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Journal Entry – Technology Resources for Educators

ITEC 57427 - Technology and Learning

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1. All My Faves | My Homepage. 2 Oct. 2011 <<http://www.allmyfaves.com>>

All My Faves is a Web site that makes finding relevant information much easier than using the search engines. It is a visual platform that directs users to sought-after information, while at the same time introducing them to new and exciting sites. It was created by two brothers, Shachar and Roy Pessis, who envisioned a virtual directory that included a list of top and most visited sites in major daily-used subject categories. Not only does this site scan the Internet to find the best sites and then list them by category and sections, the developers said that they recognize that everyone has different fields of interests and activities so they have added a free feature that allows anyone to join to create their own lists which they can set as their homepage. (All My Faves)

I just had to join this site so that I could make my own page of categorized, visual links. I have a ton of bookmarked Web sites and it takes forever to find one in particular. Since I started this class, I have found many exciting free tools that can be used for educational purposes, as well as, things I do in particular, such as Web site design. I have bookmarked them all and am having a hard time sifting through them to find one in particular. This service is going to remedy that for me. I highly recommend this free service for all to use, especially teachers. A teacher could get lost for hours just researching the “Education” category page already set up by All My Faves. The following is a screenshot of the “Education” page of visual bookmarks set up by All My Faves to be used by anyone even if they are not registered to create their own list.



Please keep in mind that the image above does not show all the areas shown on the actual Web page. I'm sure you can see how this could be useful to educators. Teachers can create their own sections. For example, a section could be created for all links pertaining to Microsoft Word tutorials, or for a list of free wiki services, etc.

Also, teachers could share their own created list of visual bookmarks among each other to help each other discover resources.

2. DOAJ -- Directory of Open Access Journals. 2 Oct. 2011
<<http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=browse&uiLanguage=en>>

“Directory of Open Access Journals is a service that provides access to quality controlled Open Access Journals. The Directory aims to be comprehensive and cover all open access scientific and scholarly journals that use an appropriate quality control system, and it will not be limited to particular languages or subject areas. The aim of the Directory is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals thereby promoting their increased usage and impact.” (DOAJ)

According to the DOAJ Web site, a lot of these journals are tough to overview and integrate into library and information services provided by libraries for their user constituency. Therefore, the aim of this project “is to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals thereby promoting their increased usage and impact.” Thanks to available technologies, the DOAJ has been able to “collect and organize these resources in a way that allow libraries worldwide to integrate these resources in existing services thus offering added value both for the service providers of these resources and for the global research and education community.” (DOAJ)

I think this is a great resource for teachers and students alike. I think this Web site would be particularly valuable to students who do not have access to scholarly journals without a subscription. This project covers a wide range of categories and users can browse journals by subject and/or title. The projects’ selection criteria (shown below) makes the resources found throughout the site legitimate.

Selection Criteria

Coverage:

- Subject: all scientific and scholarly subjects are covered
- Types of resource: scientific and scholarly periodicals that publish research or review papers in full text.
- Acceptable sources: academic, government, commercial, non-profit private sources are all acceptable.
- Level: the target group for included journals should be primarily researchers.
- Content: a substantive part of the journal should consist of research papers. All content should be available in full text.
- All languages

Access:

- All content freely available.
- Registration: **Free** user registration online is acceptable.
- Open Access without delay (e.g. no embargo period).

Quality: For a journal to be included it should exercise quality control on submitted papers through an editor, editorial board and/or a peer-review system.

Periodical: The journal should have an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number, for information see <http://www.issn.org>). (DOAJ)

There are journal listings for 114 different countries. As you can see from the screenshot below, as of 2011 there are 1323 journals just in the United States that are listed in the DOAJ. I have bookmarked this site to use for myself in the future and to pass on to others that may find it useful.

Free, full text, quality controlled scientific and sch

Search
Browse
Suggest a journal
About
Support DOAJ
Statistics
Contact

Journal added last 7 days
Journal added last 30 days

Open Access info
For publishers

DOAJ by Country

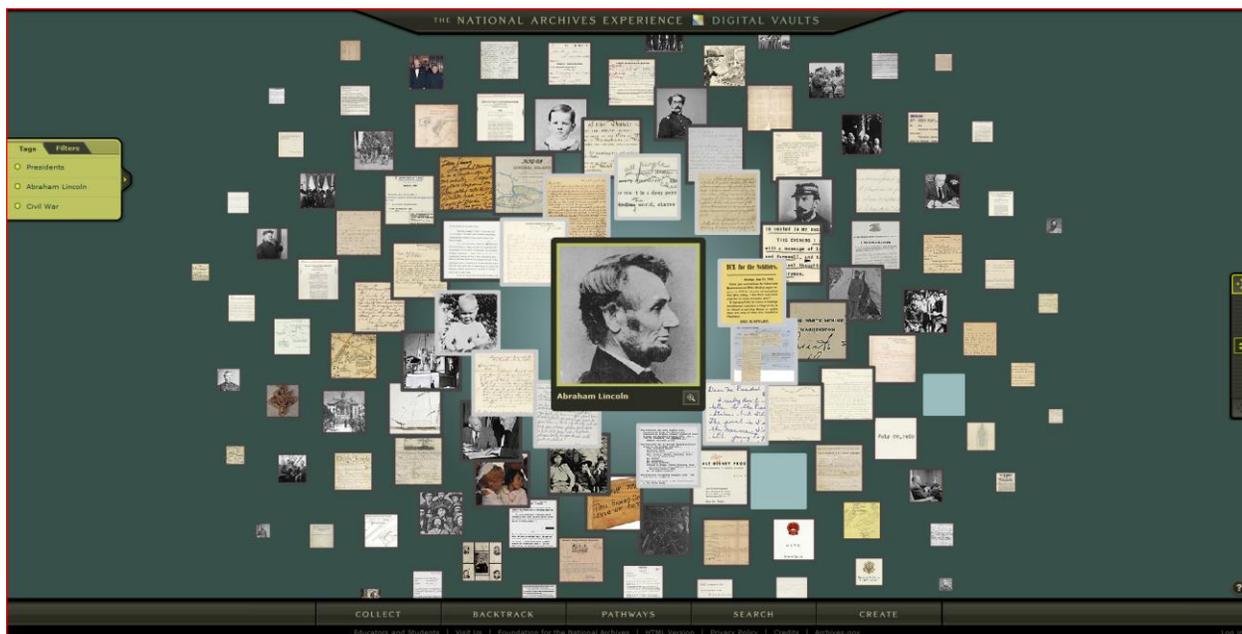
#	Country	Number of journals added into DOAJ										Total number of journals in DOAJ									
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
1	United States	19	199	88	93	61	105	208	174	188	188	19	218	306	399	460	565	773	947	1135	1323
2	Brazil	0	8	117	47	51	56	73	44	135	103	0	8	125	172	223	279	352	396	531	634
3	United Kingdom	5	106	43	41	40	32	31	57	126	39	5	111	154	195	235	267	298	355	481	520
4	Spain	0	5	20	62	49	27	62	28	77	56	0	5	25	87	136	163	225	253	330	386
5	India	0	14	18	14	17	19	23	50	126	72	0	14	32	46	63	82	105	155	281	353
6	Germany	3	12	20	36	26	31	27	23	35	23	3	15	35	71	97	128	155	178	213	236
7	Canada	0	25	12	11	17	15	25	30	46	38	0	25	37	48	65	80	105	135	181	219
8	Romania	0	4	1	0	7	5	12	36	81	61	0	4	5	5	12	17	29	65	146	207
9	Italy	0	4	9	18	16	12	12	29	47	41	0	4	13	31	47	59	71	100	147	188
10	Turkey	0	4	7	21	10	12	23	23	36	38	0	4	11	32	42	54	77	100	136	174
11	Colombia	0	2	2	5	19	17	18	26	19	30	0	2	4	9	28	45	63	89	108	138
12	France	0	10	6	21	9	10	19	9	36	14	0	10	16	37	46	56	75	84	120	134
13	Poland	0	9	4	9	10	7	24	6	16	43	0	9	13	22	32	39	63	69	85	126
14	Chile	0	3	41	19	13	7	14	10	14	4	0	3	44	63	76	83	97	107	121	125
15	Australia	0	17	13	11	7	10	9	13	20	19	0	17	30	41	48	58	67	80	100	119
16	Argentina	0	0	1	9	10	14	14	8	28	23	0	0	1	10	20	34	48	56	84	107
17	Egypt	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	11	88	0	0	0	1	2	4	4	5	16	104
18	Japan	2	19	43	22	3	0	4	7	4	0	2	21	64	86	89	89	93	100	104	104
19	Switzerland	1	8	4	8	3	2	18	14	21	22	1	9	13	21	24	26	44	58	79	101

3. National Archives and Records Administration. 2 Oct. 2011 <<http://www.archives.gov>>

“The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the nation's record keeper. Of all documents and materials created in the course of business conducted by the United States Federal government, only 1%-3% are so important for legal or historical reasons that they are kept by us forever. Those valuable records are preserved and are available to you, whether you want to see if they contain clues about your family's history, need to prove a veteran's military service, or are researching an historical topic that interests you.” (National Archives)

Gosh, where do I start? This site is an amazing source for researching history. Whether you're a history teacher, genealogist, or someone just interested in history in general, this is definitely a site worth using. The online exhibits (<http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/>) are especially interesting. One in particular, “Discovering the Civil War”, “is a continuous ‘crawl’ of records from the National Archives' holdings. Visitors can ‘touch’ a record, allowing them virtually to hold the record in their hands as if they were a researcher in the stacks. Throughout the theme areas, visitors will use the current to launch interactive exhibits, which use familiar 21st-century technology - such as social media, tag clouds, and graphic novels - to dig deeper into the stories the records tell and discover what really happened in the Civil War.” (Discovering the Civil War)

I especially like the Digital Vault (shown below), “a portal into the heart of the National Archives, the Digital Vaults uses visual records such as documents, photographs, and popular media, and illustrates how these materials can come together in unexpected ways to tell the story of our country. (Featured Exhibits)



There are so many tools for educators; I could not even begin to tell about them all. However, history teachers can use DocsTEach to “find and create interactive learning activities with primary source documents that promote historical thinking skills.” (Educators and Students) In other words, teachers could use documents located in the Digital Vault to create their own online exhibits. This site also has a professional development section for educators. Students can obtain resources for projects. There is even a project where students can sign the Declaration of Independence alongside our forefathers. I am not a history teacher, nor will I probably ever be one. However, I love history and genealogy, therefore, I find myself using this site frequently for my own personal reasons. Also, I will probably add the link within this site for the Veterans' Service Records section to the Web site I created and still maintain for the Jefferson County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

4. Web 2.0 Labs - Welcome. 2 Oct. 2011 <<http://www.web20labs.com/index.html>>

“The Web 2.0 Labs initiative is focused on a set of community-based educational technology (ed tech) projects” created by Steve Hargadon, the Social Learning Consultant for Elluminate/Blackboard Collaborate and the founder of the Web 2.0 Labs. He created the Classroom 2.0 social network, is host of the Future of Education interview series, and co-chairs the Global Education Conference. “The mission of Web 2.0 Labs is to continue to cultivate, incubate, and grow existing and future opportunities for educators to work with each other, and to promote the personal and collective value of social media projects. Starting with a core group of successful wiki, blog, and social-networking sites, I'm looking for partner organizations as sponsors to help me share and expand on the lessons of those experiences, and to create space for conversation and self-determination in education for educators, students, parents, and all who care about teaching and learning.” (Web 2.0 Labs)

Web 2.9 Labs’ six core projects include:

Future of Education Interview Series – “The Future of Education interview series is devoted to the conversation around teaching and learning in a networked world. With prominent guests like Sir Ken Robinson and Seth Godin to in-the-classroom educators, these live interviews are also recorded and placed in a podcast stream.”

Classroom 2.0 Community – “Classroom 2.0 is a free, community-supported network for those interested in Web 2.0 and Social Media in education. Started in 2007, the network has over 53,000 members, a weekly live show every Saturday morning, and is recognized as one of the pioneering sites for the use of social networking in education and professional development.”

Teacher 2.0 Community – “Teacher 2.0 is an independent community for educators to explore their interests and passions, and to build a network of support for educators at all levels. Through this community, with online events, interviews, and workshops, our goal is to have educators help each other become re-energized about finding and following their passions--as a part of their careers and in their contributions to the world.”

Library 2.0 Community – “Library 2.0 is a free, community-supported network for librarians. Started in 2007 by Bill Drew, the network was one of the first Ning networks in education.”

The Library 2.0 Conference – “The Library 2.011 conference is a unique chance to participate in a global conversation on the current and future state of libraries. Subject strands include the changing roles of libraries and librarians, the increasing impact of digital media and the e-book revolution, open educational resources, digital literacy, shifts from information consumption to production (Web 2.0), multimedia and gaming spaces, libraries as community centers, the growth of individualized and self-paced learning, the library as the center of new learning models, understanding users in the digital age, assessing service delivery, and defining leadership and information professional careers in a networked and changing world.”

The Global Education Conference – “The Global Education Conference is a collaborative and world-wide community project designed to significantly increase opportunities for globally-connecting education activities.” (Web 2.0 Labs)

While all of these projects are great resources for educators, I especially like the communities. The communities are where teachers and librarians can share ideas, knowledge, and resources pertaining to Web 2.0 tools. I feel I will visit these communities frequently to learn more about the available Web 2.0 tools that are available to teachers. Knowing what is available will be very helpful if and when I do become a teacher myself.

5. The Code Project - Your IT Resource. 2 Oct. 2011 <<http://www.codeproject.com/>>

“The Code Project is a community of Software development and Design developers joined together with certain common goals: to learn, to teach and to have fun programming. Developers from all over the world come together to share source code, tutorials, and knowledge for free to help their fellow programmers.” (The Code Project)

I especially like this Web site because I am a Web site designer. My goal is to become an instructor of Web site design, as well as, one who teaches how to use different software applications. This particular site has over 8 million members who share tutorials, code snippets, design articles, discussions and news all for free. The site map is categorized by subject, making it very easy to find particular resources. I love this site and will not only use it to learn new things myself, but will definitely share it with any future students I may have. I may even refer to it for tutorials I can use for teaching. I also think that the tutorial found throughout this site would be very helpful for teachers looking to create their own class Web sites.

Conclusion

I hope that my fellow classmates find these resources useful. I have linked certain words phrases throughout this journal entry so that you can easily navigate outside the class platform directly to the different tools I mentioned.

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