

ALTEC NEWSLETTER



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Social Bookmarking

Discover the latest trend on the Web!

Have you ever been away from your computer and seen or heard about a great Web site and wished you could bookmark it? Have you ever been away from home and wished you could remember a site you'd bookmarked at home? Social Bookmarking is the latest trend designed to solve just that problem.

Social Networking Web sites such as Delicious.com allow you to store your bookmarks online so that you can have access to them from any computer with an Internet connection. Not only do you have access to your own bookmarks but you can also see what other people are bookmarking to find new great sites over almost any subject.

Organizing a long list of bookmarks can be a challenge. At Delicious.com when you save a bookmark you assign it a "tag" or descriptive word, and bookmarks with the same "tag" are placed in the same collection. If you want the Web site to appear in two collections simply give it two tag names, such as "video" and "lessons," or you can even combine tags to appear on the same page. The great thing is, there is also a searchable database that allows you to view other people's site lists that have the same tag. So if you search for "math lessons," for example, you will find all of the links that others have tagged "math lessons."

Another important feature in Social Bookmarking is that you can share your bookmark lists with other people. First you create a free account, then you can share your list of sites with friends and even connect to other lists of friends who may come across great sites that you'd like to see. This is a great way to keep up with the best new sites on the Web. Listed below are a couple of sites that many teachers are using to collect their favorite sites:

Delicious

<http://delicious.com/>

Portaportal

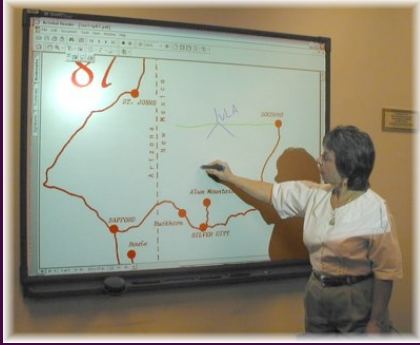
<http://www.portaportal.com/>

iKeepbookmarks

<http://ikeepbookmarks.com/>

Membership is free so sign up today!

Great ideas for using the technology you have ...and Web sites to inspire you



These days schools are making the most of the technology they have by finding great lesson ideas online. Some of the more popular technologies such as smartboards, digital cameras, and of course computers are virtually all you need to turn an ordinary lesson into an extraordinary lesson that keeps your students actively involved in the learning experience. This month we wanted to share some innovative Web sites that are packed with lesson ideas to help inspire new uses for the technology you already have.

SMARTBOARDS

(insert pictures from Doug's article)
Interactive Smartboards are some of the most popular items to use in classrooms all over the world. Teachers continue to develop wonderful lessons that incorporate the Smartboard into the classroom in creative ways. Listed below are some Web sites with resources that might in-

spire you to do something new using the Smartboard in your classroom.

Whiteboard Resources

<http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/15.cfm>

This Web site has wonderful, highly engaging interactive activities that are great for demonstrating concepts using your Whiteboard. The activities are divided into math, science, English and other subjects.

Smartboards in Elementary Classrooms

<http://my-ecoach.com/online/webresourcelist.php?rld=6128>

This is a list of online activities used by Missouri eMINTS teachers and found to be beneficial for use in elementary classrooms. You will find lessons on communication art, math and community building as well as links to Web sites that contain downloadable lesson plans on many subjects.

Engage Learners the Smartboard Way

<http://eduscapes.com/sessions/smartboard/>

This Web site contains links to highly interactive Web sites that can be used to introduce concepts using the Smartboard in the classroom. The site is divided into Elementary, Secondary/Middle, and Subject Area. You will find interactive sites for reading, writing, math, social studies, P.E., communications, and fine arts.

BrainPOP

<http://www.brainpop.com/>

BrainPop is an award-winning subscription-based online resource that is used by more than one million educators each month. BrainPOP contains animated, curriculum-based content to help teachers teach content in grades 3 and up. BrainPop Jr. is also available for grades K-3. BrainPOP is used by teachers to introduce new content, explain complex subject matter, and review before tests. Along with a free trial to

BrainPOP, teachers can also join BrainPOP Educator, a completely free new resource that contains lesson plans, video tutorials, classroom tools, state standards, and more. BrainPOP Educator is free and does not require a subscription to BrainPOP.

Explorelearning

<http://explorelearning.com>

Gizmos are interactive online learning simulations for math grades 6-12 and science grades 3-12. Gizmos are aligned with all state standards and are making a great impact on student learning. There are several Gizmos available to try out for free as well as testimonials and research demonstrating the success of this valuable resource. A free 30-day trial is available that provides full access to more than 400 Gizmos so you can determine if this program is right for your school.

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Digital cameras are another extremely popular item being used in classrooms. Digital cameras are so versatile they can be used to take pictures to enhance almost any report or project. Students can take pictures of a field trip and then create a virtual field trip online, document growth of a classroom plant or pet, illustrate writing projects, showcase student work online, and much more. Listed below are some

sites that can help you find new ideas for using digital cameras in your classroom.

Using a Digital Camera in the Classroom

<http://terpconnect.umd.edu/~toh/image/DigitalCameraUses.htm>

This site contains several project ideas for using the digital camera in science, language arts, social studies, special education, and more. It also contains links to other Web sites that have wonderful examples of student projects.

Using a Digital Camera in the Elementary Classroom

<http://www.edzone.net/~mwestern/pix.html>

This site contains a list of several innovative project ideas that can be used in the elementary classroom. It also has great ideas for teachers to use digital cameras to create correspondence cards for parents, document bulletin boards, create student portfolios and more.

Quick! Get the Digital Camera!

http://www.educationworld.com/a_tech/tech/tech148.shtml

This article from Education World contains 24 great ideas for using the digital camera in K-12 classrooms. You will also read interviews with award-winning schools who share ideas for using the digital camera to create innovative classroom projects. In addition, there are links to their

school projects that are sure to inspire you to use your digital camera in the classroom.

COMPUTER

If you don't have a smartboard or a digital camera, don't despair! These days a computer with an Internet connection is virtually all you need to enhance a lesson. Listed below are some wonderful free resources that thousands of teachers use in their classrooms every day.

Arcademic Skill Builders

<http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/>

Arcademic Skill Builders are online educational games that teach basic math, language arts, vocabulary, and thinking skills. Inspired by arcade games, teachers are realizing that their students become highly motivated and extremely focused in a challenging game environment and that focus provides an excellent opportunity to learn. Visit the site and read about the success teachers are seeing in improving test scores using Arcademic Skill Builders educational games.

TrackStar

<http://trackstar.4teachers.org>

Create a guided online lesson in minutes using TrackStar. If your students are studying the Constitution, for example, TrackStar allows you to collect your list of Web

sites, questions and instructions all on one page so that the student can complete the assignment and stay on task. This resource is free to use and currently contains a searchable database of over 100,000 lessons already created by teachers all over the world. Use an existing lesson or create your own!

Teacher Tacklebox

<http://4teachers.org/intech/lessons/>

Find high-quality Webquests, Thinkquests, TrackStar lessons, and links to great resources for math, science, social studies, art, language, agriculture, communication and more. Save

yourself hours of time looking for great sites, because the research has been done for you!

Education World – Great Sites for Teaching

http://www.educationworld.com/a_sites/

This site is an archive of all of the featured Great Sites for Teaching in Education World. Find Web sites on history, arts, language arts, health, technology, P.E., and more. It also contains articles with collections of sites based on timely themes. You are sure to find terrific resources for your classroom here.

Stuff for Classroom Teachers

<http://www.edzone.net/~mwestern/stuff.html>

This Web site is filled with valuable teaching resources to use when teaching reading, science, math, social studies, fine arts, communications, and keyboarding. There are technology tutorials, online teacher tools, handouts, smart-board activities and much more!

We hope these pages serve to inspire you to try new things with technology in your classroom. In the coming months we will feature more technology rich resources.

Need teacher training? We can help!

ALTEC Professional Development



Listed below are the online and onsite sessions we currently offer:

ONSITE SESSIONS

An LCD Projector in the Classroom
An Interactive Whiteboard in the Classroom
The Power of Video-based Learning
Math Illustrated: Using Geometer's Sketchpad
Advanced Microsoft Office
Creative Thinking Skills Using Handhelds
Strategic Technology Planning
Technology Integration Academy
Podcasting: Educational Applications
Custom Staff Inservice Days

ONLINE SESSIONS

Online Project Based Learning
Online Inspiration, Kidspiration, Kidpix
Online Interactive Whiteboard Intensive
Online Annenberg Math Resources
Online Microsoft Access

Please visit the ALTEC Professional Development Web site at <http://pd.altec.org> for complete details. An ALTEC representative will be happy to assist you with pricing, registration, and custom training options.



Conference Calendar

Meet ALTEC Staff at these Upcoming Conferences!

TCEA

Texas Computer Education Association

Date: February 2-6, 2009

Location: Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX

Web site: <http://www.tcea.org/convention/2009/>

KSDE Annual Conference

Kansas State Department of Education

Date: April 30 & May 1, 2009

Location: Hyatt Regency and Century II Convention Complex, Wichita, KS

Web site:

<http://conferences.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2762>

TechNet

Date: March 12, 2009

Location: Raymore-Peculiar High School, Peculiar, MO

Web site:

<http://education.umkc.edu/kcrpdc/technetconf09.pdf>

MACE

Mid-America Association for Computers in Education

Date: March 5-6, 2009

Location: Kansas State University Alumni Center, Manhattan, KS

Web site:

<http://www.mace-ks.org/maceconference.htm>

RCET-SW

Southwest Education and Technology Conference 2009

Date: March 3-4, 2009

Location: Missouri State University, Springfield, MO

Web site:

<http://associations.missouristate.edu/RCET/conference.htm>

NECC 2009

National Educational Computing Conference

Date: June 28-July 1, 2009

Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

Web site:

<http://center.uoregon.edu/ISTE/NECC2009/>

ALTEC PROVIDES SERVICES TO SUPPORT YOUR EXISTING PROJECTS

If you have an existing or proposed project, ALTEC can develop and host your Web site, support your online community with discussion boards, set up your video conference, or custom-design a software application to meet your needs. Propose stronger projects and programs using ALTEC's over 15 years of expertise in educational technology, special needs, professional development, and evaluation. Please call us at 785 864 0699 to set up a free consultation. We're happy to assist you with all your technology needs.

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