

Curriculum Corporation
Guest Expert- Online Teaching and Learning Formats
August – September 2003

Online - Introduction

Dear all,

During the course of the next couple of weeks it is my intention to address the following areas in particular:

1. My initial involvement with Online Curriculum
2. What are the teaching and learning formats available for teachers to use?
3. How do teachers find quality material on the web? and
4. How can teachers create/develop their own materials?

My initial involvement with studies of Asia began in 1997 when I received a travel scholarship to attend the Consortium for Teaching Asia Pacific Studies at the University of Hawaii. This began a relationship with the Asia Education Foundation which has brought me much professional and personal satisfaction.

In 2000, I was invited to participate in a train the Trainer professional development program on Asia EdNet <http://www.curriculum.edu.au/accessasia/network/index.htm> It was as a result of this that my interest in making effective use of ICT in the classroom began.

Of particular interest to me was Module 3 which looks at how to make effective use of the internet in the classroom <http://www.curriculum.edu.au/accessasia/network/tutorial/module3/index.htm>

It was through this module that I was introduced to the notion of WebQuests and the work of Tom March. Both of which were to have tremendous impact on me during the following years. But more on this later!

The term online curriculum is used regularly in education. While there are many definitions out there, for me it is about how we can have activities “online” or on the web which will engage the students in our classes and support their learning.

What does online curriculum mean to you?

Regards,
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Online - Trackstar

Dear all,

My first attempts at developing online curriculum was through the use of Trackstar.
<http://www.curriculum.edu.au/accessasia/network/tutorial/module3/tracks.htm#task2> .

Trackstar <http://trackstar.hprtec.org/> allows you to collect internet sites and add questions through an interactive screen. The collection of sites is then called a Track. The value of sites like Trackstar is that anybody can create a webpage without having to do any more than copy and paste web addresses and type some activities. Easy! To create your own you really only have to follow the prompts from the homepage.

An example of a Track I made on Sadako and the 1000 Paper Cranes can be found at
http://trackstar.hprtec.org/main/track_frames.php3?track_id=165116&nocache=1841205240

For me, a track such as this one provides students with the opportunity to place a story into a “real world context”. It enables them to visit the Childrens Monument in Japan from their classroom anywhere in the world. Also by including links encouraging student to make cranes and send them to Japan we are encouraging students to take action as a result of their learnings.

Another track to consider is one on Indonesia used as part of the Asia Ednet Tutorial
http://trackstar.hprtec.org/main/track_frames.php3?track_id=61322&nocache=1727895375 Consider how you could use this within your class.

You may like to search trackstar for an activity that can complement a unit of work you are doing with your students this year. Chances are someone out there has put a track together.
<http://trackstar.hprtec.org/cgi-bin/search.pl?mode=keyword>

What do you believe are the advantages of teachers creating a track to support student learning?

Regards,

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Online - Hotlists

Dear all,

I hope that some of you have had the opportunity to preview the Tracks mentioned in the last email and to consider the advantages and disadvantages of such activities.

In October 2001 I was invited by the Asia Education Foundation to attend the first part of what was to be a four day training program on the use of the interactive web site of www.web-and-flow.com This program was delivered by Tom March whose home page can be found at www.ozline.com

The interactive site of www.web-and-flow.com enables users to develop a variety of online teaching and learning activities, which focus on the use of the internet and higher order thinking skills. These activities are posted on the web and developed without teachers having to know hypertext mark up language (html). As a Curriculum Project Officer and now as a Classroom Teacher I have developed activities using some of the formats provided by web-and-flow. There is no doubt that this 4 day training program was one of the best programs I have participated in and extended my knowledge and understanding of online curriculum.

Through this program I was introduced to a range of online formats that can be used to make effective use of the internet in the classroom. Over the next couple of emails I will introduce you to Knowledge Hunts, Subject Samplers and WebQuests. For detailed information on these formats I would encourage you to read an article by Tom March titled "Working the Web for Education"
<http://www.ozline.com/learning/theory.html>

A brief outline can also be found at
<http://www.curriculum.edu.au/accessasia/network/tutorial/module3/webquest.htm>

The simplest way to begin using the internet is through the use of a Hotlist. Hotlists enable teachers to provide students with a list of the sites they wish students to refer to on a topic or unit of work. Rather than students spending time in searching the internet they are provided with one page that has links to sites that the teacher wants them to refer to. (A bit like bringing a tub of library books into your classroom). These sites are then placed in categories for easy access. The beauty of Hotlists is that as a teacher I am taking the students directly of the site on the web that I want them to go to. Basically you are giving them the book, the chapter and the page number! Examples of Hotlists I have created can be found at: East Timor
http://www.web-and-flow.com/members/lhayman/east_timor/hotlist.htm

Walk the trail of the Elephants <http://www.web-and-flow.com/members/lhayman/elephants/hotlist.htm>

Filamentality is an interactive site like trackstar <http://trackstar.hprtec.org/> and www.web-and-flow.com which supports teachers in developing online curriculum without the fuss of html.

To find other examples of Hotlists go to Filamentality http://www.kn.pacbell.com/kne_search.html and enter the topic you are interested in, in the bottom left hand section of the screen which says search filamentality. By searching this site you will find a collection of online activities that other educators have put together.

Happy Surfing!
Regards,
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Online – Knowledge Hunts

Dear all,

The Knowledge Hunt format is where the teaching and learning is introduced in a formal sense. Teachers are able to select the sites they wish students to refer to and then develop a series of questions which are appropriate. These may be lower level such as Who, What, When, Where or may develop higher order thinking with effective use of Bloom's Taxonomy.

Japanese American Internment Camps

<http://www.web-and-flow.com/members/lhayman/japan/hunt.htm>

ANZAC Day Knowledge Hunt

<http://www.web-and-flow.com/members/lhayman/nationaldays/hunt.htm>

OK, are you sufficiently interested to consider developing some online materials yourself? I hope so!

When I started I found that it was great to utilize the search facility of sites such as trackstar <http://trackstar.hprtec.org/> and filamentality http://www.kn.pacbell.com/kne_search.html but that at the end of the day I had specific curriculum which I had to address to meet state guidelines and that I knew the students in my classroom and wanted activities that would address their learning needs.

There are a number of ways in which online materials can be developed without knowing how to use webpage authoring tools. We will discuss some of these in future emails. There are ofcourse advantages and disadvantages associated with these and these will vary depending on the ICT set up your school has.

Word Documents - By typing in a web address on a word document you automatically create a hyperlink which will take you to the WWW. (Much like what is happening with these emails.) If you have not done this before give it a go. Make sure that after you have typed the address in that you press the space bar so that the link turns blue and is underlined. Easy! By using this method you can see how you could easily create a hotlist or knowledge hunt to support a unit of work. BUT, you need to consider how students will access this word document.

At my school I am able to upload a word document to the extranet and students can access it this way. At your school you may need to save the document to each computer the students would be working on. It's at this point you should perhaps speak to someone at your school who works in the ICT area. Goodluck!

Lisa Hayman

PS - The use of search engines such as www.vivisimo.com can play a key role is the "finding" of appropriate resources. Give it a go and see how it works!

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Online – Subject Samplers

Dear Asia Ednetters,

I hope that some of you have had the chance to play around a little with developing a Hotlist or a Knowledge Hunt. It would be great to see people sharing anything as they have ago. Remember you could always send it to us by copying and pasting the urls and questions straight into an email!

To see examples of work that teachers have created which have an asia focus have a look at the site I put together some time ago to support the work of the Asia Education Foundation in Victoria.
http://www.bssc.edu.au/public/learning_teaching/pd/aef/index.shtml This has moved a few times recently due to me changing jobs but hopefully it will stay here for some time!

The site Hotlists to WebQuests which I have mentioned briefly before is also a good place to start
http://www.bssc.edu.au/public/learning_teaching/pd/hotlists_webquests/index.shtml If you select the link to online materials you can then select the KLA you are interested in. There are not huge numbers of activities here but it does provide examples of what other teachers have done. This site also supports teachers in developing quality materials (Ihope!) by providing links to teaching and learning strategies. When writing questions we need to ensure that we ask a variety of questions and that they are not all low level knowledge and comprehension. We need to move away from the use of "who, what, when, where"

I find that by going to the link of Blooms Taxonomy I can ensure that I am asking higher order thinking questions.

One of my favourite online formats is that of a Subject Sampler. A Subject Sampler is used to develop the student's personal interest in a topic. This is achieved through developing questions that have a focus on the use of the word "you". There are no right or wrong responses only what the student thinks. Samplers are probably not as widely referred to as Hunts or WebQuests but clearly have a specific teaching and learning focus. Remember online curriculum is not about doing "more of the same". It is about using the richness of material which is available to us via the www.

East Timor Through the Eyes of the Children
http://www.web-and-flow.com/members/lhayman/east_timor/sampler.htm I like this activity as it shows how we can make effective use of images within our classes.

http://www.web-and-flow.com/members/lhayman/miniature_earth/sampler.htm
This Sampler makes use of a webmovie - another way in which we can incorporate the richness of the internet into our classes.

Up Close and Personal - The Western Front
<http://www.web-and-flow.com/members/lhayman/nationaldays/sampler.htm> (this does not have an asian focus but I really like it!)

Regards,
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Online - WebQuests

Dear all,

My first introduction to WebQuests was with the Asia EdNet tutorial.
<http://www.curriculum.edu.au/accessasia/network/tutorial/module3/webquest.htm> This is a great place to start if you are interested in learning more about this online strategy. It provides a range of links to WebQuests with studies of Asia perspectives plus links to an article by Tom March on "Why Webquests?" I strongly encourage you to have a look at this to assist your understandings in this area.

The concept of WebQuests was created by Bernie Dodge and Tom March at San Diego State University in 1995. Since this time WebQuests have become popular throughout the world as a teaching and learning strategy with many sites on the internet providing links to them.

WebQuests involve the development of student-centered problem solving activities. Students work together on a question and take on roles. They use the Internet as one of many resources, and then come together to share what they have learned and to develop a group response to the initial question.

One of the first WebQuests to be written was Search for China by Tom March. This is linked from the Asia Ed Net Tutorial and can be found at <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/China/ChinaQuest.html>

If you go to <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/China/index.html> You will see how Tom has developed what he calls a WebQuest Series on China, that is a Hotlist, Knowledge Hunt, Subject Sampler and WebQuest. This is a great way to see how the one topic can be used effectively in a range of online formats.

WebQuests provide us with innovative ways of teaching curriculum that that we have all done many times before. My signature file on my email used to read "Do not confine children to your own learning for they were born in another time" Chinese Proverb. By including WebQuests in our classroom practice we can feel confident that we are not giving the students in our classes 'more of the same'.

Once again the challenge for us now is to develop quality online materials that suit the needs of our students along with curriculum guidelines. As I have previously mentioned there are a number of ways in which you can do this - from a word document through to creating a webpage using html or a web page authoring tool such as DreamWeaver or Front Page.

As you will have seen with the examples I have shown I choose to use the interactive web site of www.web-and-flow.com This is a direct result of professional development that I completed with Tom March. For me, it is simple to use, user friendly and works! It should be noted though that there is a charge of \$41 per year to have membership to this site. You can always sign on though for "30 days free" to have a look around and have a go.

Another alternative is filamentality <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/index.html> There is no charge for using filamentality. Feel free to email me any questions you may have regarding the use of these sites.

Both web-and-flow plus filamentality allow you to create the whole range of online activities that we have discussed in the past couple of weeks.

I hope that some of you will have an attempt at using these sites to create materials and will share your work with us!

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Online - BestWebQuests

Dear all,

I hope that as a result of the emails that have been sent on online formats that you have had the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understandings on what is meant by online curriculum and that you are able to discern between the variety of formats which are available for us to use as educators.

At the end of last year I had the opportunity to contribute to the development of a site which aims to “sort out the best from the rest”. The site <http://bestwebquests.com> has been developed by Tom March in order to provide people with a portal to go to which only links to quality WebQuests.

<http://bestwebquests.com> has WebQuests sorted into key learning areas and levels of schooling.

My involvement with this site was in looking at a range of against a criteria <http://www.bestwebquests.com/bwq/matrix.asp> which Tom had developed. This was an interesting process and it soon became apparent that many WebQuests were really Knowledge Hunts and low level Knowledge Hunts at that.

I would hope that with Australian educators developing an awareness of the difference in the available formats that we will start seeing a range of activities online that match to the curriculum and learning needs of our students.

My strong belief is that at educators we should share our experiences and resources to support others. That is why I have developed sites such as Hotlists to WebQuests https://www.bssc.edu.au/public/learning_teaching/pd/hotlists_webquests/index.shtml and will continue to add links to this site as appropriate.

I strongly encourage you “have a go” at creating some activities and to share your experiences with others.

For those interested I will convert the emails I have written into a word document and am happy to forward this onto people if they would like.

Good luck!

Lisa

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