



NWOET SCANNER

Northwest Ohio Educational Technology Foundation

November/December 2000



Tech Fair 2000

About 500 teachers, tech coordinators, and administrators spent the day at Findlay High

School participating in NWOET's Annual Technology Conference. Participants started off their day with Dr. Annette Lamb as the keynote speaker. Three break-out sessions were held and participants had their choice of 59 sessions ranging in topics from troubleshooting networks to the popular software Inspiration, to one-computer classrooms. During session breaks and during the lunch period, over 30 exhibitors had their wares on display. The most popular displays were those dealing with digital video equipment and special adaptive needs accessories.

Bowling Green and Lima City School's students wowed fair goers on what "kids dig" (archaeology) and video production technology.

NWOET would like to thank each of the participants and exhibitors for sharing a day with others at the Tech Conference.

Be watching future issues of NWOET SCANNER for details on next year's conference.



Holiday Schedule

NWOET will be closed November 23 and 24 in observance of Thanksgiving. We will be closed for the Holidays starting at 5 p.m. December 22 through January 1, 2001. We will reopen at 8 a.m. on January 2, 2001.

Have a safe and blessed Holiday Season.

Reddin Symposium

The fourteenth annual Reddin Symposium in Canadian Studies will be held Saturday, January 20, 2001, at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio. The event will run from 12:30 - 5:00 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

The Symposium is designed to improve community understanding about Canada. The Reddin family of Bowling Green originally suggested the idea of an annual Canadian symposium and has supported the event every year. Now in its fourteenth year, the symposium has covered a diverse range of topics that enhance our understanding of Canadian society, history, economics, and contemporary issues.

This year's focus is Public Education in Canada and the speakers are as follows:

- Mr. Darrel Skidmore, former Superintendent, greater Toronto Public Schools, and currently CEO, London Public Library, London, Ontario, who will focus on developments in public education throughout Canada as well as Ontario.
- Mr. Dave Cooke, former Minister of Education in Ontario, and currently Co-Chair, Education Improvement Commission, will provide remarks on recent developments in Ontario and the work of the Education Improvement Commission.
- Dr. Ratna Ghosh, Dean, Faculty of Education, McGill University, to reflect on multicultural education, bilingual education, etc. from a Quebec perspective.

For further information or reservations, please call Linda Snyder at 419-372-2457 or e-mail cast@cba.bgsu.edu.

NWOET Conference Grand Prize Winners



A special thanks is extended to B&J Photo for their donation of a color television as one of the grand prizes given at Technology Conference 2000. Pictured to the left is Renee Wozniak the winner. Pictured to the right is Diane Wright and Jennifer Hossler. Ms. Hossler is the winner of an IBM Thinkpad i1200 donated by Ms. Wright and Yes Learning and Computer Center.

Tech Fair 2000 Photo Album



Rex Damschroder stops in for a visit during the Tech Conference.



Board President John Wilhelm, Roger Minier and Denny Horan discuss current technology issues.



Administrators and Technology Coordinators meet with various exhibitors.



Everyone was hoping their name would be drawn for one of the many prizes offered at the end of the conference.



Many of the sessions had little room to spare.



Digital booths attracted many participants.

Thank You Vendors

NWOET would like to thank the vendors and exhibitors who participated in this year's Technology Conference. We invite you to support these vendors.

Apple Computer
B&J Photo
Basic Computer Learning and Davidson
Titles Inc.
Bossert Specialties, Inc

bright.net - BRT
Buckeye Educational Systems
Carey Systems Company
CDO Technologies, Inc
Century Business Products
Computer & Networking Technologies
Cousin's Video
Curriculum Advantage
DataServ, Inc/MINDS
Discovery Toys
Emanuel Software
Great Lakes Educational Resources

INFOhio
Internet School Administrative Solutions
Lucerne/SVE Churchill
Magical Computing Solutions
Neufeld Learning Systems, Inc
Reading and Language Arts Center
Steck-Vaughn
Time Cruiser Computing Corp.
VIRCO
WorldWide Computer Supplies &
Accessories
YES Learning & Computer Center



Opinion Column

by Roger W. Minier, Executive Director

Writing with technology. What age, what skills, what's the use?

In the last issue of NWOET Scanner, I identified three core technology skill areas as writing, seeking information, and distance communication. Each skill is, for better or worse, critical to success for virtually any educational, career and life goal you can imagine.

In this issue we will take a look at some specifics of one of the very most important areas – that of literacy. In particular, technology is very, very powerful in regards to influencing the writing process. This powerful impact includes all ages, skill levels and virtually all uses of writing in today's curriculum. Some of these ideas addressed in this column are controversial but all are backed by research (though of course even researchers disagree).

What's the use of Technology in the Writing Process?

Over 30% of all students and 50% to 80% of students from upper income homes experience a keyboard before they enter kindergarten. Many of these children come with technology skills more developed than the technology skills of a typical teacher. That is not a criticism of teachers, but it IS a reflection of the importance of technology in the day-to-day life of our youth. Children as young as three and four years old are using keyboards for games, entertainment and even internet access.

What Age to Begin? Preschool or not later than First Grade

Since some children have so much experience with using a keyboard, one early goal as educators must be that of helping ALL students acquire these skills. We're not talking about 40 word-per-minute touch typing here, but we ARE talking about the ability to find the correct keys, enter numbers, manipulate a mouse and to correct errors as they occur so that all children are able to express themselves. Early experiences often are limited to use of a few keys (perhaps to control a game), gradually expanding to include numbers, special characters, capitalization and so on.

Another reason to begin formal instruction early is so we can correct any bad habits early on (incorrect posture for example) and establish other prerequisite skills that will help our students communicate effectively. To do otherwise puts some students – especially those students from less wealthy families as well as students with disabilities – at an additional handicap in their ability to function.

First or Second Grade

Writing via technology, or "Word Processing", should begin for ALL students, with some suggesting as early as when they begin to hand print complete words. At this point students are ready to, and many will already be, communicating via technology. Certainly by the

end of second grade a student should be able to enter on the computer anything they can print or draw by hand.

Why? Again we look to 'real life' outside of the classroom. For better or worse, technology is a tool we all are expected to use. This does not mean we need to eliminate crayons – far from it! But we must ALSO provide skills to ALL students in using technology for both visual art and written communication – technology tools now too often available only to an 'upper middle-class' individual.

When to Teach

Where to find the time for this instruction? As a natural outgrowth of the curriculum where and when use of a technology tool makes sense. Teach electronic music just as you may now introduce use both percussion and wind instruments. When developing written communication skills spend the time once devoted to cursive writing (a communication form that can now be closely compared in function and value to the instruction of Calligraphy 100 years ago). Consider, when will a student make use of cursive writing? Certainly not in college where word processed documents are required for virtually all instruction. And certainly not on the job. Many corporations now discourage or prohibit hand written memos due to potential errors and misinterpretations which result from individual writing.

Grades Three through Adult

Skills in word processing should continue to be integrated with classroom experiences throughout the elementary years with touch typing typically being a required skill around grade three or no later than the end of grade four. Again, attention MUST be given to those 50% of students who do not have ready access to computers at home, and to those students experiencing fine or gross motor skill problems that make typing difficult.

Once the mechanics of word processing are mastered, students should be instructed in appropriate and effective use of spelling, grammar and other electronic aids. While some may criticize use of such technology the fact is a majority of students WILL use such resources either at home or during open periods. As educators we have an obligation to provide ALL students with guidance and opportunity to use these tools in as effective a manner as possible.

Given the tool chest of writing resources as appropriate to their individual level of development, our students will be much more effective at the process of writing and revision. More importantly, they have a foundation of communications skills that will serve them for the rest of their lives in our technological society.

Please contact us if you would like more information or a session at your building by an NWOET staff member on how technology integrates with the writing process.

Next Issue: The Search for Information – If you don't know it, how can you find it?

Reading Rainbow Schedule

Each SCANNER for the remainder of the school year will list dates and program titles for Reading Rainbow. Reading Rainbow is shown over WBGU-TV Monday through Friday at 12:30 p.m. For a printed schedule of each program, contact NWOET or visit our web site.

NOVEMBER 2000

11/13/00	The Carousel
11/14/00	Always My Dad
11/15/00	Bread Is For Eating
11/16/00	Hotel Animal
11/17/00	Someplace Else
11/27/00	Owen
11/28/00	How Much Is A Million?
11/29/00	The Wonderful Towers Of Watts
11/30/00	Martha Speaks

DECEMBER 2000

12/01/00	Alejandro's Gift
12/04/00	The Sign Painter's Dream
12/05/00	The Lotus Seed
12/06/00	Hail To Mail
12/07/00	Stellaluna
12/08/00	My Shadow
12/11/00	Ruth Law Thrills A Nation
12/12/00	Nosey Mrs. Rat
12/13/00	Borreguita And The Coyote
12/14/00	Summer
12/15/00	Once There Was A Tree
12/18/00	Appelmandos Dreams
12/19/00	Follow The Drinking Gourd
12/20/00	If You Give A Mouse A Cookie
12/21/00	Is This A House For Hermit Crab?
12/22/00	And Still The Turtle Watched



SCHOOLNOTES.COM

An EASY Way To Post Info To The Web!

Want to post homework or class information on the Web in seconds without having to go to the trouble of making your own Web page? If your answer is yes, then SchoolNotes is for you! All that is needed is a standard web browser, such as those provided

by Netscape, Microsoft, AOL, and others.

SchoolNotes is a free community service that is meant to be used by teachers, parents, and students to communicate school related information. Homework assignments, weekly study topics, calendars of events, spelling words, reading lists, and other school information can easily be posted and accessed at any time by parents and students.

If you wish to post information you must first register for an account and password by clicking on "Registration" on the SchoolNotes.com Home Room page. Parents and students wishing to view notes can do so immediately by clicking on "View Notes" and entering their school zip code. Each teacher's notes page has a unique web address that will not change. This web address can be book-marked. Some teachers write this address on their blackboards and also send it home in newsletters, etc.

Give it a try and let us know how you like it!



Media Center News

I hope that you are finding the return postage convenient. Remember that the last date on your confirmation or packing slip

sheet means that that is the date that the item should be postmarked, not returned. As many of you are aware, we still have a few "bugs" in our new booking system, but progress is being made. Thank you for being so patient.

As always, we have more new items that did not make the catalog.

Sociology (Junior/SeniorHigh)

The Sociological Imagination
The Examined Life
A Class Divided

Kindergarten/Primary

Trees, Nature's Coolers
Clouds, Nature's Sprinklers
Ponds, Nature's Aquarium
Dirt, Nature's Sandbox

Teacher Professional Development

Virtual Equality
Fair Play
Wired for What?
Crossing the Divide

Social Studies

(Intermediate/Junior High)
Great Lakes Region

NWOET Media Catalog Is Now Online!

Search NWOET's media catalog online by using your favorite browser. Here is how it is done:

- Using your favorite browser go to www.infohio.org
- Choose the MediaNet Icon
- A map of Ohio will appear
- Click on the square inside Wood County

- Click on the spy glass icon

And now you are ready to do your search!

Searches may be done as a full catalog search, mediagraphies, or you can go directly to the online order form. (Client number and item number are necessary for this function. Call NWOET for further information 800.966.9638 or email nwoet@nwoet.org.)

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Graduate Credit and Workshop Offerings November 2000 - April 2001

Advanced Classroom Methods: A Practitioner Course

The focus of this course is to allow participants the opportunity to increase their ability in integrating technology into the curriculum through the use of the following techniques: web-page development, video editing, assistive technologies, distance learning, and alternative assessment methods.

- Mondays, Jan. 8, Jan. 22 - Mar. 26, 2001, 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. at NWOET
(no class on Jan 15, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
Prerequisite: Classroom Technology Literacy: A Novice Level Course or equivalent
Workshop Fee: members - \$350 non-members - \$700
Graduate Credit: 3 semester BGSU graduate credit available. **

Troubleshooting Mac/Win

This multi-session class (15 hours total instruction) will explore the different techniques of troubleshooting computers. Explore disk management, error messages, freeze-ups and how to avoid them, and some of the latest ways to enhance computers. Bring your questions and pick the brains of NWOET's Tech Support Staff! (Participants must attend all five sessions to earn graduate credit.)

Your choice of 2 different sessions:

- Thursdays, January 11-25, February 1 & 8, 2001, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Lima Area
- Tuesdays, March 6, - 27, April 3 & 10, 2001, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at NWOET
Prerequisite: Basic understanding and use of either Macintosh or Windows operating systems.
Workshop Fee: members - \$150 non-members - \$300
Graduate Credit: 1 semester BGSU graduate credit available **

Distance Learning in the K-12 Classroom

If your district has acquired or will acquire distance learning technology, then we have just the course for you! Learn about developing effective instruction via distance and all the mediums that can be used for successful delivery including distance learning capabilities, web-based instruction management, distance learning resources, and modeling instruction. Participants will witness application of distance learning first-hand as this class is taught using distance learning technology.

- Wednesdays, February 14 - March 14, 2000, 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Workshop Fee: members - \$150 non-members - \$300
Graduate Credit: 1 semester BGSU graduate credit available. **

Software Correlations for Language Arts Proficiency Outcomes

Participants in this course will take an objective approach to evaluating software specifically related to language arts proficiency outcomes in reading and writing. Participants will develop skill in identifying strengths and weaknesses in some of the various software titles available on the market. This course will enable participants to implement language arts software tools to meet the varying needs of students, in addition to addressing the specific reading and writing classroom strategies. Attendance is required for all dates listed below.

- Wednesdays, November 15 -29, December 6 -13, 2000; 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at NWOET
Prerequisite: Basic computer operating skills
Workshop Fee: members - \$150 non-members - \$300
Graduate Credit: 1 semester BGSU graduate credit available. **

Digital Camera Basics

Don't be left out of the digital revolution! In this daylong workshop, learn what to look for when purchasing a digital camera for school or home use and the many ways educators are using this technology in their classrooms. Hands-on instruction will be given with a variety of digital cameras, as well as how to insert the digital images into applications such as HyperStudio, PowerPoint, and word processing documents.

- Friday, January 12, 2001 or March 9, 2001. 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at NWOET
Prerequisite: none
Workshop Fee: members - \$75 non-members - \$150
A certificate indicating contact hours will be issued for 5 hours of instruction.

Make It - Take It - Design a PowerPoint Presentation & Burn CDs

In this introductory workshop on Microsoft PowerPoint, participants will create a presentation related to their curriculum area, learn to set-up the slide show, add clip-art, animation, action, and hyperlinks, and then save their presentation on a CD to take back to their classroom. Also included in this hands-on workshop will be use of digital cameras and scanners to add graphics to the slides.

- Friday, January 26, 2001 or March 23, 2001 at NWOET, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Prerequisite: None
Workshop Fee: members - \$75, non-members - \$150
A certificate indicating contact hours will be issued for 5 hours of instruction.

Inspiration without Perspiration!

How do you teach your students to think clearly and organize information? With INSPIRATION! Inspiration is an exciting program that gives users graphical ways of working with ideas and presenting information. Students will love creating story webs, designing concept maps, or outlining a paper using this software. Learn how easy it can be! Project ideas, lesson plans, and easy steps to follow will be included in this hands-on session.

• Friday, February 9, 2001 or April 6, 2001, 8:30 - 1:30 p.m. at NWOET

Prerequisite: none

Workshop Fee: members - \$75 non-members - \$150

A certificate indicating contact hours will be issued for 5 hours of instruction.

A Beginner's View of Adobe PhotoShop

You have a photo you would like to include in your publications, be it print or for a multimedia presentation. Maybe the photo is too dark or too big. Maybe the contrast and hues are not like you would have them. Maybe the photo is okay but you would like to soften the edges or maybe even blur the photo for a special effect. These problems will be addressed in this beginning PhotoShop workshop. Using a digital camera and scanning photos will be shown during the hands-on period.

• Friday, February 23, 2000 or April 20, 2000, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at NWOET
Prerequisite: Basic computer operating skills
Workshop Fee: members - \$75
non-members - \$150

A certificate indicating contact hours will be issued for 5 hours of instruction.

** Workshop fee does not include tuition for BGSU graduate credit. Please call for details!

Plans are now underway for the Statewide SchoolNet Technology Conference to be held at the Columbus Convention Center on February 26, 27, 28, 2001. Be watching future issues of NWOET SCANNER for more information.

World's Largest Concert

On Thursday, March 8, 2001, from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, millions of school children, teachers, and citizens from around the world will participate simultaneously in the World's Largest Concert (WLC). This concert, a sing-along program, will be broadcast on WBGU-PBS channel 27.

Participating in the WLC is a great way to celebrate Music in Our Schools Month. We estimate that more than eight million people joined in last year. As the number of participants grows, so does the impact on the public's international awareness of school music programs.

Our theme this year, "Music... Pass It On!" offers some insight into the traditions and importance of passing music from one generation and one culture to the next. It reminds us that through music we are united, even when language and cultural barriers are at their most difficult. "Music is a needed and effective tool in not only teaching and learning about people of all cultures, but in providing a link, a connection between all people," says MENC President Mel Clayton.

The seventeenth annual World's Largest Concert will once again be broadcast from the "America Gardens Theatre" at the American Adventure in Epcot at the Walt Disney World Resort.

The concert will feature a special multi-generational chorus made up of adults and children from the Orlando area and the Disney High School Honors Orchestra under the direction of Mike Davis.

The concert will be hosted by the famous historical figure, "Teddy Roosevelt."



Clover's Corner

by Bob Clover
Electronic Whiteboards

Visitors to the
October 9 NWOET

Technology Conference were able to see an Electronic Whiteboard from Micro Touch Systems being demonstrated.

Other manufacturers do provide similar products.

Electronic whiteboards connect to a PC and let users instantaneously save, print, e-mail, and fax everything written on the whiteboard.

Whiteboards can also be used as interactive touchscreens for presentations using LCD projectors.

Delivering presentations using an LCD projector has been simplified by eliminating the need for user interaction at the computer and allowing users to control all computer functionality directly from the touch-enabled whiteboard.

Users can stand at the whiteboard, touch the projection icon, and turn the whiteboard into a touch-sensitive projection screen without going back to the computer. The entire presentation can then be run right from the whiteboard.



Attention Sixth Grade Teachers!

Would your sixth grade class like to participate in News Six through a video postcard? If your school district is a member of NWOET and your sixth grade class would like to report on an event happening in your school/classroom/district/community, have them submit a "Video Postcard" to NWOET/WBGU-PBS for consideration in the regular News Six broadcast. Your class should shoot up to two minutes of High 8 video. (We will edit up to 30 seconds for inclusion in the program.) Information sent should include your school name, class and location. Entries will be evaluated for content and originality on the first of each month. Ten entries will be chosen between 12/1 and 4/1 for this season's News Six production. Please call 800-966-9638 or email pbooth@bgnet.bgsu.edu for more information.

Videos may be sent to: Postcards from NW Ohio, Attn: Pat Booth, 245 Troup Street, Bowling Green, OH 43403.