Media & Learning News

April 2012 Issue

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US report on emerging technologies

The NMC Horizon Report 2012 Higher Education Edition is a collaborative effort between the NMC and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI). This ninth edition describes annual findings from the NMC Horizon Project, a decade-long research project designed to identify and describe emerging technologies likely to have an impact on learning, teaching, and creative inquiry in higher education. Six emerging technologies are identified across three adoption horizons over the next one to five years, as well as key trends and challenges expected to continue over the same period, giving campus leaders and practitioners a valuable guide for strategic technology planning.

Online access to great educational video from TED-Ed?

The recent launch of TED-Ed is creating a lot of interest. Inspired by the Khan Academy, this initiative aims to capture and amplify the voices of great educators around the world. Based on the relatively simple idea of offering tools to teachers to capture and distribute their best lessons on video and teaming up these teachers with animators - this initiative could provide terrific learning material. As always - the devil is going to be in the detail as the initiators get to grip with the specifications and requirements of real learners, can they move beyond the superficial to provide really effective learning resources? Start the journey here on the brand new TED-Ed YouTube channel.

Teachers and trainers from 5 countries take part in video workshop

12 teachers and trainers from Finland, Romania, UK, Ireland and Italy took part in the March 2012 edition of the training course, "Using Video to Support Lifelong Learning". This week-long residential training course which is organised by ATiT and takes place in Leuven is aimed at educational practitioners who would like to find out more about creating and using video materials to support their work. During the week, participants worked in teams to create their own 3-minute educational video clip which were then presented to an invited audience on Friday 23 March. You can find out more about these courses here. The next edition of this course takes place in July, meanwhile if you wish to take part in the October course and to be funded by your national Lifelong Learning Programme Agency, you should apply as soon as possible.

Workshop in Spain on creating your own video

A large number of Spanish kindergarten teachers who were new to the use of video in the classroom took part in a workshop organised recently by CECE in Madrid on 22-24 March 2012. This workshop, entitled 'How to create and upload videos for educational purposes involved Steven Ronsijn from Sint-Lievenscollege Gent (Belgium), the MEDEA Jury Special Award Winner in 2008 with the entry Anti-anti. During the workshop, participants worked in teams to create their own video clips – you can see samples and a report on the workshop here.

Workshop in France on web documentaries

A team from Vidéoscop - Université de Lorraine (formally Université Nancy 2) in collaboration with the DTU AUNEGE organised a very successful workshop on designing and using a web documentary as a learning resource in Paris on 15-16 March. This workshop included online preparation and a day and half of face-to-face workshop sessions during which 23 lecturers and staff from ICT and audio-visual departments in French universities worked in groups to design a scenario for a web documentary on the theme 'men/women' and to then realise their scenario using a basic authoring tool. Input from MEDEA finalist Marion Stevens from the Dutch Open University formed part of the programme when Marion spoke about her experience of making the documentary "Amy Roloff".

Good advice on using narrative to improve podcasts

The Online Journalism Blog publishes comments and analysis on developments in online journalism and online news and recently published some sound advice on how to borrow narrative techniques used by journalists to engage listeners. It highlights the value of hooking listeners with a good story at the start, then using different techniques to bring the story up-to-date and finally at how style and structure can be used to add extra interest. The article provides examples and is a useful guide to anyone engaged on making educational podcasts.

Featured Articles

Building Virtual Exhibitions with Video from European Archives

By Mathy Vanbuel, ATiT, Belgium

The EUscreen project promotes the use of television content to explore Europe's rich and diverse cultural history. Up to now it has already created access to over 15,000 items of

Mathy Vanbuel

programme content and information originating from the rich archives of most European public broadcasters and audio-visual archives. The vast majority of EUscreen content has been selected to explore topics such as arts and culture, being European, disasters, education and so on.

During the last phase of this EU-funded project, an important new functionality has been added to the portal, a functionality that allows target users (in the first place researchers, content providers and educators) to curate content from the repository and to re-use this content in new and customised contexts. The Virtual Exhibition Builder has the following functions: it acts in the first place as a media library where it stores the media files the user has assigned to a Virtual Exhibition (VE), then there is the actual Editor of the media assets, and a publisher of the VE. A nice additional aspect is the facility to collaborate on a VE.

The editor allows setting up of VEs using different template views or lay outs. VE pages can contain (hyper)text and media (bookmarked items from the EUscreen repository: video, images, audio, PDF). Video clips that are added to the VE page, can further be edited or annotated: tags can be added to the video timeline to link it to text, the video itself can also be cut, a thumbnail for the video can be selected or a new name assigned. Text can be edited by adding links to text parts: links can be made with video tags or to an external website.

The way the virtual exhibition looks can be changed by using themes with different visual styles that can be customised. A credits page, which lists all the media files used in the virtual exhibition, is created automatically, with links to the original sources on the EUscreen portal. A page called Curator's Corner is created automatically for each exhibition, containing all the notes of the creators.

Editing and creating a virtual exhibition can be done together even at a distance: in the user collaboration view users can add members as collaborators. Specific access rights can be given to collaborators for example to edit the exhibition or to just view it. The Activity view lists activities of the members in your exhibition. You can see for example if someone has added new content on a page.

A preview function allows a visual check of the different pages before publishing. When you create an exhibition, it is set by default as "Private", meaning that only the creator and the collaborators who are part of the exhibition building team can access and view it. As soon as the status of the virtual exhibition is changed to "Public" the VE will appear on the Exhibitions page of the EUscreen portal. Virtual exhibitions are an easy to use tool for building classroom scenarios or for learner activities that involve re-use of archived video.

The Virtual Exhibition Builder is available at present for testing by teachers, artists and researchers: if you want to help EUscreen in evaluating and improving its tools, please contact news@media-and-learning.eu for a trial account.

Research meets schools with CSP@scuola

by Eleonora Pantò, CSP, Italy

The Italian organisation CSP has a long tradition of collaboration with schools: from "Growing up in Torino" a 1999 project for connecting fifty city schools using videoconference, to Dschola a regional network of secondary schools supporting innovative use of ICT.

Eleonora Pantò

Nowadays, the schools' infrastructures are almost deployed and CSP has decided to directly support the skills development of students in the fields of ICT, proposing real state-of-the-art applications to them. In addition, CSP is interested in working with young researchers, providing then with support for their theses and study grants.

CSP@scuola is a project devoted to the transfer of technological skills aimed at building real working prototypes ready for use. The initiative started in 2011, and has been developed by CSP, in collaboration with the Institute Fauser of Novara (IT). This project using distance tutoring creates a direct channel between the world of technological innovation and high schools.

In the first phase of the project, the researchers presented their different activities and students had the opportunity to choose from a range of possible innovative topics. Participation in the project is voluntary and extra curriculum, but it will be evaluated and included in the student portfolio.

The students decided to work on Connected TV and microUAV – Unmanned Aerial Vehicles – with the help of CSP researchers and their teachers. The second phase is theoretical, in which tutors prepared some video lessons and slides: over a period of two months, students asked questions and carried out exercises. In the third phase which has just begun, the tutors are offering new ideas and fostering the development of specific projects also in collaboration with local actors.

The training model is blended learning, through distance learning, in a continuous exchange of information based on a platform developed by CSP within the SVEA project – a platform designed with a social learning approach – and face-to-face meetings. Work is in progress and the presentation of results is expected in May.

The education materials are available with open licences on Slideshare - you can find them using the tag csp@scuola.

Resources of the Month

This section includes a selection of resources from the Media & Learning Resources Database.

- BrainNook, an online platform containing over a hundred educational games based on important concepts of Maths and English Grammar; elementary school children can play these

games while exploring colourful virtual worlds, safely competing and interacting with other children, and solving puzzles.

- Openculture, bringing together high-quality cultural and educational media for the worldwide lifelong learning community: free audio books, free online courses, free movies, free language lessons, free e-books and other contents.

- HyppoCampus, designed as part of Open Education Resources (OER) and including lots of educational resources, presentations and videos, about different topics: Math, Natural Science, Social Science and Humanities.

- Aviary, a free suite of online creative applications, from graphic design to audio editing, which can be used right in the web browser.

- Infinite Learning Lab - Learn with Professor Garfield, repository of fun animations on different topics: Life Skills (cyber-bullying, self-esteem, online safety, giving back, diversity….), English and Science.

MEDEA News

Call for input to Media & Learning Conference

You are invited to submit your ideas for this year's Media & Learning Conference, the closing date for receipt of suggestions is 1 June 2012. You can find out more and download the contribution form online.

The themes for this third edition of the Media & Learning Conference which takes place on 14-15 November 2012 in Brussels are:

- Mapping future trends and developments in media-enhanced learning in all sectors

- Boosting skills and competences in media production, use and re-use of media-enhanced content

- Tracking the importance of media literacy and wisdom as fundamental building blocks in the creation of innovative, inclusive and future-proof education and training

Contributions should address at least one of the 14 programme topics which you can view here.

This year, the Media & Learning Conference is part of the Creative Media Days initiative, organised by IBBT. Creative Media Days is a series of conferences at the crossroads of Media and ICT taking place in Belgium in November 2012.

So far two pre-conference events have been arranged for conference participants. The first is a half day visit to the Future Classroom Lab in Brussels which is a fully equipped, reconfigurable, teaching and learning space developed by European Schoolnet, its 30 supporting Ministries of Education and leading educational technology providers. The second event is a full day workshop on Lecture Capture which will feature both best practice demonstrations and a supplier round table discussion about future developments and trends. Registration is now open.

Entries now welcome for the 5th annual MEDEA Awards before 17 September 2012

The organisers of the MEDEA Awards have just opened this year's call for entries on the website. Teachers, students, academics, support staff, producers and anyone who produces audiovisual media to support learning, are invited to submit their materials to the MEDEA Awards competition via the website.

This year's main awards are the MEDEA Award for User-Generated Educational Media 2012 and the MEDEA Award for Professionally Produced Educational Media 2012. In addition, there will be a Special Prize for European Collaboration in the creation of Educational Media 2012 supported by the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme and a Special Prize for Educational Media Encouraging Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012 that is being organised in collaboration with the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations. An additional Special MEDEA Jury 2012 Prize may also be awarded at the discretion of the MEDEA Jury.

Entry forms are available in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Polish while entry materials are invited in any language. Entry to this competition is free and prizes of hardware and/or software will be awarded along with the MEDEA Statuette and commemorative medals.

All finalists will be invited to take part in the Media & Learning Conference 2012 in Brussels which includes the MEDEA Awards Ceremony. This conference is organised in collaboration with the Flemish Ministry of Education.

If you have an event where you would like to promote the MEDEA Awards, promotional leaflets are available in Bulgarian, Dutch, English, Estonian, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Romanian and Spanish. If you would like us to send you leaflets, please contact the secretariat.

Related Awards Schemes & Events

MILID Week 23-25 May in Barcelona

The Cabinet of Communication and Education of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona are organising Milid Week (Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue) on May 23-25 at the facilities of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). This event is sponsored by UNITWINN Cooperation Programme on Media and Information Literacy and Intercultural Dialogue (UNESCO - United Nations Alliance of Civilizations). It will promote contact and cooperation between international organisations, universities, media, associations, NGOs, research groups, researchers, teachers and students worldwide. It also aims to share the initiatives being undertaken in the field of media literacy and intercultural dialogue and open a space to create new ones, among other objectives. Find out more form the MILID website.

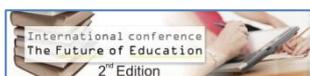### WebDox - Conference, exhibition and labs about Interactive Web Documentaries

MEDIA Desk in Flanders is organising a series of events about interactive web documentaries in Leuven at the end of April. This includes an exhibition that will be part of Docville held in Museum M in Leuven and labs and training sessions to explore this increasingly popular format. The conference takes place on 30 April and will provide an overview of the state-of-the-art of web documentaries and will explore questions like how can you ensure the interactivity of web documentaries and how do you integrate different media. More information (in Dutch) is available here.

DIVERSE Conference in Leuven

The 12th edition of DIVERSE will take place on 3-6 July in the arts centre STUK in Leuven, Belgium. The main goal of the conference is to enhance the use of visual media in teaching, learning and creative inquiry. The main theme of the 2012 conference will be 'Enrich the learning experience'. This theme sets the agenda for in-depth discussions, presentations and networking sessions on questions such as the enrichment of learning materials, the design of online and offline spaces that support teaching and learning, the use of digital media to reach out to elderly or people with special needs and the opportunities of information and communication technologies in the context of medical and health care education. Find out more from the conference website.

Future of Learning Conference Florence

The second edition of the International Future of Learning Conference will take place in Florence on 7 - 8 June. The aim of this conference is to promote the sharing of good practice and transnational cooperation in the application of innovative education and training strategies, methodologies and solutions. This conference also offers an excellent opportunity for the presentation of previous and current projects and innovative initiatives in the field of education. Amongst the topics addressed by this conference are Innovative Teaching and Learning Methodologies, Media Literacy Education, Learning Games and Art and Music Education. Find out more from the conference website.

Creative Media Days in Belgium

The Media & Learning Conference is part of the Creative Media Days initiative in Flanders this year organised by IBBT. This initiative takes place from 6 to 15 November 2012 and will investigate the role of ICT innovation in media, focusing on the creative possibilities and the emergence of new business models. During this series of conferences and workshops, participants will look into new business models, innovative technology and emerging platforms and applications. The idea is to combine multiple and diverse events attracting an audience that, though focused on a specific field of interest, also gets the opportunity to network with and learn from experts in other domains. To see the full range of events, visit the Creative Media Days website.

Why OER Matters video competition

Creative Commons, the U.S. Department of Education and the Open Society Institute have launched a video competition to highlight the potential of open educational resources. The competition will award cash prizes for the best short videos that explain the use and promise of free, high-quality open educational resources (OER) and describe the benefits and opportunities these materials create for teachers, students and schools. Video submissions are welcomed before 5 June and winners will be announced on 18 July. $25,000 will be awarded to the first prize winner, $5,000 for the second prize, and the winner of the Public Choice Award will receive $1,000. Find out more from the competition website.

Serious Games Conference in Belgium

The 3rd Edition of the Serious Games conference in Belgium will be held on 11 May in Louvain-la-Neuve. This event is a mix of demonstrations, discussions and cutting edge presentations with well-known games guru Marc Prensky as special guest speaker. As well as demonstrations there will be also be lots of promotional space for examples of serious games, examples of 'advergames' and plenty of opportunity for interaction and debate. To find out more, including how to register, visit the conference website (in French).

Contact information

For more information, to submit content or to unsubscribe from this newsletter, please contact:

Nikki Cortoos, Media & Learning News Editorial Team
Address: ATiT, Leuvensesteenweg 132, B-3370 Roosbeek, Belgium
Tel: +32 16 284 040, Fax: +32 16 223 743
E-mail: news@media-and-learning.eu
Website: http://news.media-and-learning.eu