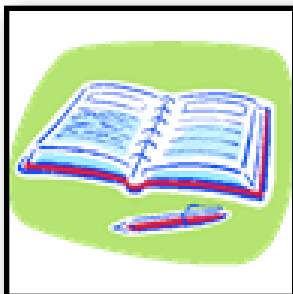




New Ways

When I first started writing this newsletter five years ago, many home Internet users were using a dial up connection to get on the Web. But now, broadband access has spread, and that speedy access allows new ways of using the web to communicate.



This week, for instance, I am participating in the K12 Online Conference. Taking place over the course of two weeks, all conference events take place online. The majority of the presentations are asynchronous so conference attendees can log on

anytime to view the content. In addition, all the presentations will be archived so access will continue long after the conference has ended.

The best part, however, had to be the live event that I was part of on Thursday evening. Using an online conferencing tool called Elluminate and a microphone, I was able to do everything I would do in a live session, plus more. I could listen to the keynoters and raise my hand to ask a question. Once I was recognized, I just clicked the microphone icon and was able to talk to the group of 40 or so educators who had assembled literally from all over the world with participants from the US, China, and Australia. Felt just like a regular conference.

Unlike a regular conference, however, I was also able to interact with the other participants using a live chat and a whiteboard. I could send private mes-

sages to individual attendees or public messages to the whole group. The white board became a place to share contact information along with random thoughts and doodles. And the best part...the whole session was recorded so I can go back and review anytime I want.

You can learn more about the Elluminate web conferencing tool by visiting their website: <http://www.illuminate.com>. While the service is not free, there are a wide variety of plans from which to choose.

The K12 online conference represents just one of the new ways we are beginning to think about the Web as a collaborative, professional development tool. It's not too late for you to participate: no registration is required for this free event. Just head to the website: <http://www.k12onlineconference.org>.

Conference

Calendar

The best place to look for educational technology conferences is at T.H.E. Journal (<http://www.thejournal.com/>). Their searchable calendar is a comprehensive guide to national and international conferences. In this space, we'll be featuring conferences of particular interest to Virginia educators.

Educational Technology Leadership Conference: November 29-December 1, 2006, Hotel Roanoke Conference Center, Roanoke, Virginia. Designed for educational technology leaders, this conference is co-sponsored by the Office of Educational Technology of the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Society for Technology in Education. This year, the theme is Technology and Learning, Virtually Everywhere. Visit the website for more information: <http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/OET/conf.shtml>

EdTech 2007: February 7-8, 2007, Randolph Macon College, Ashland, Virginia. Sponsored by WCVE-TV, this two-day conference is designed for all K-12 educators including administrators, teachers, media specialists, and technology resource teachers. The conference offers hands-on workshops as well as concurrent session. Each day features a keynote speaker. Visit the website for more information: <http://www.ideastations.org/teachers/conferences.html>

Virginia Society for Technology in Education: February 25-27, 2007, Virginia Beach Convention Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Designed for teachers, this conference focuses on instructional uses of technology. The conference features over 100 concurrent sessions and 40 hands-on workshops. The Office of Educational

Technology of the Virginia Department of Education is the co-sponsor. Visit the website for more information:

<http://www.vste.org/conference.html>

National Educational Computing Conference: June 24-27, 2007, Atlanta, Georgia. Thousands of educators come together once a year to talk about technology. Just amazing! And this coming year, it is close by. Plan now to send a team to this premiere educational technology conference. Visit the website for more information: <http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2007/>

ED-MEDIA: World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia, and Telecommunications: June 25-29, 2007. ED-MEDIA--World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications--is an international conference, organized by the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE). The conference spans all disciplines and levels of education and annually attracts more than 1,500 leaders in the field from over 70 countries. <http://www.aace.org/conf/edmedia/default.htm>



Professional Development

The World Wide Web can be a great resource when it comes to offering professional development anytime anywhere to faculty. This month, we explore three places to go to find materials that can help make professional development an on-going activity at your school.

Annenberg Media

Sponsored by the Annenberg Foundation, this website is a treasure-trove of professional development materials including videos and discussion materials. Videos are available in three formats: via the Annenberg Channel, a free satellite channel, via live online streaming, and via videotapes that can be purchased. You can also watch the satellite channel live online over broadband. Topics range widely and include child development, instructional practices, and content-area videos. <http://www.learner.org/>



Education World

The professional development channel at Education World has something for everyone. There are articles about improving parent-teacher conferences and becoming a reading coach. There are discussion boards where teachers discuss everything from classroom management to teaching with video. The content is updated regularly so teachers can find resources related to upcoming holidays and events. One of my favorite sections is the Teacher Feature that stars real classroom teachers who describe innovative, engaging activities that they are doing in the own classrooms. Teachers can learn from other teachers without ever leaving their rooms! http://www.education-world.com/a_curr/

Netfiles

Net Files was a 30-minute, monthly, news magazine style, in-service, television program. Its slogan--real teachers using real technology to teach real kids in real classrooms with real results--says it all. Each program features profiles of teachers, many from Virginia, who are doing interesting activities using the Internet. There are also segments related to Internet safety and technical skills related to using the World Wide Web. The video segments that are archived at the website would be perfect to use during a faculty meeting. In addition to the videos, there are teacher materials related to the television programs. You can also find Net Files segments in United Streaming. <http://www.netfiles.org/index.shtml>



Good Reads



We can't be good technology ambassadors if we aren't well-informed. And with the Internet, keeping up to date has never been easier. Each month, I'll be highlighting interesting, relevant sources from research projects to government reports and ezines to bloggers.

Universal Design for Learning

The Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) is home to innovative ideas about how to use technology to reach every child. One feature of the website is an online book: Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age: Universal Design for Learning by David

Rose and Anne Meyer. The book introduces the reader to Universal Design for Learning (UDL) then provides ideas for ways to use UDL for everything from goal setting to supporting instruction to designing assessment. In addition, the book itself provides examples of how UDL can be used in electronic formats. Readers can choose different ways of viewing the chapters from summaries to concept maps.

<http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/ideas/tes/>

Just for Fun (and maybe some learning, too!)

Odeo

“Radio is the theater of the mind; television is the theater of the mindless.” (Steve Allen)

I have always loved listening to the radio from music to talk shows to theater. Maybe that's why I think podcasting is such a great idea. And many of my favorite radio programs offer podcasts of their programs so I can download and listen whenever I want. If you want to learn more about this new technology and maybe even experiment with making your own podcast, take a visit to Odeo. You can browse their vast library of podcasts and use the Odeo studio to create your own for free. <http://odeo.com>