

Media & Learning News

The School Education Gateway: sharing knowledge and opportunities



[School Education Gateway](#) is a new pan-European website by the European Commission which has been created for teachers, educators and school staff to get them interested in the European action for schools and to support the Erasmus+ Programme. The website provides an opportunity to share knowledge about relevant professional development courses, mobility opportunities and interesting partnership proposals for joint projects. All the activities shown on the website are expected to be coherent with the Erasmus+ objectives and standards. The tools available on the website are featured in specific webinars: the next one in the series will be held on 24 February 2015, at 15:00 (CET).

Flip Your Class Online Course

Russell Stannard regularly organises both online and face-to-face training workshops for teachers who want to use media and video in their classroom. His next online workshop "Teacher Training Videos - Flip Your Class with SNAGIT" will take place on February 17 at 19.00 (CET). This is a good start-up session to



become acquainted with a simple and reliable tool to flip your classrooms or to blend learning and teaching by making video content. The workshops are short (1 hour), intensive sessions and cost very little. To participate in the training all that is needed is a good internet connection, headphones and a computer with a browser. Russell is an experienced teacher trainer and previous keynote speaker at the Media & Learning Conference. The workshop is limited to 15 places. For more information, click [here](#).

News-O-Matic: a daily newspaper for children



News-O-Matic is a product by Press4Kids, a publisher of daily news applications for young children made by journalists, educators and entrepreneurs. The main aim of the team is to provide children with

daily information about current news and world events, in order to inspire them and get them used to keeping up-to-date with what happens in the world. News-O-Matic is an exciting educational tool in the way that it combines literacy, fun, reading opportunities, and gamification to produce an engaging and interactive learning experience. You can read more on the [website](#).

Open Education new eLearning Paper

The [40th issue](#) of the Open Education eLearning Papers is now out entitled Assessment, Certification, and Quality Assurance in Open Learning. Covering the main open learning initiatives that have been taking place in recent years, this issue addresses how deep changes in society, working life and technology have been changing and "opening" education, and how this process needs to be



further implemented in the future in order to achieve the best results. Open learning has been introduced in many educational systems throughout Europe, and in the coming years it will be important to evaluate its actual benefits, focusing on the assessment and quality dimensions of open learning initiatives.

SjarabangTV - Empowering the disabled to use media for expression

Mediawijs.be, the Flemish Centre of Expertise on Media Literacy, recently presented the projects it has been supporting over the last year. The four successful projects carried out by the media industry and user community at large, are "Sharing is Caring? - Care to share",



"SjarabangTV", "Mediawijze verhalen" and "Hit the City". Leo Van Audenhove, director of Mediawijs.be introduced these four projects that demonstrate how creative and inclusive methods and tools, help people to acquire new skills and competences to use media and social media. A particularly relevant project is SjarabangTV, by Thomas More and Sjarabang vzw. SjarabangTV is an online TV-channel and learning trajectory for people with disabilities. Students from Thomas More Hogeschool Mechelen and professional video producers help the disabled to create webisodes both as a report of the project and as a means of expression. One of the interesting and transferable results will be a production bible that can help other organisations that are also working critically and consciously with media to empower the disabled to express themselves. More info [here](#).

University of Bournemouth Short Media Courses in March



The Media School, University of Bournemouth, just announced its list of March short courses, scheduled to start on 20-21 March, application deadline 3 March 2015. Courses include amongst others #SocialTV (Social Media & Broadcasting) which examines the relationship

between social media and traditional broadcasting (Radio and TV), Digital Storytelling for Journalists (Web 2.0 technologies for multi-media, Media Education (for teachers at all levels) and Strategic Marketing in the Media. For more detailed information about content, cost and presenters, visit the [course site](#) where you will find also more info about funding opportunities and the full range of over 60 short courses designed specifically for creative and media professionals, as well as educators and educational researchers.

Winner announced for ECFA Award 2015

The winner of the ECFA Awards 2015 has been announced: the Best European Children's Film of



the Year is *Mother I love you*, directed by Janis Nords. The European Children's Film Association (ECFA) brings together people interested in producing and promoting high quality films for children and young people. The winner of this year's edition has been chosen from 9 titles, shortlisted from 9 different children's festivals that have taken place around Europe during the last year. The Award Ceremony took place on February 7 in Berlin, during the International Berlinale Film Festival. You can read more [here](#).

Featured Articles

Media and information literacy (MIL) at UNESCO

By Georges Boade, UNESCO



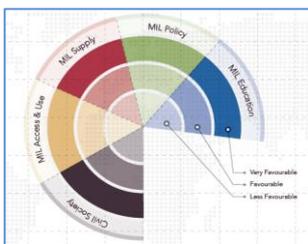
Georges Boade

The purpose of this article is to present the [UNESCO Global MIL assessment framework](#), to explain why MIL is important and the rationale for priority given to teachers.

The rapid development of ICTs has increased the number of data sources citizens have access to, and the amount of information they need to process in order to take informed decisions on a daily basis. To describe the world we live in, volume, velocity and

variety are the 3Vs that characterize big data. This reality is present at home, in public places, schools and work places, implying that all citizens need to develop new skills to function properly in these knowledge and information societies. They need to be able to perform basic operations through a diverse range of media, such as banking and shopping online, evaluating quality information, creating messages and information that can be sent through mobile phone, internet and other platforms, processing data received from different media platforms.

Lifelong learning and media and information literacy for all citizens are promoted by UNESCO. To date, a set of frameworks has been published that include: MIL curriculum for teachers (2011), ICT competency for teachers (2012); and recently in 2013, MIL policy and strategy guidelines as well as the Global MIL assessment framework. UNESCO also promotes freedom of expression and media pluralism. Through its International programme for the development of communication, media development assessments have been conducted in more than 40 countries, together with the establishment of community media. The [UNESCO Institute for Statistics](#) (UIS) has designed a survey to collect global media statistics. Country profiles for more than 50 countries are available.



UNESCO defines MIL as a set of competencies that empowers citizens to access, retrieve, understand, evaluate and use, create, as well as share information and media content in all formats, using various tools, in a critical, ethical and effective way, in order to participate and engage in personal,

professional and societal activities. The framework is a two tiered approach based on context and individuals' competency levels. Contextual data (tier 1) are then necessary in order to understand emerging differences among individuals MIL profiles, to identify equity issues (gender, zone of residence, education), and to provide information that can explain differences between countries (Media and information in education, MIL policy, Media and information supply, Media and information access and use, and Civil society).

Tier 2 is about individual competencies and includes three components (access, evaluation and creation), 12 competencies and 113 performance criteria that should be adapted to country needs and policy priorities. Finally, there are several reasons UNESCO prioritizes teachers in service and in training. For example, a favourable environment creates new

opportunities and demands for new products and services provided by media or information providers for educational purposes; an enabling environment on MIL for teachers will enable them to provide quality education to their students that integrate 21st century skills; and a MIL competent teacher is likely to develop techno pedagogy competencies. The current Global UNESCO MIL assessment framework includes a model background/contextual questionnaire. Development of a bank of items for tier 2 is an ongoing effort.

Georges was one of the speakers at the last Media & Learning [conference](#) held in Brussels on 20-21 November 2014.

EDIT2014 - Educational Video Challenge: A Finnish, Austrian and German Video Pedagogy Collaboration

By Janne Länsitie and Blair Stevenson, Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Finland

The [EDIT2014 - Educational Video Challenge](#) was a joint event established by the Oulu University of Applied Sciences in Finland and the Pädagogische Hochschule Oberösterreich in Austria in cooperation with the Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz, Germany. The event took place in



Blair Stevenson



Janne Länsitie

November 2014 and was organised as a 72 hour, hackathon-style educational experience in which university-level students worked together in teams to create educational videos. During the Challenge, educational videos were created simultaneously in all three locations, with a joint, online screening at the conclusion of the event. The objective of the Challenge event was to encourage teacher students to explore the design and use of educational videos for use in their teaching practice. In total, 129 students participated in the Challenge event from Finland (45 students), Austria (76 students), and Germany (8 students). Videos were co-created during the event in teams of students. For the purposes of the Challenge, submission criteria were: videos had to be maximum five minutes in length; videos were to be useful to a teacher to support instruction at any level (elementary, secondary or tertiary education) and in any subject; and students could use any form of technology to create the video (e.g. mobile devices or video cameras).

Since the EDIT2014 event was established as a competition-style 'challenge', a panel of judges made up of individuals working within the field of education and film were brought together in Finland, Austria and Germany to assess the video submissions. Overall, submissions were wide-ranging in content, with a majority being either instructional videos or trigger videos. While videos were assessed according to their educational, technical and creative quality, the selection process highlighted the use of multiple definitions relating to an educational video based in large part on the varying professional backgrounds of judges. In response to positive feedback from participants and a growing interest from universities across Europe, the event is expanding and EDIT2015 is already





being planned. It will be held November 30 – December 2, 2015. For more information or if you would like to get involved, please contact either [Janne Länsitie](#) or [Blair Stevenson](#).

Using Open Media Archives

By Theo Kuechel, Education Consultant, UK

Do you, or teachers that you know, search for free online resources such as images, video or audio files that you can use without breaching Copyright? Open media archives offer teachers tremendous opportunities for bringing unique material to the classroom not only for the purposes of illustration but also as a resource that can be used in a variety of different and creative ways. Many Museums and Archives are now making digital resources available



Theo Kuechel

in the Public Domain, or using Creative Commons licences, for example the British Library has recently uploaded over one million images to Flickr Commons and 2.3 million images from the Internet Archive book collection have also been added to the Commons. These are already generating worldwide interest, as visitors to the sites play and explore new and exciting uses for them. On a topical note, many schools will have participated in the recent World War 1 commemorations, and for them, the recent increase in digitisation has been a godsend, with various web archives offering a rich choice of images and videos relating to this period in history. A good example is this [contemporaneous film](#) illustrating the outbreak of WW1 from a German perspective. We might ask, how does this compare with the British viewpoint as presented in the media at the time?



Of course, media archives are not just about History, and they can be used in ways that go way beyond simply illustrating an idea or concept, especially if they are included in learning frameworks and designs. If they are

available under open licenses, such as those proved by Creative Commons, digital media assets can be adapted and developed by teachers and students to create new learning resources and artefacts. Indeed teachers can use them in all sorts of creative and innovative ways to enhance their teaching and learning across all curriculum areas through:

- discovery of resources that can be used freely and safely in all curriculum areas
- teaching research skills through contextual analysis
- enabling our world today to be viewed through a historical and cultural lens
- facilitating curation, metadata and tagging skills
- encouraging critical thinking

Although it may not seem obvious at first, media archives are also highly relevant for the study of computing - they can:

- foster digital literacy through engagement with online media

- develop computational thinking through a systematic analysis of digital artefacts
- offer a context for ICT and Computing capability, coding and web skills
- facilitate remixing, repurposing and sharing digital media
- help educators and students gain a practical and usable understanding of Copyright and IP, an area often overlooked in schools.

Such resources can also encourage students to develop higher-order thinking and analytical skills; for example what have old ships logs got to do with climate change?

In October 2014 I launched a project that offers a great deal of guidance and advice in using open content and media archives for learning. Specifically aimed at the schools sector [The Open Content Toolkit](#) includes categorised and curated links to some of millions of free and open media resources including images, maps, video and audio files. These are drawn from both contemporary and historical media archives and collections from around the world. The toolkit also includes exemplars of how open digital content might be used in lessons, including computing and coding, together with suggested resources for in depth study. I introduced the toolkit at the Media and Learning Conference in Brussels last November, for those who did not attend the conference, or participated in another session, I am very pleased to share my [slides on slideshare](#) with you. I would also invite anyone interested to join our growing community of educators using the site.

Tools of the Trade Get Pro Tools First free!

By Mathy Vanbuel, ATiT, Belgium

A completely free version of industry-standard digital audio workstation software Pro Tools will be available soon, sign up on the Pro Tools [website](#) to be alerted when you can download your own free fully working copy. Pro Tools First is highly



sophisticated, and yet simple enough even for beginners, it allows you to compose, record, edit, and mix music and sound tracks for all purposes: music recording, mixing and even composing (virtually), video and film post production, soundscapes for web, games etc. Pro Tools records up to 16 audio tracks, either one at a time through your computer's audio input, or up to four inputs simultaneously via a USB audio interface. It has preloaded instrument tracks in a variety of music genres and even enables you to compose a soundtrack entirely with virtual instruments and music synthesizer, enhance your sound, change pitch or pace, edit, remix, or clean up audio tracks, add effects, sound processors, you name it. New is also the possibility to save sessions in the cloud, enabling the sound engineer to work practically anywhere. This feature has limited capacity in the free version. We are looking forward to see how this move from one of the biggest players in professional digital audio will shape up in the coming weeks.



Resources of the Month

This section includes a selection of resources from the [Media & Learning Resources Database](#).

- [TES Teaching Resources](#) Over 800,000 free teaching resources (lesson plans, classroom materials, revision guides, curriculum worksheets, etc.) to use in your classroom and school. 
- [Public Domain](#) A repository of multimedia contents and creative works free from any copyright restrictions. It is a project by Pond5 and all the resources are free. 
- [Educator Labs](#) A project which aims to bridge the gap between teachers and high quality resources available online. 
- [Teaching Ideas](#) A repository where teachers can find thousands of free lesson ideas, activities and videos which they can use in their classroom. 

MEDEA News

M&L webinars scheduled up to June 2015



The Media & Learning webinar series on Lecture Capture and Video Use in Higher Education continues: the next one, *Defining the market: trends for products and interactivity*, is going to take place on March 12 at 15:00 (CET). Visit the M&L Association

website to check [the entire list of webinars](#) scheduled from today until June 2015. You will also find the recordings of the first two webinars of this year: *New assessment strategies for the media-rich class* and *The creation of videos to support students' learning*. Stay tuned!

Pre-conference workshop videos available

The workshop "Get in the Picture: Innovative Use of Video in Higher Education" took place in Brussels on 19 November 2014, right before the Media & Learning Conference 2014. The workshop aimed at bringing together some of the most innovative practitioners involved in providing video services in European Higher Education Institutions to discuss and exchange experiences, highlight collective challenges and explore opportunities for collaboration. Videos and presentations from the event are now available [here](#).

Related Awards Schemes & Events

Opencast Community Conference in Manchester, 25 - 27 March

The [Opencast Community](#) brings together individuals and higher education organisations in order to identify, share and develop expertise

and experience in the use of audio-visual contents in education. As it promotes broad participation in this innovative domain, the Community has



organised a Conference on Academic Video and Lecture Capture that will take place on 25 - 27 March at the University of Manchester.

Jeunes, Médias et diversités in Brussels, 2 - 3 April



The conference *Jeunes, médias et diversités* will take place in Brussels on 2- 3 April. It is organised by the *Centre d'études sur les jeunes et les médias* (Brussels), with the collaboration of *Media Animation* and the *Master on Media Education* (IHECS - Brussels), and it is aimed at examining the complex relationship existing between media, the way young people experience them and the role played by diversity in this experience. You can find more information about the event [here](#).

EDEN Conference in Barcelona, 9 - 12 June

Expanding learning scenarios is the title of this year's EDEN Conference that will take place in Barcelona in June. The rapid spread of technologies, the growth of their demand and use and the development of research and practices in the field of media education have all substantially changed the landscape of learning. The main aim of EDEN 2015 is to discuss how the academic and professional international community can improve their understanding of this new, continuously changing learning scenario. You can learn more [here](#).



The Future of Education in Florence, 11 - 12 June



[The Future of Education](#) is a conference that promotes international collaboration and the sharing of best practices in the field of innovation for education. The 5th edition is taking place in Florence in June, and will bring together teachers, researchers and representatives from different educational institutions to share findings and expertise about innovative ways of teaching and learning. The conference is also a good opportunity to present previous and current educational projects.

ECTC 2015 in Brighton, 1-5 July

The [European Conference on Technology in the Classroom](#) (ECTC) is an international and interdisciplinary conference organised by the



International Academic Forum (IAFOR) which brings together academics and practitioners to discuss new directions of research and discovery in education. This year, it will afford the opportunity for renewing old acquaintances, making new contacts and networking across higher education and beyond. The abstract submission deadline is March 1, the one for speakers' registration is June 1.

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