

DID YOU KNOW

Social Technology As a New Medium in the Classroom

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New modes of everyday communication-textual, visual, audio and video-are already part of almost every high school and college student's social life. But can such social networking principles be effective in an educational setting? At the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) where I teach, students spend a lot of time on Facebook and other social networking sites. There is also an emerging interest in sharing academic achievements through social sites. RISD students have populated a rich repository of e-Portfolios in a directory (<http://risd.digication.com/portfolio/directory.digi>) which allows faculty, alumni, prospective students and prospective employers to browse through student work. Giving students the ability to share their work in this way transforms them into authors and publishers. Brian Hutcheson, who recently completed a master's in teaching at RISD, created a program e-Portfolio as part of his degree requirement and an e-Portfolio showcasing a specific lesson on toy design he created while student teaching. (<http://risd.digication.com/curvinmccabe6/Home/>.) This e-Portfolio, which was shared publicly in RISD's e-Portfolio directory, caught the attention of a highly regarded art textbook publishing company, Davis Publications, and was featured in their latest edition of School Arts magazine. Connections and opportunities like this arise often when the work of teachers and students is shared beyond the classroom through social technology.

To finish reading the rest of this article go to: [Social Technology as a Medium in the Classroom](#)

ON-LINE DATABASES

Are you looking for legitimate on-line resources for your students to use on their research projects? If so, contact your media specialist to see how to use the REMC on-line databases. These databases provide books, magazines, some videos and audio information that allow students current and proven material. Some examples of these databases include

eLibrary Curriculum (history and literature), eLibrary Science and SIRS discoverer.

TECH TRAININGS

Ever thought about trying an online experience through LearnPort or need to make up professional development hours? Take advantage of one of the many tech offerings in FEB/MARCH/APRIL to assist in doing this.

Don't forget your opportunity to learn how to integrate technology into instruction the easy way. Many technology trainings are being offered in your building or other in the district that can assist you in many ways. Our fine technology teacher's will provide you with information that will have the hair on the back of your neck standing up.

A list of classes was emailed to you at the end of January and you can call Gloria at ext. 5752 to sign up today!!! Don't miss this great opportunity for some exciting new ways to interact with technology.

FREE RESOURCES

Lesson Plans – Check out the lesson plans available hosted through our REMC services. Select Library/Media from the Charlotte home page. Choose the appropriate school and look for on-line databases, this will take you to the REMC home page, next select: [Log into Members Only Database](#); you will be prompted for a username: **charlotte** and password: **remc48813**; select Logon to Learning Links about ¾ of the way down the page and choose; finally select lesson plans.

MARCH IS READING MONTH



“Free to Read”

We are excited about this year's theme, designed to prepare us for the visit of the traveling Vietnam Memorial “Wall That Heals” that will visit our district in May. Please encourage your student to read as much as possible this month so that they can experience the excitement of being free to read.