Online Technology Tools for Teachers

ITEC 57430 – Spring 2012 - Discussion Contributions

Scratch	Contributed by: *Christine Andersen*	http://scratch.mit.edu

Developed by MIT's Lifelong Kindergarten Group, Scratch offers students the opportunity to program an animation by using simple building blocks. These building blocks enable them to make very simple animations - or very complex games. There are many possible uses of this tool in the classroom, from story building to advanced math concepts. The website offers the tool itself for free, and there are many online guides and tutorials available for use as well. There is a section just for educators that give a lot of information about using Scratch in the classroom and talks about how the program meets current learning standards.

Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Planning Application (CCIP)	Contributed by: Pamela Peck	https://ccip.ode.state.oh.us

This site is used by school districts receiving federal funding. You must have approval by the State to log in to the site. In order to be approved for the funding that is offered, one is required to complete several online components of the CCIP. These components include, but not limited to: District Continuous Improvement Plan (goals, objectives, action plans), budgets, budget details, planning tools, and district data. It is simply the "be all" of all government funding for the schools. If you were to make a mistake in your planning or budget, the site recognizes the mistake and will give you a message that indicates where the mistake is so it can be fixed. Also, if there is a mistake, the Treasurer cannot get funding until it is corrected. This can be quite frustrating when the schools are already in a financial crisis.

Edmodo	Contributed by: Samantha Klink	http://www.edmodo.com

Edmodo is a social networking site that can be used by teachers to create groups for each of their classes. Teachers and students can post on the classes wall just as in Facebook they can post on a friend's wall. The teacher can also posted questions on the wall for students to answer and then the teacher can see each student's individual answers. Also quizzes and tests can be assigned through this site for student to complete. The teacher can use this site to keep their grade book so student can see what they have in the course. Another feature I liked was that parents could be given a code to access the class's wall and to see their child's grade. The way this site is set up it is like Facebook, but for education. To sign up teachers can go to www.edmodo.com and click the "I'm a teacher" button. Teachers are them given a class code to give to students to use when signing up for the site.

Moodle	Contributed by: Mari Engelhart	http://moodle.org

Moodle is an open source learning management system that is a lot like Blackboard, but at zero cost.

Nettrekker	Contributed by: Molly Patterson	http://www.nettrekker.com/us

Nettrekker is an online resource for teachers. This website allows teachers to search for specific criteria they are trying to find to help them create lessons. Nettrekker is the "leading educational search tool trusted by millions of K-12 educators and students for over ten years, brings standards-aligned, teacher-approved digital resources and a unique set of learning tools into the classroom to create an engaging 21st century learning environment" (netTrekker, 2012). While in netTrekker, teachers can select the standards tab, and search for the specific standard they are trying to teach to in the lesson that they are creating. Websites, lesson plans, videos, worksheets, and books all become available for the teacher to use to help teach the lesson. It's a fantastic database of tools for teachers to use in the classroom. There is a free 14-day trial in this website, and I would encourage anyone who has not used this site to look at it because it is very user-friendly and could be very helpful for teachers who need new ideas in the classroom.

D3a2	Contributed by: Brian Fiore	http://d3a2.org

D3a2 is specific to Ohio, and allows the user to search for grade specific academic content standards, all the way down to indicators. D3a2 stands for Data Driven Decisions for Academic Achievement.

INFOhio	Contributed by: Stephanie Raub	http://www.infohio.org

INFOhio, a virtual K-12 library, transforms teaching and learning by connecting educational resources with the power of information technology.

SlideShare	**Contributed by:** Emily Weller	http://www.slideshare.net

SlideShare is basically a place where you can upload your slideshow presentations. It is kind of like YouTube for slideshows. At www.slideshare.com they highlight some of the things you can do as upload presentations publicly or privately, download presentations on any topic and reuse or remix, and share on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn. Back to the part that says "remix," on SlideShare you can search for a slideshow on a topic and then edit it to be more tailored to your needs and then re- upload the slideshow. Of course giving credit to the person that originally posted it.

Audacity	**Contributed by:** David Shaffer	http://audacity.sourceforge.net

Audacity is a wonderful free tool for recording sound and audio segments; it can be used for instructional usage, recording sound bites, and for creating and delivering podcasts. This tech tool has been a very useful program for recording instructions or any type of audio sounds; a person to record some clips and then visually edit them right on their computer screen.

Wikispaces	**Contributed by:** Davison Mupinga	http://www.wikispaces.com

Wikis are easy to create and teachers can get them for no cost. Wikispaces can easily be used by non-techies. They allow communication, collaboration, submission of assignments, and sharing information. As one instructor noted, "I embed YouTube and TeacherTube videos, Adobe PDF papers, MS Word documents, images and all sorts of stuff and then my students contribute to the discussion portion and continually add links and other information. The flexibility and versatility is great for running a collaborative class."

Waypoint Outcomes	**Contributed by:** Allison Morgan	http://www.waypointoutcomes.com

Waypoint Outcomes is an online interactive assessment tool connecting with Rubistar software that allows teachers to create their own rubrics. Waypoint Outcomes "allows instructors to give personalized feedback" to students through an online rubric all while collecting data on student progress. This software is a finalist for the Best Student Assessment Solution 2012 SII CODiE Awards. There are two free versions for teachers to download and begin using!   The software was designed to reflect 21st Century Skills. The instructor can create learning outcomes, send grades to other programs, such as Blackboard and create tags for criteria connected with learning outcomes. Additional features include:

- Library of free rubrics covering a wide array of assessment criteria.
- Student access to specific rubrics for reference during assignments.
- Dropbox integration with your school's Learning Management System (LMS).
- Unified grading palette, where teachers can create and store repetitive comments to attach to student work.
- Gradebook integration with your Learning Management System.
- Analytics showing current standings and year-after-year improvement.
- Reporting that make obvious learning trends, improvements and areas needing attention.
- An on-line community where instructors can discuss and share best practices for educating with heightened accountability.

Regardless of the assessment used in the online course, the teacher can give constructive and timely feedback to students. From my experience in an online course, projects and papers are submitted electronically. Instructors can then take these assignments and use Waypoint technology to grade them easily. The teacher can easily create rubrics to fit their teaching style on Rubistar, and connect their original rubrics with Waypoint.   An introductory brochure can be seen at the following link: http://www.waypointoutcomes.com/images/website/WaypointOutcomes_2011.pdf

Cool Tools for Schools	**Contributed by:** Kathleen Herrmann	http://cooltoolsforschools.wikispaces.com

Cool Tools for Schools is a wiki site that has all kinds of different links to various online tools for absolutely anything you would need. There are categories on the left side of the home page for the various tools. Then there are sub categories within these categories. For example if you select "image tools", it then has image and photography tools, color tools, photo manipulation tools, image search tools, and screenshot tools. There are many links to these tools within the subcategories.

Google Sites	**Contributed by:** Scott Sommer	https://sites.google.com

Google Sites is a free and easy way to create and share webpages.

Google Docs	**Contributed by:** Scott Sommer	https://docs.google.com

Create and share your online documents, presentations and spreadsheets.

Flubaroo	**Contributed by:** Scott Sommer	http://www.flubaroo.com

Flubaroo can grade forms automatically.

Evernote	**Contributed by:** Sarah Houser	http://www.evernote.com

Evernote is basically a cloud-based note taking and organizational tool. There is an endless amount of information that one can store in Evernote, such as notes, documents, and pictures. The greatest part about this application is that it can be taken anywhere. It is downloadable on computers, phones, or iPads, and also can be accessed through the Internet anywhere it is available. Evernote is a great tool for teachers and students to capture notes, save research, collaborate on projects, snap photos of whiteboards, record audio and more. Everything you add to your account is automatically synced and made available on all the computers, phones and tablets you use.

PBS	**Contributed by:** Lauren Harrison	http://www.pbs.org/teachers

This site is nice because it breaks down the types of resources you can look at by age group and then subject area. Once you click on the subject area and grade level that you want, the results can be organized by media type. You can have access to different lesson plans, activity guides, interactive resources, audio files and much more. Teachers can interact within the discussion board in these various areas as well. There seem to be a lot of useful bits of information on this site. Everything from STEM resources to help with integrating technology. There are even resources for the arts and health/fitness. There are also several professional development classes that are available to teachers as well.

Quia and Math-Play	**Contributed by:** Patricia Denny	http://www.quia.com http://www.math-play.com

These are both websites that incorporate a lot of different games and activities for students to use when practicing certain math skills. It's so much nicer than using worksheets, but it still gives the students the review and practice that they need.

	Contributed by: Patricia Denny	http://www.classzone.com

Find online resources for your book.

ProgressBook, Engrade, and Jupiter Grades	**Contributed by:** Brian Fiore	http://www.software-answers.com http://www.engrade.com https://jupitergrades.com

ProgressBook is essentially an online grade book. It also allows data to import into EMIS (Education Management Information System), which is a record keeping application used by school districts and ODE. Another major feature ProgressBook offers is that it allows parents to login and view students' grades and progress real time.

Engrade and Jupiter Grades are two very useful grade books.   Though neither offers the same level of features, both are free to use. Engrade is more user-friendly and intuitive, but does not offer as many as Jupiter Grades. Jupiter Grades has more reports and features to offer, but is not as easy to use. Jupiter Grades also offers pay services, with many more features.

AIMSweb	**Contributed by:** Stephanie Rogers	http://www.aimsweb.com

AIMSweb is a benchmark and progress monitoring system based on direct, frequent and continuous student assessment. The results are reported to students, parents, teachers and administrators via a web-based data management and reporting system to determine response to intervention.

Noodletools	**Contributed by:** Jennifer Schafer	http://www.noodletools.com

Noodletools is a bibliography website that our district purchases a license for each year. Fortunately, it also has free tools for people to use too at: http://www.noodletools.com/tools/freetools.php. I really like the ease of the program and the options it offers for users. You may choose from MLA, APA and Chicago formats and it also gives young users an MLA Starter version, which I am currently using with sixth grade social students. The program is a fill-in-the-box format with examples and explanations for each step along with a "Check for Errors" options that points out potential problems and the rule for the item in question. The licensed program saves projects and citations, but the free versions are more limited in those respects.

Citelighter	Contributed by: Amy Hissom	http://www.citelighter.com

Citelighter allows students to store, organize, and share their education and research for free. All they have to do while researching online is highlight important facts. Citelighter saves it, lets them comment, and they can access it from anywhere. When they highlight their facts, Citelighter does the hard work by creating an automatic bibliography so that the student can focus on the important things like thinking. Citelighter makes it easy to stay organized with its dynamic notepad so students can take and store notes in one place. They can even share their facts and discover others. Whether you're browsing on the library desktop or your laptop in class, Citelighter saves your research, organizes it, and formats it to a bibliography in the cloud - accessible anytime, anywhere.

PREZI	Contributed by: Nicole Byers	http://prezi.com

Prezi is a cloud-based presentation software and storytelling tool for exploring and sharing ideas upon a virtual canvas. Prezi is distinguished by its Zooming User Interface (ZUI), which enables users to zoom in and out of their presentation media.

PhotoStory	Contributed by: Nicole Byers	http://www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=11132

PhotoStory is a free download offered by Microsoft. PhotoStory makes a movie of whatever images you want to use and allows you to simply add your own voice narration and music. It is super simple but ends up looking like it took you forever and a million dollars to make.

Delicious	Contributed by: Nicole Byers	http://delicious.com

Delicious is a bookmarking site that many of you are probably familiar with. Basically it's a way to save, categorize, and publicize lists of websites that you want to bookmark. It's a great way to make lists of resources for your students, or organize your own sites for personal and professional projects.

Dropbox	Contributed by: Nicole Byers	https://www.dropbox.com

Dropbox is a tool that you install on your computer that allows you to store files in a dropbox folder on your computer and then access anything in that folder from any other computer that has internet access.

Infinite Campus	Contributed by: Nicole Byers	http://www.infinitecampus.com

Infinite Campus, IC, is a student management system that my district uses. It is a great tool that I would recommend to any district that's looking to invest. It basically stores everything from attendance to grades to IEPs and more, and makes it all easily accessible via the internet using a username and password and there is nothing to install to get it to work.

Zoho	Contributed by: Amy Hissom	http://www.zoho.com

Zoho.com offers a complete range of free online productivity, business, and collaboration applications which are an excellent alternative to expensive software based office suites. These include email, word processor, spreadsheets, slide shows, document management folders, wiki, note taker, online organizer, group chats, web conferencing, database, project collaboration, and a repository to share documents with other users. All Zoho applications work together seamlessly and are web-based, making them independent of an operating system. So, all you need is access to the Internet and a browser to utilize them. Zoho stores all your work on its own secure servers so it is accessible from just about anywhere. Students and teachers can create and share documents online easily. applications for productivity and collaboration, such as Zoho Writer (like MS Word), Zoho Sheet (like MS Excel), and Zoho Show (like MS PowerPoint) all work in conjunction with the MS Office applications noted. In other words, you can upload a document to Zoho Writer that you created in Word or you can download a word version of a file you created in Zoho Writer. Same goes for the other applications.