

Free and (Low Cost) Technology to Enhance Learning Across the Curriculum

LASEC's FALL INSTITUTE: October 8, 2010

Presented by:

Sharon Meldgin, M.A., AT Specialist, Leyden Area Special Education Cooperative

Barbara Chwierut, CCC/SP-L, AT Coordinator, AERO Special Education Cooperative

LITERACY: Reading, Writing, Spelling

www.bookshare.org Bookshare is a free online subscription for accessible books for all U.S. students with qualifying disabilities. Downloadable free reading tools can be played on the computer, CD, or converted to play on an Mp3 player. Students can also have access at home. Over more than 50,000 digital books, textbooks, teacher-recommended reading, & periodicals are available.

www.citationmachine.net- Citation Machine is a free resource which provides step-by-step instructions on creating citations to generate a bibliography. *Note: This website might also be helpful to individuals who are taking classes!

www.progressivephonics.com Progressive Phonics is a free series of ebooks that teachers and parents can use to help their students learn to read and write. Progressive Phonics offers free ebooks that cover everything from learning the alphabet, to learning to write, to learning the construction of words and sentences. As the name implies, Progressive Phonics arranges the series of free ebooks to build upon each other. You do have to register for the service, but once you do you can download the ebooks.

www.writingfun.com Writing Fun is an interactive writing help site that includes downloads for off-line use. Writing texts covered include reports, procedures, explanations, expositions, discussions, narratives, recounts, descriptions, responses, poetry, letters, invitations, news items and emails.

<http://www.wordweb.info> WordWeb is a comprehensive one-click English thesaurus and dictionary for Windows. It can be used to look up words from almost any program, showing definitions, synonyms and related words. It includes pronunciations and usage examples, and has helpful spelling and sounds-like links.

<http://www.fcrr.org/activities> - The Florida Center for Reading Research provides up-to-date information on literacy and research related to reading.

www.spellingcity.com This free site allows you to create spelling activities for your students. Teachers/parents can enter specific words and the student can interact in a “test me”, “teach me”, or “game mode”. A variety of additional teacher resources are also available on this site.

www.literactive.com Literactive is the leading provider of reading material for pre-school, kindergarten and grade 1 students available online. The program is comprised of carefully leveled guided readers, comprehensive phonic activities and a wealth of supplemental reading material which gradually develop a child's reading skills in a sequential and enjoyable manner. Developed and approved by teachers and parents

www.hiyah.net This website offers free educational software (literacy and math) for children ages 18 months to 4 years of age. This educational software is beneficial for children who are motivated by the computer, but can't yet use a mouse, as it can be accessed by hitting the spacebar. (These programs can be downloaded or simply played online.)

<http://vocahead.com> VocabAhead Study Room provides a distraction free environment with over 1000 difficult words explained using Vocabulary Videos and Flash Cards. Additional vocabulary videos are continuously added

www.wordle.net/ Wordle is a toy for generating “word clouds” from text that you provide. The clouds give greater prominence to words that appear more frequently in the source text. You can tweak your clouds with different fonts, layouts, and color schemes. You can print them out, or save them to the Wordle gallery to share with others.

<http://pbskids.org/whiteboard> This site includes a collection of interactive whiteboard games. Topics include: language arts, the arts, math, and social studies. Specific games can be searched by grade level or topic. A description of each game is also provided.

<http://promo.net/pg/> Project Gutenberg is the Internet's oldest producer of FREE electronic books (eBooks or e-texts). It does not publish any CDs or any texts still in copyright (texts are taken from books published pre-1923).

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/storystarters/storystarter1.htm> This website generates random story starters by grade level for kindergarten through sixth grade.

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/District75/Departments/Literacy/AdaptedBooks/default.htm> This website provides free adapted books in a variety of formats (e.g. Boardmaker, Writing with Symbols, Power Point) from the New York City Department of Education, Special Education District 75. Many are age-appropriate for older students.

<http://www.howjsay.com> A free online Talking Dictionary of English Pronunciation

<http://www.idiomdictionary.com> com For someone learning the English language, particularly the American version of English, idioms can be difficult to understand. The Idiom Dictionary was created to help people understand the meanings of more than five thousand English idioms.

To use the Idiom Dictionary just enter a phrase or part of a phrase into the search box and the Idiom Dictionary will offer an explanation of that idiom.

Five Alternatives to Traditional Book Reports :

- <http://animoto.com/education> 1. *Create book trailers.* The developer ran a post about book trailers during the summer which [you can read here](#). (In short, a book trailer is a short video created by students to highlight the key points of a book.) When creating their book trailers students should be trying to "sell" viewers on a book. To create their videos students could use [Animoto for Education](#), [JayCut](#), or [PhotoPeach](#). Follow the link to learn more about these free video creation tools [Making Videos on the Web](#).
- <http://memoov.com/> 2. *Create animated or stop-motion videos about a book's plot.* To make an animated video try [Memoov](#) which is a free service that students can use to create an animated video book review. [Memoov](#) allows users to create animated videos up to five minutes in length. Creating an animated video with [Memoov](#) can be as simple as selecting a setting image(s), selecting a character or characters, and adding dialogue.

If stop-motion videos are more your speed, Kevin Hodgson's [Making Stopmotion Movies](#) is a fantastic resource for directions and advice on making stop-motion movies.

- 3. *Create literature maps.* Using Google Maps or Google Earth students can map out the travels of character in a story. [Google Lit Trips](#) has many examples of teachers and students using Google Earth in literature courses. If you're not familiar with how to create placemarks in Google Maps, please see a free guide [Google for Teachers](#) for directions.
- 4. *Create 3D augmented reality book reviews.* [ZooBurst](#) is an amazing service that allows you to create a short story complete with 3D augmented reality pop-ups. Students could use [ZooBurst](#) to create short summaries of books that really jump off the screen.
- 5. *Create multimedia collages about books.* [Glogster](#) allows users to create one page multimedia collages. Students could create a collage containing videos, audio files, text, and images about books they've read. For example, a Glog about *Into the Wild* could contain images of [Chris McCandless](#), chunks of text about the book, and [this video](#) featuring a song from the movie based on the book.

www.mcdservices.com/phonics/phonics.html These simple stories and activities are designed for older students and adults. Stories are read aloud with visual supports, and stress specific

sounds. Accompanying PDF's of story text and cloze activities are also available. Additional teacher resources (e.g. lesson plans) are also included on this site.

<http://www.classicreader.com/> Classic Book Reader is a free online resource offering thousands of electronic books. Although this site is free, it does require registration.

www.tarheelreader.org Tar Heel Reader provides a collection of free, easy-to-read, accessible books on a wide range of topics. The books may be downloaded as slide shows in PowerPoint, Impress, or Flash format. Each book can be speech enabled and accessed using multiple interfaces, including touch screens, the IntelliKeys with custom overlays, and 1 to 3 switches. This site is a result of collaboration between Center for Literacy and Disability Studies (Karen Erickson) and the department of Computer Science at the University Of North Carolina At Chapel Hill.

<http://www.sparknotes.com> This site provides free on-line study guides related to various areas of the curriculum. Some subject areas included are: biology, literature, chemistry, Shakespeare, short stories, and poetry. *Note: for an added support, copy and paste the study guide (short story) into a talking word processor to “read” the material to the student.

TEXT TO SPEECH:

<http://www.naturalreaders.com> free text-to-speech software program which converts any written text to speech (Word, pdf, websites, emails)

<http://clickspeak.clcworld.net> a free Firefox extension that reads the Internet and highlights phrases and sentences as it reads

<http://www.cross-plus-a.com/balabolka.htm> Free text-to-speech download, can also download a portable version that runs off a USB thumb drive can save as wav or MP3 file.

<http://www.readthewords.com> Register first, upload file or choose text or website to read, a recording is generated which you can listen to online or download to an mp3 player, upload to a blog, etc.

<http://readplease.com> ReadPlease offers a free version as well as a pay version.

<http://www.wordtalk.org.uk> Free plugin for all versions of Microsoft Word. It highlights words and contains a talking dictionary.

www.fullmeasure.co.uk/powerstalk/ free text-to-speech for PowerPoint presentations

UDL / RTI / AT / SPEECH-LANGUAGE RESOURCES:

<http://www.boardmakershare.com> This free web resource from Mayer-Johnson and DynaVox combines file sharing, powerful search capabilities, implementation articles, open discussion forums, and community functions. This resource works with Boardmaker, Boardmaker Plus or Boardmaker SD-Pro

www.microsoft.com/enable Accessibility Features in Microsoft: This website provides information on the accessibility of Microsoft products, accessibility resources, and assistive technology products compatible with the Windows operating system. The “Accessibility Update”, an e-mail newsletter is also available free of charge each month.

www.eduplace.com This site offers a variety of PreK-6 resources for teachers, students, and families to support instruction in the classroom and at home. Click “classroom resources” to find resources related to topics, monthly themes, bilingual activities, graphic organizers, etc.

www.kidsclick.org This site guides young users to valuable and age appropriate web sites for over 600 subject areas

www.childcareland.com This site includes numerous Early Learning Activities for Pre-K and Kindergarten. Some activities include file folder games, flip books, matching games, learning sheets, craft projects, video teaching tips and printables.

<http://www.units4teachers.com> This website offers resources for K-12 teachers related to over 10,000 themes. Resources include: lesson plans, templates, rubrics, worksheets, etc.) A weekly “Teacher’s Planet On-Line Newsletter” is also available with registration.

www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent This website provides info on UDL, along with models and tools to create and adapt lessons that increase access and participation in the gen ed curriculum. BookBuilder allows educators to create, share, publish and read digital books

- www.bookbuilder.cast.org Use this site to create, share, publish, and read digital books that engage and support diverse learners according to their individual needs, interests, and skills.
- <http://lessonbuilder.cast.org> provides educators with models and tools to create and adapt lessons that increase access and participation in the general education curriculum for all students.
- www.cast.org/learningtools/index.html - Supports for 6-12th grade students who struggle with writing science reports.

www.dynavoxtech.com **Implementation Toolkit** Over 300 free resources and suggestions for implementing AAC to encourage successful communication. Resources include: Handouts, worksheets, datasheet/teaching hints, video examples, visual supports, websites, and feedback forms

www.infinitec.org Free website from the State of Illinois which provides resources on assistive technology.

www.myinfinitec.org Additional assistive technology resources available from the State of Illinois. (This website is for Infinitec members. Members must log in using their school email address.)

www.wati.org Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative: WATI is currently a volunteer network of AT specialists from across the state of Wisconsin who provide resources related to assistive technology

www.speakingofspeech.com This is an interactive forum for speech/language pathologists and teachers to improve communication skills in our schools

www.carlscorner.us.com This website was created by a retired classroom teacher / university instructor to provide resources and materials in the area of language arts. Due to the extensive amount of information available on Carl's Corner, additional website links have been created to provide more resources: Little Book Lane: www.littlebooklane.com, Word Way: www.wordway.us.com, and Alphabet Avenue: alphabetavenue.net

<http://www.lakefolks.org/cnt> Click-N-Type is an on-screen virtual keyboard designed for anyone with a disability that prevents him or her from typing on a physical computer keyboard. As long as the physically challenged person can control a mouse, trackball, touch screen or other pointing device, this software keyboard allows you to send keystrokes to virtually any Windows application

www.scholastic.com/tbwwidget The Teacher Book Wizard Widget is a quick, easy-to-use tool that helps you find just-right books for all ages, grades, and reading levels

<http://www.patinsproject.com/videos.html> Technical Training Videos & Tutorials created by the PATINS staff. (The PATINS Project is an Indiana state-wide technical assistance network for the provision of assistive/accessible technology.)

<http://cooltoolsforschools.wikispaces.com/> This resource provides a list of "cool teacher tools". Some categories include: presentation, collaborative, drawing, audio, music, quiz, writing. The tools are also indexed A-Z, with their corresponding category.

<http://udltechtoolkit.wikispaces.com/> The UDL Toolkit is a resource of free technology that can be utilized in all classrooms, across the curriculum. Resources include: apps, audio books, text to speech, graphic organizers, study supports, and reading & writing tools

https://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=ddnzwcn8_15g3jrpdf Blogs, Wikis, Docs: Which is right for your lesson? (This site compares these tools.)

3 Tools to Help You Save Paper & Ink in Your Classroom:

- <http://www.printwhatyoulike.com/> **Print What You Like** is a simple web tool that lets users select just a portion of a website. This is particularly useful for printing articles from websites or blogs that do not have a "printer friendly" option. **Print What You Like**

is not simply a cropping tool. Users can also remove images from the background or foreground of a website before printing.

- <http://www.printfriendly.com/> If you have ever wanted to print an article from a blog or a website, but wish you could do it without printing all of the ads and widgets in the side columns, you should take a look at [PrintFriendly](#). [PrintFriendly](#) strips away all of the ads and side bar content allowing you to print only the article on the page. There are two ways to use [PrintFriendly](#). You can copy and paste an article's url into the [PrintFriendly](#) homepage or use the [PrintFriendly](#) bookmarklet. Bookmarklet as it doesn't require any toggling between browser tabs or windows.
- [Printliminator](#) is a handy little bookmarklet for Firefox, Chrome, and Safari. [Printliminator](#) allows you to highlight a webpage and select only the elements which you wish to print. You can install [Printliminator](#) in seconds by just clicking and dragging it into your browser's toolbar.

<http://www.freetech4teachers.com>

www.handwritingworksheets.com This website allows you to create free worksheets for your students. You will be able to create simple worksheets in basic print, D'nealian style and cursive and include the student's key words

www.aboutonehandtyping.com This website includes a variety of resources (free and purchased) related to one-handed typing. Although this site links to "purchased products" for one-handed typists, it also includes ideas and resources, answers to frequently asked questions about one-handed typing, and discussion groups and news.

http://www.beenleigss.eq.edu.au/requested_sites/mousepractice/index.html This free resource has a variety of interactive activities to use with students when they are learning how to use a mouse. Activities include: click, drag, hold down, scroll, etc. *Note: not all activities will be accessible.

<http://www.learnitin5.com> **Learn it in 5** is a library of how-to videos, produced by technology teachers, for the purpose of helping teachers and students create classroom strategies for today's 21st century's digital classroom. These step-by-step how-to videos walk teachers through Web 2.0 technology, demonstrating how to use Web 2.0 applications like blogs, social networks, podcasts, interactive videos, wikis, slidesharing and much more.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/teach/> **Nearly 100 FRONTLINE programs (related to current events/news)** are available for free online viewing. FRONTLINE **also** created a teacher center. The FRONTLINE Teacher Center contains web-exclusive bonus resources (extra video clips and text) and lesson plans that teachers can download for use in their classrooms. You can search the FRONTLINE Teacher Center by subject matter, episode title, or air date.

www.free.ed.gov/index.cfm FREE: Federal Resources for Educational Excellence which are sorted by various subject areas

MATH RESOURCES:

<http://bigbrainz.com> TIMEZ Attack teaches multiplication through a video game, with pre and post tests built into the program. A basic core version is available free of charge. An upgraded, paid version is also available.

www.webmath.com students can get answers and step-by-step study help for math problems

<http://nlvm.usu.edu> The National Library of Virtual Manipulatives (NLVM) is a National Science Foundation supported project that began in 1999 to develop a library of uniquely interactive, web-based virtual manipulatives or concept tutorials for mathematics instruction (K-12 emphasis). A free trial version is available; along with a paid version.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/4_11/site/numeracy.shtml Math games for students ages 4-11 yrs

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/11_16/site/maths.shtml Math games for students ages 11-16 yrs

<http://www.visualfractions.com> includes online tools for learning fractions, PowerPoints to help teach fractions, downloadable worksheets, and downloadable software for creating circle fractions

<http://www.conceptuamath.com/> *Conceptua™ Fractions* helps teachers and students work together to master fractions by combining flexible, state-of-the-art interactive math tools with scaffolded fractions activities to let students practice with concept models, build fluency and apply their knowledge. Both free and premium (paid) subscriptions are available.

www.harcourtschool.com/glossary/math_advantage/index.html This K-8 site includes an animated glossary of common mathematical terms, categorized by grade level.

www.mathslice.com This website provides a variety of free resources including math worksheets and online interactive functional “games”. It includes resources for basic to advanced math, as well as functional math skills.

<http://www.mathplayground.com/> MathPlayground is a site for elementary and middle school students. It includes Math games, word problems, logic puzzles, and math videos.

<http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com/> Math Dictionary for Kids is an animated, interactive math dictionary which explains over 600 common mathematical terms and math words in simple language.

www.sitesforteachers.com/resources_sharp/math/math.html This site provides numerous resources related to math. Examples include: lesson plans, ideas & activities, board games,

<http://math.rice.edu/~lanius> Interactive mathematics lessons that are FUN! FUN! FUN!

www.cumbavac.org/Math.htm Math Websites for Teachers and Students provides numerous math resources across all grade and ability levels

APPS for the iPhone, iPodTouch, and iPad:

www.mrcoley.com This is Mr. Coley's 5th grade classroom website! He has created video tutorials and given websites to create flashcards to put on an iPod. Mr. Coley has created specially designed PowerPoint presentations that can serve as color flash cards to help review concepts studied in class. Educators can also download the PowerPoint presentations and view them on a computer. The iPod Flash Cards web resource page helps teachers create their own flash cards.

<http://learninginhand.com/apps/>

www.momswithapps.com Moms with Apps is a group of family-friendly developers who share best practices on making and marketing mobile apps. It began as a small conference call and has grown to represent hundreds of mobile apps for kids and families. Check the site each Friday as one of the developer's apps is highlighted, along with a FREE download or special promotion.

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0AnxQ14o8cRSFdfBmLXBFTnRhV3pOa3c4cnBMWU9wWmc&hl=en> This site provides a comparison of several apps for the ipod touch, iphone and iPad

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/24470331/iPhone-and-iPod-touch-Apps-for-Special-Education> This website provides over 24 pages of apps available for special education.

<http://www.apple.com/ipad/features/accessibility.html>

<http://www.apple.com/accessibility/iphone/vision.html> These two sites provide resources on the accessibility features of the iPod and iPad.

<http://conleysolutions.com/wordpress/> This developer has created apps for his son who has CP and CVI. A new app (Tap Speak Button) is similar to a BigMack.

<http://proloquo2go.com/resources/article/introductory-videos> This site provides a number of introductory videos covering the basic features of Proloquo2Go, an app that turns an iPod and an iPad into a communication device.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRA3NaYMARM> This is a video of ShapeWriter, a writing app that contains word prediction. A free version and purchased version are available.

http://wayneatrc.weebly.com/uploads/4/2/0/2/4202735/app_list_table.xls This link provides titles and descriptions of numerous apps that can be used in education. Apps are categorized by accessibility, art, communication, math, productivity, reading, songs, and writing.

<http://bit.ly/dotsba> - <http://tinyurl.com/2bc9f6y> Educational Uses for the Livescribe Pulse Smartpen