

Cool Tools for Educators

KSDC/KASCD Fall Conference 2009

Staff Development Resources:

1. **Custom Guide:** Great free quick reference user guides for Microsoft Office applications (PC & Mac), Adobe products, and other software. http://www.customguide.com/quick_references.htm
2. **Academic Earth:** Founded to provide a user-friendly educational ecosystem that will give internet users around the world the ability to easily find, interact with, and learn from full video courses and lectures from the world's leading scholars. <http://www.academicearth.org/>
3. **TED:** TED is a small nonprofit devoted to "Ideas Worth Spreading". It started out (in 1984) as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment, Design. <http://www.ted.com/>
4. **ForaTV:** A collection of unmediated videos drawn from live events, lectures, and debates going on all the time at the world's top universities, think tanks and conferences. ForaTV presents big-idea content for anyone to watch, interact with, and share. <http://fora.tv/>
5. **Edutopia:** George Lucas Foundation site that contains a deep archive of continually updated best practices, from classroom tips to recommendations for district wide change.
6. **Teacher Training Videos:** This site actually has some interesting help videos on technology and instructional topics. <http://www.teachertrainingvideos.com/>
7. **Common Craft Videos:** Short and simple videos using paper cutouts to explain a variety of concepts, technologies, and topics. <http://www.commoncraft.com/videos>

Web2.0:

1. **GlogsterEdu:** The new [Glogster](http://www.glogster.com/) is hosted separately from the commercial version of Glogster thereby eliminating links to Glogs (multimedia collages) containing questionable content hosted the commercial version of Glogster. <http://edu.glogster.com/>
2. **Go2Web20:** One stop shopping for any and every Web 2.0 tool on the web---an exhaustive list of web applications. <http://beta.go2web20.net/>

Collaboration/Communication Tools:

1. Two tools for file sharing and collaboration: Google Docs & <http://drop.io/>
2. Scribblar: a free, simple service designed for creative, real-time collaboration. <http://www.scribblar.com/>
3. **WallWisher:** A wall is basically the 'web page' where people actually post messages. <http://www.wallwisher.com/>

Online Publishing:

1. **Issuu:** Issuu is a web-based digital publishing platform. Users can create digital editions such as magazines, books, catalogs, reports, and more simply by uploading their publications. <http://issuu.com/>
2. **Lulu:** Lulu has helped change the world of publishing by empowering authors to publish their work themselves for free with complete editorial and copyright control. Using Lulu's simple publishing tools, authors format and upload digital content. Lulu's 80/20-revenue split empowers authors to profit from their work. <http://www.lulu.com>

Instructional Aides:

1. **Wolfram/Alpha:** Enter your question or calculation and Wolfram|Alpha uses its built-in algorithms and a growing collection of data to compute the answer. The goal of this search engine's creator, Stephen Wolfram, is to "make all systematic knowledge immediately computable".
<http://www.wolframalpha.com/screencast/introducingwolframalpha.html>
2. **ThatQuiz:** Online quizzes for math and a few other subjects.
<http://www.thatquiz.org/>
3. **HippoCampus:** HippoCampus is a project of the Monterey Institute for Technology and Education (MITE). The goal of HippoCampus is to provide high-quality, multimedia content on general education subjects to high school and college students free of charge.
<http://www.hippocampus.org/>
4. **ReadWriteThink:** High quality practices and resources in reading and language arts instruction. This site has a great deal to offer.
<http://www.readwritethink.org/index.asp>
5. **WIZIQ:** Conduct live online classes, create and share tests, and more using this free tool. <http://www.wiziq.com/>
6. **Jenny Eather:** Jenny has created a writing site and a math site that make me wonder why they are free. The writing site, <http://www.writingfun.com>, contains interactive writing activities and examples and printables. The math site, <http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com/>, is also interactive and addresses virtually any math term students might encounter.

Productivity Tools:

1. In place of Microsoft Office, use Google Docs or Open Office (<http://why.openoffice.org/index.html>)
2. **Aviary:** Online tool similar to Photoshop, but free! <http://aviary.com/>
3. **Photoshop.com:** Nice tool for storing, editing and sharing images that includes some of Photoshop's popular editing features---minus the learning curve. <http://www.photoshop.com>

Grants/Funding:

1. **Digital Wish:** Digital Wish is a non-profit site that matches educators with donors in an effort to "put technology in the hands of teachers to inspire children and prepare today's students for tomorrow". <http://www.digitalwish.com/dw/digitalwish/home>
2. **Target Fieldtrip Grants:** <https://targetfieldtripgrants.target.com/>
3. **Donors Choose:** Match up with donors willing to support the needs of educators and the children they teach. <http://www.donorschoose.org/>

Video Creation & Conversion Tools:

1. **Animoto:** An easy to use free web-based video creation service. (Unlike PhotoStory3, video and digital images can be uploaded to create the finished video. <http://animoto.com/>)
2. **KickYouTube:** To convert a YouTube video to an MP4 format, insert "kick" in place of the "www." in the URL. Then click the green "Go" button that appears on the right. Next, right click "Down" and select "Save Target As".
3. **Zamzar:** Copy a YouTube URL and then go to <http://www.zamzar.com> and select the 'video' tab. Paste the URL in the designated area and choose from a variety of converter format options. Type in your e-mail address and a link to the video file will be e-mailed to you.
4. **Jing:** Free image & video capture tool. <http://jingproject.com/>

Misc:

1. **Microsoft Windows Movie Maker Live:** Online Movie Maker version. (Windows 7 will not include Windows Movie Maker.)
<http://download.live.com/moviemaker>
2. **Simple Assessment:** Free technology skill assessment tool for students and/or staff. <http://simpleassessment.com>

But wait, there's more.....So many sites, so little time! Below are a few other sites that I find interesting or useful for you to explore in your 'spare' time. Enjoy! And, if you know of some great tools and resources that you are willing to share, please send them my way! Lisa

1. <http://www.teachingtips.com/blog/2008/07/21/50-useful-blogging-tools-for-teachers/>
2. <http://www.capitolwords.org/>
3. <http://www.mystudiyo.com/>
4. <http://revision3.com/tekzilla/>
5. <http://www.secretbuilders.com/>
6. <http://fonolo.com/consumer>
7. <http://www.digizen.org/>
8. <http://illuminations.nctm.org/Lessons.aspx>
9. <http://www.soungle.com/>
10. <http://www.chalkbored.com/lessons/chemistry-11.htm>
11. <http://supalogo.com/>
12. <http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/>
13. <http://www.schoolforge.net/education-software/educational>
14. <http://www.toolsforeducators.com/>
15. <http://www.learningpage.com/>
16. <http://www.educationcreations.com/freestuff.htm>
17. <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
18. <http://supalogo.com/>
19. <http://www.worksheetworks.com/>
20. <http://www.lovelycharts.com/>