

**Title of Session:** Targeting Librarians - eBooks

**Moderator:** Lesley Farmer

**Title of File:** 20100217librariansebooks

**Date:** February 17, 2010

Room: Cybrarians Group

**LesleyF:** Hi, Beth and Christopher. Here for the ebook discussion?

**ChristopMB:** Yes

**BethC:** I believe so

**BJB2:** I'm going to announce. Chris and Beth, just ignore. You're in the right room

**ChristopMB:** is it OK to attend this session, even though I'm not a librarian?

**LesleyF:** Great. In a couple of minutes, we'll do intros, and then start our discussion.

**BethC:** okay, I'm going state up front if I don't comment too much. . I'm in my grad class

**BJB2:** **|\*\* ANNOUNCEMENT:** Targeting Librarians is starting in the group room. The topic is variations of eBooks. To participate type /join LesleyF in this chat window. **\*\*|**

**LesleyF:** Let's go ahead and introduce each other, and then get started. That's cool that you're in grad school, Beth. Good way to start getting involved in professional activities.

**LesleyF:** I coordinate the librarianship program at California State University Long Beach.

**LesleyF:** and you folks?

**BJB2:** retired communications teacher located in Pennsylvania

**LesleyF:** she's not very retiring, though...

**BJB2:** a reminder if you are new to TI, go to the Actions menu in the top right of the chat and select DETACH

**EdithLo:** Cool

**BJB2** winks at Lesley

**BJB2:** good job, Edith

**LesleyF:** Hi, Edith. We're introducing each other

**ChristopMB:** My name is Chris and I have a BA in History and I'm currently in grad school for Social Studies Education

**LesleyF:** thanks, Christopher -- or do you prefer Chris? My son prefers the latter.

**BethC:** hello, my name is Beth. I have a BA in math education and I am in grad school for educational technology. . from Ohio

**LesleyF:** Duh, I just saw the Chris...

**EdithLo:** My name is Edith, Elementary Spanish Teacher in Idaho

**LesleyF:** Great. Just a moment.

**ChristopMB:** forgot, I'm from NY (and Chris is OK, lol)

**JeffC:** I'm Jeff Cooper, Forest Grove Oregon (near Portland), on Helpdesk here.

**LesleyF:** Good, we're all set. So what do you hope to get out of this session?

**ChristopMB:** I guess I'm just interested to see how I incorporate more research skills, including internet research skills, into my classroom.

**ChristopMB:** That would include e-books

**LesleyF:** So you want to know what ebooks are out there for research?

**LesleyF:** and Beth?

**ChristopMB:** yes

**ChristopMB:** or what is the potential of ebooks

**BJB2:** Beth is a math teacher...and I think she's lurking/in another class

**BJB2:** Edith is looking for books she can use to teach Spanish

**JeffC:** I'm kinda wondering what national push (if any) is going on to make ebooks accessible on a wide scale to K-12 classrooms, as well as removing paper textbooks, etc.

**LesleyF:** Let's start with some basics.

**ChristopMB:** I second Jeff's motion

**LesleyF:** Ebooks come in various formats, which I will share a bit later, but know that in most

cases we're now talking about online/Internet resources.

**LesleyF:** What are some ebook formats and varieties that you know about?

**JeffC:** almost all are .pdf

**ChristopMB:** by ebooks, do you mean ereaders (if we're not talking about internet resources)

**JeffC:** or some proprietary format that requires subscription to a special reader

**BethC:** I just know you can use those kindle things to read them rather than have it in print form

**JeffC:** MS also has a reader... and I've run across another free one or two but don't remember where

**ChristopMB:** and the coming I-Pad :)

**JeffC:** yup

**ChristopMB:** which is Apple's ereader that will come out soon (I think)

**JeffC:** I created a note with about a dozen ebook resources... I'll try and remember where I put it

**LesleyF:** Just a moment -- I have a student in my office in crisis mode

**ChristopMB:** ok

**JeffC:** uh oh

**JeffC:** anyone watching Norwegians on snow right now?

**JeffC:** I mean... besides me?

**ChristopMB:** lol

**JeffC:** the announcer's going nuts and really articulating these polysyllabic names really well!

**JeffC:** and the skiers are going really fast!

**ChristopMB:** what channel is it on right now?

**ChristopMB:** I only have basic cable :(

**JeffC:** the two Norwegians pull away and advance to the final!

**JeffC:** and there you have it... an Olympic report

**BethC:** isn't it on NBC

**JeffC:** yup

**ChristopMB:** Oh OK

**JeffC:** it's a commercial now anyway

**JeffC:** darn... can't find a note I made here once about ebooks

**BethC:** we talked about e-books in class a few weeks ago

**JeffC:** what's your bottom line?

**BethC:** I like having something to hold onto. . I have a difficult time sitting and reading from a screen

**JeffC:** try this: Actions-- Detach

**JeffC:** and also Actions-- Larger Text

**ChristopMB:** me too! I hate reading from a computer screen.

**JeffC:** I hear what you're saying... but I'm not that way myself

**JeffC:** if I read a book I need to put on glasses

**JeffC:** even the default small text in chat works for me here

**BethC:** I know if we were to incorporate them into our school, my students are not gentle. I teach math and they are constantly dropping calculators, and I can only imagine how many could get broken

**ChristopMB:** that's true

**LesleyF:** Great, I'm back.

**JeffC:** laptops broken? welll.... you could nail down keyboards with desktops... and threaten the kids

**ChristopMB:** but textbooks are so wasteful and obsolete within a year (well, for history they have a high turn-over rate)

**LesleyF:** So what I'm seeing is that we're talking about the FORMAT of the ebook itself, and the container that can read it.

**JeffC:** of course threatening kids isn't as much fun as tazering them

**ChristopMB:** tazer?!

**ChristopMB** laughs

**LesleyF:** One of the reasons that ebooks are becoming more appealing is the cost to develop/disseminate them -- and the weight issue for students.

**JeffC:** and programs that incorporate audio/video in ebooks (looking forward a bit)

**JeffC:** @chris j/k

**LesleyF:** As well as the currency of the information (hard to do stickies on textbooks).

**LesleyF:** The publishers have resisted these moves because it cuts down on their profits.

**BethC:** I agree, their book bags are jam packed with books

**BethC:** and to lighten their load would be good

**LesleyF:** However, state depts. of education are putting the pressure on publishers to provide ebook format. There's also the accessibility issue in that ebooks can be read more easily by assistive tech software.

**LesleyF:** This is a MAJOR initiative in California.

**BethC:** math books don't go out of date as quickly as history.

**JeffC:** how about wiki-ebooks ... the trouble is that we've basically kowtowed to the publishers forever

**LesleyF:** NOTE that publishers usually want to charge the same amount as for a hardback book, which is sort of a groaner for schools.

**BethC:** I recently read an article about how they are trying to develop an ebook that can provide instant feedback on homework, which would be great for kids and nice for teachers

**LesleyF:** One of the disadvantages of wiki books is that they are so dynamic/changing, that it is hard to establish a true benchmark point, even though wikis normally keep a history of the changes.

**JeffC:** no reason for standardized single standard textbooks... students should have access to a wide array of ebooks with different formats, styles, levels (to address different learning styles, etc.)

**LesleyF:** It does speak to the deeper changes that CAN happen with ebooks.

**ChristopMB** is interested

**JeffC:** @Beth and that sounds excellent... instant feedback... which again shows that the ability of tech to develop meaningful changes greatly outpaces the status quo's ability to adopt and change

**LesleyF:** NOTE that some ebooks are standard/static, such as those on CD-ROMs without hyperlinks (remember CDs??). Project Gutenberg, etc, even Books for the Blind keep the content static.

**JeffC:** right... indeed replicating the hard copies of EB etc. (with some additions)

**JeffC:** "infra-knowledge" rather than "intra or inter"

**BethC:** what's the point of just using e-books with static information

**LesleyF:** Yes, Beth. Good point about feedback. These homework links/accompanying materials become part of the book "package." There can be a remote teacher, so the local teacher can access the student work and provide feedback -- usually based on what the software program generates.

**JeffC:** it's the industry standard now Beth, which the publishers use as a way of maintaining control

**ChristopMB:** it's a shame how education is often handled more from a business framework than from an educational one :(

**LesleyF:** The point of STATIC ebooks is that I may have written a book that I don't want changed -- such as a poetry anthology. Oh, let's rewrite Shakespeare,....

**ChristopMB:** true

**BethC:** ok, I can understand that, but I like the idea of providing hyperlinks to go deeper into the material

**LesleyF:** We're talking about copyright issues when we change the book's content.

**BethC:** again, good point, didn't think of that

**LesleyF:** The question becomes who does the hyperlinking. Is it the teacher/student who is doing commentary, or is it the publisher who is updating information (e.g., an encyclopedia). These have two different objectives.

**JeffC:** and that's where the Net poses both incredible threats, and incredible opportunities

**JeffC:** to both your points Lesley

**JeffC:** who controls "the knowledge?"

**LesleyF:** So one way that ereaders deal with this is that they include a "shell" or "app" that can allow for comments, but keeps the original document the same.

**JeffC:** and how does it become disseminated, synthesized, questioned and used by students? now is the time where they could easily become part of the ongoing dialogue themselves, building webpages, creating electronic portfolios of their own, not to mention writing their own ebooks

**LesleyF:** Clarify this, Jeff. If we're talking about a book that has been published, in whatever form, it is the author who wrote it, so is the expert for that particular book.

**LesleyF:** Of course, students can create their own books, in whatever format. That isn't the issue, here, I don't think.

**JeffC:** textbooks more than individual author books

**LesleyF:** Many textbooks are written by one author.

**JeffC:** but I'm thinking more along the line of what direction things will head... creative commons... the movement towards freedom of information.

**LesleyF:** So we're seeing a RANGE of ebooks in terms of FORMAT as well as CONTENT and OBJECTIVE.

**LesleyF:** I want the freedom to write my own book without other people editing it.

**JeffC:** that sounds fine to me

**LesleyF:** I don't want to share how I write my poetry, for instance.

**LesleyF:** Again, different objectives.

**JeffC:** of course what is the objective of the author? I would argue that almost all authors would rather have their book widely read rather than financially profitable.

**BethC:** okay, but how are you going to police those who may use it against your means? how will you know?

**LesleyF:** I have no clue how people use my book that they buy right now.

**LesleyF:** But it's less than if they can edit it freely. I have copyright protection right now, and I can sue if someone destroys my writing.

**LesleyF:** this is really off topic, though, folks.

**JeffC:** well... we're talking ebooks

**JeffC:** so... what you say is important as well on the subject of your book

**LesleyF:** But you were going beyond that. Let's see what formats ebooks come in, in the first place: Internet. Sometimes the material can be read only (and sometimes just one page at a time (like JSTOR), and sometimes an ebook can be downloaded.

**BJB2:** is anyone aware of <http://ck12.org/flexr/>?

**LesleyF:** Yes, do explain, BJ

**BJB2:** this is an organization that is working on allowing educators to customize their textbooks/ebooks

**BJB2:** taking relevant info from a variety of sources

**LesleyF:** BTW, you can click on the URL and see the page (hold down CTL on PCs at the same time).

**LesleyF:** say a bit more, BJ

**BJB2:** not sure if that really qualifies as an ebook...but it's pretty cool

**ChristopMB:** can you post that link again, I lost it

**LesleyF:** Pearson has that option, too. It can be done as a print copy or an ebook.

**BJB2:** from their webpage: CK-12 has developed an online system for collaborative, custom-collated, self publishable educational content that can be adapted for individualized needs in a digital-age textbook known as a FlexBook.

**LesleyF:** You get an archive of this session, Chris.

**ChristopMB:** oh ok

**BJB2:** <http://ck12.org/flexr/>

**LesleyF:** And that book gets its own ISBN (intl. standard book #) too

**LesleyF:** This is another wave in textbook changes



**BJB2** nods. Pretty exciting idea

**BJB2:** instead of writing curriculum to the book, you compile the book to the curriculum

**MaureenB** joined the room.

**LesleyF:** So in terms of CONTENT, there are textbooks (big deal in ed) as well as non-textbook materials such as recreational reading, business matter, etc.

**BJB2** waves hi to Maureen

**LesleyF:** Hi, Maureen.

**MaureenB:** hello

**ChristopMB** waves

**LesleyF:** We haven't dealt much with access to existing books, such as the Gutenberg Project or Google's book project. Do you know about those efforts/

**LesleyF:** ?

**ChristopMB:** google book project I do

**BJB2:** Michael Hart puts out several newsletters on the Gutenberg project

**BethC:** so you can use this create your own book to fit your curriculum or ?

**ChristopMB:** they basically are trying to create versions of every book

**LesleyF:** They are digitizing initiatives. Usually they are started for public domain works.

**ChristopMB:** or something?

**ChristopMB:** I know I've done research on New Amsterdam (early NYC) and all the books are now digitized by google and some of them are two centuries old, it was pretty cool

**LesleyF:** Right, Chris. It's so books can have a greater audience. They also help with accessibility (special needs). And for rare books that few people could access otherwise.

**LesleyF:** Google is working with major universities to digitize parts of their collections.

**LesleyF:** It also insures that the original books are kept in better condition.

**LesleyF:** And less likely to get lost/stolen/damaged.

**LesleyF:** In some cases, the text is transcribed by hand or by machine.

**ChristopMB:** what's the Gutenberg project?

**ChristopMB:** The books I've looked at were photographed page by page

**LesleyF:** the Gutenberg project, which is 25 years old I think, consists of 100s of volunteers who transcribe public domain books.

**LesleyF:** type type type type...

**MaureenB:** wow that takes dedication

**LesleyF:** The other major way of digitizing books is by scanning.

**BJB2:** also have an audio collection

**LesleyF:** Yes, Maureen, and not paid.

**MaureenB:** like the monks of old

**LesleyF:** The Library for the Blind also hand-transcribes books: into Braille and audio. It can take up to 6 months to do the transcription (such as a long math or physics book)

**LesleyF:** yep, Maureen. Staggering -- but easier and faster than calligraphy.

**BJB2:** yikes!

**MaureenB:** true :)

**BethC:** math is a beast to type

**LesleyF:** I think that there are machines that can transform a book into audio, but the voice is a little awkward.

**MaureenB:** very awkward actually

**MaureenB:** I have done it for my disabled students

**LesleyF:** Real people rule in that regard -- but we all have to still comply with copyright, no matter how the book is digitized.

**LesleyF:** Speaking of accessibility, there's the Daisy project. do you know about that?

**BethC:** no, what is it?

**ChristopMB:** no

**MaureenB:** no

**LesleyF:** That's an international project that aims to make sure that all books FROM THE BEGINNING are accessible for all people (universal design). There are standards for that. Let me give you the URL, OK?

**LesleyF:** Also, here is the URL for the Gutenberg Project: <http://www.gutenberg.org/>

**BJB2** . o O ( hold down ctrl when you click on url )

**LesleyF:** Daisy is more well known in Europe (Daisy is an acronym). <http://www.daisy.org>

**LesleyF:** Take a quick look at it.

**LesleyF:** DAISY denotes the Digital Accessible Information System.

**LesleyF:** More recently, ebooks simulate print books with turning pages, etc. That's another software program that links with the book content. Here is one site that demonstrates this: <http://www.octavo.com> -- rare books

**BJB2** . o O ( reminds me of the first autos that tried to look like horseless carriages )

**ChristopMB** laughs

**LesleyF:** Note also the that CONTAINER for ebooks has broadened: to computers, iPods, smart phones, Kindles and other tablets, CDs, records, audiocassettes, AND Playaways (little self-contained cartridges,

**LesleyF:** Here's the URL for playaways -- they're great for libraries and schools: <http://www.playawaydigital.com>

**LesleyF:** I agree about the look/simulation. Seems a big retro...

**LesleyF:** But the British Library is doing it, as are archives, so the reader will have an experience similar to looking at the "real" thing.

**LesleyF:** For your benefit, I have created a webliography on ebooks, which is shown as a featured file in the Cybrarian section. You can download it (it's not a book).

**BJB2** smiles

**LesleyF:** It includes metasites linking to ebooks, vendors, collections, info on comparing ebook formats, etc.

**LesleyF:** Hopefully you can explore the ideas in more depth at your leisure.

**BJB2:** some good resources, Lesley. Thanks

**LesleyF:** My ride is waiting (I can't drive yet because I just had hip surgery).

**LesleyF:** Normally, the group decides what they want to talk about next month. Ideas???

**BJB2:** yowza! We won't hold you. Thanks for being here!

**ChristopMB:** yes, thank you!

**BJB2:** ESL ?

**LesleyF:** that would be cool

**BethC:** thank you for the resources and the discussion

**LesleyF:** it was certainly stimulating!

**LesleyF:** learn something?

**BJB2 . o O** ( maybe cultural diversity? Don't you already have a topic for March? )

**LesleyF:** Oh, yes, I think we DO have a topic already for March. Would you check, BJ?

**BJB2:** cultural competency

**ChristopMB:** yes!

**LesleyF:** there we go. thanks

**BethC:** yes, a lot of it actually corresponded with what I learned in class

**LesleyF:** that's good to know -- on the same page?? (pun intended)

**BJB2** chuckles.

**BJB2 . o O** ( you're not taking pain meds are you? )

**ChristopMB** laughs

**LesleyF:** it's really much more of a complex issue than at first glance -0-

**LesleyF:** and I'm NOT on meds.

**BJB2** nods solemnly. Yes, did you actually define what an ebook is during this discussion?

**LesleyF**: good point: ebook is an electronic book.

**LesleyF**: That's very general, but needs to be so

**BJB2** agrees

**LesleyF**: what fascinates me is that it's taken so long for ebooks to become popular -- to catch on

**ChristopMB**: maybe it will encourage more people to actually read :)

**LesleyF**: it's been an issue of copyright, publisher concerns, dissemination models, ways to get the royalties and fees, etc.

**LesleyF**: YES, Chris, ebooks are certainly meeting a need -- besides the options of being able to change font size, background, etc.

**BJB2** . o O ( and moving away from the tactile and kinesthetic )

**LesleyF**: really a boost for dyslexics, older eyes, etc.

**LesleyF**: different kinesthetics (e.g., scrolling, etc.)

**LesleyF**: Bye!

**BJB2** nods and waves bye

**BethC**: buh-byes

**BJB2**: whew! Cool

**BJB2**: Thanks for your participation, Beth and Chris

**BJB2**: you will automatically be emailed a transcript when you log out

**ChristopMB**: thank you!

**ChristopMB**: OK

**BJB2**: Next Targeting Librarians is March 17

**ChristopMB**: cool

**BJB2**: Topic is Cultural Competency

**ChristopMB:** well, I'm going to go explore some of those links and catch up on the Olympics

**ChristopMB:** have a good night

**ChristopMB** waves goodbye

**BJB2** waves goodnight