Curators of Knowledge: Planning for Infused Learning

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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"Are you too busy to improve?" … "Are you too busy to innovate?"

"Innovative Educator" Naomi Harm challenged SSLA 2014 Conference participants to innovate and improve teaching practices and the learning environment by infusing technology within their learning spaces. The dynamic and interactive keynote address and workshops provided practical suggestions for teacher librarians, teachers, consultants and other attendees in their efforts to support students in their new role as curators of knowledge, to use technology to deliver a more personalized, learning experience, to develop "Makerspaces" to teach and empower, and to incorporate apptivities to empower students learning. "Technology gives everybody a voice. Even though there are different levels of technology literacy, everybody is able to contribute." (Naomi Harm)

During the Keynote address, **Curators of Knowledge: Students' New Role in the Digital Collaborative Classroom**, Naomi focused on the importance of strengthening teaching and learning practices to maximize collaboration, digital learning, and to support the students' role as digital curators and content creators of knowledge. As classrooms move towards digital learning via the Web, digital artifacts, information streams, and network streams, the importance of supporting students' digital organization abilities through digital curation is evident. Not unlike the role of a museum curator, "digital curation is the selection, preservation, maintenance, collection and archiving of digital assets" (Wikipedia, 2012). By teaching students the how and why of digital organization including digital curation practices, educators make planning visible for the students, enhance information literacy, fluency and research, and make students accountable for their digital tattoo (footprint). In order to facilitate and activate meaningful and collaborative digital curation experiences, Naomi presented and provided opportunities for participants to explore the following list of Top Curation Tools: Diigo, Edshlef, List.ly, Google Alerts, Livebinders, MentorMob, Twitter Lists, Paper.li, Pinterest, Learni.st, Scoop.it, Tagboard, Symbaloo, Flipboard, Pulse, and Zite.

In addition to digital curation, students also need ways to represent their information, data, or knowledge within their role as content creators of new knowledge. As such, Naomi presented "Infographics" as a graphic visual means to organize, analyze, interpret and group information, tell a story and visually communicate their understanding as a content creators of their new

knowledge. The keynote concluded with exploring global collaboration contexts that support building stronger, collaborative relationships with learners across the globe including ePals, GlobalSchoolNet.org, Global Learning Project, whatabout.me and Projects by Jen.

Naomi passionately shared her expertise and best practices related to infusing technology through three interactive workshops.

Workshop One: **Technology Infused Teaching and Learning Environments to Personalize Learning,** explored how technology can be used to deliver a more personalized, relevant, passion-driven learning experience. Naomi shared a variety of strategies and on-line tools to create collaborative learning spaces that empower student inquiry, self-directed learning, and personal engagement. Stressing that teaching and learning must start with the goal in mind, personalized learning involves students participating and co-creating their own learning targets and learning goals that are aligned to curriculum. Throughout the learning process, students need opportunities for reflection. On-line tools that support collaborative reflection include Padlet, CorkBoard.me, Linoit, and Titan Pad. Personalized learning can also be enhanced through activities and suggestions provided on Class Badges, Brydseed.com, and Newtools. Edutopia and Classroom 4 teachers provide suggestions and examples for remaking the classroom to support collaborative personalized learning.

Workshop Two, **The Creation Station: Changing the Climate of the Library with Makerspaces**, addressed how to develop spaces for designing and creating activities that both teach and empower students and staff through hands-on "making" spaces. On-line suggestions for Makerspaces can be found at: Edmonton Public library, Youtube Makey Makey Water Piano, Makey Makey, Floor Planner, and Do It Yourself.

Workshop Three: **iDesign: Creating Authentic Mobile Literacy Centre Apptivities**, had participants exploring rich content activities and digital products for creating dedicated learning centers to empower student learning. Through QR codes, augmented reality and multimedia production apps, participants were engaged in the "wow" of apps including Bookcreator, zoo-ar app, map of the world – layer ap, aurasma, and QR monkey.

Naomi Harm is best known as a 21st century educational technology literacy specialist who welcomes every opportunity to share her expertise and best practices relating to technology, infused teaching, and learning environments. Her dynamic career focus includes many exciting and cutting edge jobs which include: an Intel National Senior Trainer, Google certified teacher, SMART certified trainer, certified online instructor, and managing her own "Innovative Educator" consulting corporation. Naomi also writes and publishes a _monthly enewsletter_ with her dynamic consulting team with free resources so you can continue your learning all year long.

"Life is truly grand when you love your job and the inspiring individuals you work with on a daily basis!"