJ?

LesleyF: let me type in the digital storytelling sites right now...

BJB2 waits for Lesley to show the urls

LesleyF: www.storycenter.org

BJB2 . o O (the best)

LesleyF: BJ? want to add?

BJB2: that's the one I like the best, Lesley. Joe Lambert is who we worked with at the digital storytelling institute at the national gallery of art

BJB2 . o O (how's that for namedropping)

DannaD waves goodbye

LesleyF: and I wanted to note <http://childrensauthornetwork.com> as an access to authors

ReginaL: I looked at that site.. story center.. last night briefly

ReginaL: will go back

LesleyF: I think I'll end with a white paper on using tech to teach reading

BJB2: I also found out recently that the silence speaks is a part of storycenter.org

LesleyF: <http://www.ncrel.org/sdrs/areas/issues/content/entareas/reading/li300.htm>

BJB2 . o O (<http://www.silencespeaks.org/>)

LesleyF: it's the thinking and reflection between the lines that ties together meaning; sound can get in the way

BJB2: Gina, silence speaks is geared toward our kids

LesleyF: think of rest notes in music

LesleyF: If we didn't have periods, our sentences and thoughts might run together.

ReginaL: yes.. am there

BJB2 follows Lesley's train of thought

ReginaL: wish I could save the audio clips to show the students

BJB2 . o O (I'm listening to Eats, Shoots, and Leaves)

LesleyF: punctuated reading?

LesleyF: there should be ways to save audio clips.

LesleyF: and podcasting is getting pretty popular

BJB2: Audacity, I think, Gina

BJB2: but, be careful of copyright

LesleyF: The program, not the nerve

BJB2 nods

ReginaL: perhaps I could email them and see if there is a possibility of getting some of the stories on CD or DVD

LesleyF: if you're willing to stretch a bit (as much as I because it's not my area of strength), we can talk about podcasting and audio downloading/sharing for Dec.

BJB2: not my area of strength either, but I'm game to try

LesleyF: there certainly are multimedia books, although they tend to be for younger kids, but with technology, students can insert sounds into their papers, which can be very appealing.

LesleyF: I had my students import sounds -- a talking book -- for children's literature course.

ReginaL: that is a great idea

LesleyF: they made great sound effects...

ReginaL: we are just starting a parenting/fam lit program.. they could write stories for their children.. do them on PP.. with them reading the stories.. and I could find them the art

LesleyF: yes, and the older students can feel like experts. Very empowering

LesleyF: and it helps them read and write

LesleyF: there are also CDs of image/clip art, although it's best when the students do their own drawing.

ReginaL: I can scan their drawings into the work...

LesleyF: that would be a good solution

ReginaL: been thinking about that too

LesleyF: the more that students can "claim" their own uniqueness and talent, the more they feel that they can contribute.

BJB2 thinks Gina should submit a proposal for a CEA workshop to share all that she's doing

LesleyF: CEA is ??

ReginaL: so many ideas.... so little time...

ReginaL: Correctional Ed Assoc

ReginaL: when/where is the national conference this yr?

LesleyF: well, I promised my student that my next book would be on library services in alternative ed, so maybe I can chat with you sometime and document your efforts, Gina.

BJB2: dunno...go to www.ceanational.org

BJB2: Lesley, we can also put you in touch with a correctional ed librarian

LesleyF: cool...

LesleyF: I'll be talking with an acquisitions editor this weekend.

LesleyF: any last thoughts for today, folks? My other idea for Dec. is gaming and libraries.

ReginaL: Anaheim

ReginaL: thanks to all

LesleyF: Wow! that's 20 minutes away from me.

ReginaL: my first visit to a discussion in a while

LesleyF: visit again, Gina.

ReginaL left the room.

BJB2: I would prefer the gaming topic, Lesley

LesleyF: I might be able to get my gaming son to join the conversation...

BJB2 . o O (there is a weekly discussion on blogging and they discuss podcasting)

LesleyF: He and I are co-presenting this week on visual literacy for Cal. School Library Assn.

LesleyF: he's going to demo how to manipulate images

BJB2: very cool!

LesleyF: so let's "get game"

BJB2 smiles. You got it!

LesleyF: interesting session as always -- and thanks for your participation

BJB2: it was nice to have some new people in the discussion

BJB2 hugs. See you on December 21.