



### Welcome to the November edition of the Media in Education Newsletter

October has been a very busy month for everyone involved in judging the MEDEA Awards, but after many emails, many phone calls and several last minute meetings, we managed to finalise the judging and select the 8 finalists who will be invited to come to Berlin at the beginning of December. You can read more about the finalists and the judging process later in this newsletter.

As well as news about the MEDEA finalists, this month's newsletter also contains news about an Irish film festival for schools, the much-awaited launch of the WatchKnow educational video service, the launch of a survey into the use of video in education and lots more to bring you up to date with what is happening in the educational media field. If you have any relevant new articles for us to share in this newsletter – send them to us and we will be delighted to include them here.

We hope you enjoy this edition and look forward to hearing from you.

Sally Reynolds and Nikki Cortoos

Editors

### Media in Education – News

#### Preservation of Audiovisual Heritage through Video Active Portal

[Video Active](#) provides access to European television heritage through an online, multilingual portal. The project reached its final stage in August after three years of development and now contains over 10,000 videos, photographs and articles. This collection will continue to grow. The renowned media artist and independent filmmaker [Péter Forgács](#) has used material from Video Active to create



a short documentary. By using footage from the different archives, Forgács gives a beautiful insight in the rich material available on Video Active. This documentary allows viewers to discover various aspects of European television history in a compelling form. This new work had its online premiere on October 27th, to celebrate the UNESCO World Day for the Preservation of the Audiovisual Heritage and is available [online](#).

#### 3D Video Becoming a Reality for Schools

Reporting in this month's [eSchool News](#), Meris Stansbury highlights the interest being taken in US schools for 3D video. Expecting that schools will be piloting new 3D video services within the next 12 months, Meris describes the way 3D video can be used to really enhance teaching in subjects like biology, maths and science.



This article goes on to describe some of the commercial players investing in technical developments in this area. In mainstream video production circles, 3D has moved from being a somewhat odd backwater of interest involving the use of different types of glasses to a hot topic with significant interest coming from the entertainment industry. So it is hardly surprising that the impact of this interest is now being felt in the education sector due in particular to the availability of high-end and relatively low-cost 3D technology beginning with the availability of 3D-capable projectors in the classroom.

#### University Hull Launches Video in Education Survey

Kevin Burden and his colleagues at the [University of Hull](#) have recently launched a survey into how educators (e.g. teachers, lecturers) select and use digital video clips in their teaching. Kevin makes the



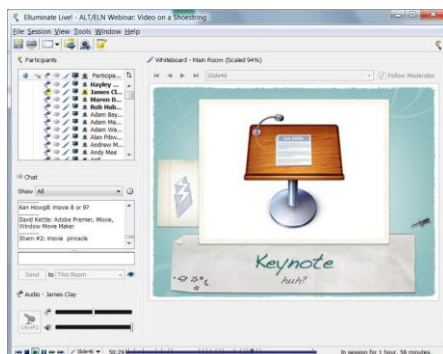
point that despite the fact that educators around the world are using video resources more and more often to support and enhance their teaching, little is known or understood about how they search and select video resources. The University of Hull has designed this survey to investigate how this happens and welcomes contributions from people working in all sectors and phases of education who use video clips in their teaching to complete the survey. The deadline for entries is 30th November and all those who take part will be entered into a free competition, the winner of this competition will receive a new Apple iPod Video Nano (8GB). The results will be published and will help to inform policy and practice in this area. Completion of the survey will take no more than 15 minutes and is available [here](#).



Kevin Burden

### ALT /ELN Organise Webinar on Creating Video on a Shoestring

[ALT](#) in the UK together with the [eLearning network](#), ran a very successful webinar in October on creating video as cheaply as possible. The webinar was run by James Clay and Rob Hubbard and was recorded in Elluminate and is available for viewing [here](#). This session is full of useful tips and links and other information on how to create high-value video in the most cost-effective way possible.



### Embedded Video in Engineering Freshmen Robotics Instruction

During the [ICL conference](#) held in Villach, Austria in September last, Jeffrey M. Otey from [Texas A&M University](#), USA gave an interesting presentation about the way the university was using video to support their engineering faculty. Taking traditional lecture material and



Jeffrey M. Otey

converting it to video is helping the university cope with a very high number of freshmen entering their engineering courses, so reducing the amount of time dedicated to lectures during course time. Video was particularly useful is being able to get across complex programming processes and structures that are difficult to explain in written text. Jeffrey explained that although digital video is time consuming to produce it also allows learners to review a topic several times. He went on to describe how the university uses customized video materials to address specific project requirements and the graphical nature of the programming environment. More information about what Texas A&M are doing in this field is available from Jeffrey's department [web site](#).

### Webstream in The Netherlands Extends its Community

The [Webstream community](#) which supports Dutch universities in their use of video streaming recently launched a new communications

**Webstream**

Video in het hoger onderwijs

strategy for its members based on a greater use of LinkedIn. This community provides lots of interesting information about the use of media in higher education and is linked to the [SURF MEDIA](#) site, home to lots of video resources that support university level teaching in the Netherlands. SURF also organises a [Cybersave Movie Contest](#) for students - the closing



date is 13th November! You can find the Webstroom LinkedIn group [here](#).

### Featured Article

#### WatchKnow Launches with More Than 10,000 Educational Videos

A new website, [WatchKnow.org](http://WatchKnow.org), launched a few weeks ago with 10,000 educational videos placed in over 2,000 categories, arranged in a very handy directory. No other website arranges educational videos in this way. The non-profit site's executive director is Larry Sanger, co-founder of Wikipedia, and funding has come from a donor-advised fund of the Community



Larry Sanger



Jack Koumi

Foundation of Northwest Mississippi. Among the site's advisers are Larry Lessig of Creative Commons fame and Jack Koumi, well-known in European video in education circles.



WatchKnow describes itself as a new kind of wiki where, working together, contributors can "edit video information, and they can also edit the directory by drag and drop, which will make building the resource truly "wikiwiki"--fast." While this non-profit project is wide open and easy to get involved with (even anonymously), the project engages teachers to act as community moderators. "There is a surprising number of good, free educational videos on the Internet, but they're hard to find," Sanger said. "WatchKnow helps users cut through Internet noise and get to the signal."

Another project adviser is Chareen Snelson, a professor at Boise State University in Idaho specialising in online educational videos. Snelson explained, "The educators I teach are often unaware that there are millions of hours of good video content

available for free online. Having a central repository of organized videos that have been screened for quality is a blessing for busy educators and students."

The site offers tips for using the site, with separate pages for students, teachers, parents, and homeschoolers. For contributors, there is also a quick start guide as well as a giant FAQ. The site's functionality was designed by Sanger working with feedback from teachers, and represents a new kind of social software. "We considered adapting Mediawiki," said Sanger, referring to the software that runs Wikipedia. "But after careful consideration we decided to write a brand



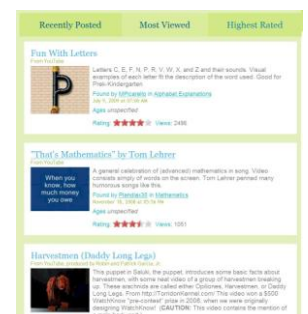
Prof. Chareen Snelson

new wiki-style system, from scratch. It's very innovative." One of the site's innovations for participants is to allow wiki-style collaboration on information (metadata) about embedded videos. This enables participants to edit titles and descriptions according to a standard format, so they are most useful to users.



Another innovation allows participants to move videos around categories on the website by dragging and dropping. The categories themselves can be moved by dragging and dropping as well. Like most wikis, all changes to the website are recorded in a public change log. And like many Web communities, the site system offers user pages, user discussion, statistics, and a handy favorites option.

In 2007, an anonymous donor to the Community Foundation sought out Sanger to start the project. Once Sanger's [Citizendium.org](http://Citizendium.org) project was off the ground in 2008, he was able to spend more time on





WatchKnow. The anonymous donor explained his support: "We need an adequate education to pursue the American Dream. We still have the chance to make it big even though we may come from a humble background. This is why it is so tragic when our schools fail us. Rich folks can send their kids to expensive schools—but what about everyone else? By the use of technology free to everyone to use, I believe we can help fix the system."



The Community Foundation of Northwest Mississippi was born out of an effort in 2000 to place an Internet accessible computer in every public school classroom in one school district. It became a pilot project for the state, and Mississippi became the first state with an Internet accessible computer in every public school classroom. The Community Foundation, which connects hundreds of donors with charitable causes, continues to emphasize education, health, and children.

### MEDEA News

#### 8 Finalists Announced for MEDEA Awards

The 8 finalists for the annual MEDEA Awards have been announced. They are (in alphabetical order): Daisy and Drago by Terakki Foundation Schools (Turkey), Eyes on the Skies by European Southern Observatory (ESO) (Germany), INgeBEELD by CANON CULTURAL UNIT (Belgium), Know IT All by Childnet International (UK), Les TIC en Classe by VISION FUTURE (France), Planet SciCast by NESTA (UK), Studiecoach by the Dutch Open University (The Netherlands) and Traditions Across Europe by Istituto Comprensivo "Don Bosco" (Italy). The overall winner will be announced during the MEDEA Awards Ceremony on 4 December 2009 in the Hotel InterContinental in Berlin.

This year the competition attracted 254 entries from 39 countries which was a significant increase in entries compared to last year. This clearly shows the high degree of interest there is in the use of media in education and training regardless of the educational level. Entries this year came in from all types of

organisation including professional production facilities, schools, audio-visual departments of universities, training providers, public authorities, public service broadcasters and content



Daisy and Drago



Know IT All



Eyes on the Skies



Les TIC en Classe



INgeBEELD



SciCast



Studiecoach



Traditions Across Europe



providers. The type of media varied greatly and included linear videos aimed at supporting science education, media supported challenge-based games used by university students for enhancing their skills in sociology, marketing and engineering, second life applications supporting laboratory experimentation, joint creation of cartoons by primary schools, repositories of video clips supporting cross-border collaboration amongst teenagers, online simulations supporting vocational training and language learning and lots more.

Deborah Arnold, from the MEDEA Awards Organising Committee commented "Over and above the sheer number of entries this year, we are particularly impressed with the geographical spread, with examples of high-quality educational media coming in from across Europe and beyond. Running the competition in German and French in addition to English has obviously had a significant impact in this respect."



Deborah Arnold

The finalists were chosen by a jury made up of 76 education and media experts from 26 countries who assessed the MEDEA entries in October. All finalists will have the chance to win the main MEDEA Award as well as several other prizes, including software sponsored by Adobe and AVID. The MEDEA Awards



were supported this year by the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Programme.

Special prizes awarded this year amongst the award finalists are the European Collaboration Prize as well as a prize to recognise Creativity and Innovation.

### Related Award Schemes

Each month we include news about other Awards schemes related to the use of Media in Education, these include national as well as specialist schemes.

### Irish Film Festival for School Children Reaches Climax

The National FÍS Film Festival took place on Tuesday, 20th October in the Helix at Dublin City University. Twenty-five awards were presented to schools to celebrate their outstanding film achievements in areas such as animation, acting, editing and direction. FÍS (literally translated as 'Vision') is an initiative from the Department of Education and Science (DES) in the Republic of Ireland and is a project designed to introduce the medium of film as a support to the Primary School Curriculum. 700 children and their teachers from all over Ireland took part in FÍS this year by writing, directing and producing their own films in a wide variety of genres including comedy, drama, history, horror, documentary and scannáin as



Gaeilge freisin. Great excitement was created in local communities as local screenings were organised, sometimes in cinemas! From the many submitted films, twenty four were selected for their outstanding achievements to participate in the National FÍS Film Festival. Watch a [video](#) of the Awards.

### Contacting the MEDEA Secretariat

For more information or to unsubscribe from this newsletter please contact Nikki Cortoos of the MEDEA Secretariat:

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