NEWSLETTER

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Joe Montecalvo   jmonteca@maxwell.syr.edu

Kate E. O'Hara   kateeohara@cs.com

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ARTICLES

This month's article by Nancy White appears in the July 25 issue from Tech & Learning. It examines the differences between collecting online content and curating it. As teachers you do both. But while collecting content can be as simple as bookmarking a website, to curate content is the process of collecting the content AND making it relevant to your audience (students) through question formulation and feedback. The infographic included in the article lays out the differences along several criteria; Thinking Level, Process, Organization, Value and Audience. (JM)

RESOURCES

PowToon is a free online site which allows you to create presentations which have more animations than a standard PowerPoint or Google Slide show. It is free to sign up for an educator account which has basic templates for your presentation with animations already included in them. You can pay more to have

access to "Pro" versions of slide templates, but there is enough free content to create a dynamic presentation. Your PowToons are automatically saved in your online account and can be accessed anywhere by logging in and "playing" your presentation. (JM)

GAME CORNER

Scratch (https://scratch.mit.edu/) is a free programming language and online community where you can create your own interactive stories, games, and animations. Scratch was created at the MIT Media Lab in 2002. The programming language uses visual blocks of text/commands that can be dragged and dropped to connect to other blocks that allows the user to create and manipulate icons. The community of Scratch users is very important to the site's success, allowing users to borrow, ask, and learn from millions of users around the world. (JM)

TECHNOLOGY TIP

Accessing your files while you are away from home or work used to be a hassle. You would have to carry around a usb drive and insert it into a computer to get the file you wanted. Now with the prevalence of Cloud storage, all you need is an internet connection. Google Drive, Microsoft's OneDrive and DropBox are three well known cloud file storing companies which offer a free version with enough space to handle even your largest files. Of course you should always practice safe internet habits when using a different or public computer, but all these cloud storage sites also have apps from which to get at your files/pictures/videos. Amazon Prime members also have cloud storage as part of their subscription. (JM)