



## Julia's Picks for Educators: 5

December 3, 2008

Here is my current installment of selections from online material with potential for educators. It has a subject list and if things look interesting to you, you can read on, clicking on hyperlinks to read or visit the actual items. My intention is to periodically review content—as my hours permit—and send an update. (Note: I'm not promising a regular publishing schedule, here. ☺) Feel free to share this in part or in whole with any of your students or colleagues.

Julia Hengstler

Educational Technologist, Faculty of Education, VIU

### I can't resist:

**Be sure to check out Touchgraph Browser for Google (in Technology Tools)—cool visual interface that conceptually groups search responses!**

## Today's Subjects

- Administration & New Teachers
- Professionalism & the Internet
- Student Engagement
- Study Skills
- Technology & Youth: Digital Youth Project Findings
- Online Learning
- Teaching Math
- Aboriginal Math Education
- Aboriginal Education & Technology
- Teaching Science from Under the Ocean
- Online Searches
- FOSS (Free & Open Source Software)
- Music
- Social Studies: Ancient Rome
- Business Education & Invoicing
- Online Safety
- Technology Tools

### Administration & New Teachers

*Can you recognize an effective teacher when you recruit one?*

Study by Rockoff, Jacob, Kand & Staiger available from National Bureau of Economic Research. Abstract available here:

[http://www.nber.org/papers/w14485.pdf?new\\_window=1](http://www.nber.org/papers/w14485.pdf?new_window=1)

### Professionalism & the Internet

*Blog safe: Avoid common web-publishing pitfalls*

What to know before publishing anything on the internet.

<http://www.edutopia.org/teacher-blogs-online-media-law>

## Student Engagement

### *What students want from teachers*

Article from ASCD highlighting 10 areas of “want” expressed by students with regard to their teachers & teaching.

[http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational\\_leadership/nov08/vol66/num03/What\\_Students\\_Want\\_from\\_Teachers.aspx](http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational_leadership/nov08/vol66/num03/What_Students_Want_from_Teachers.aspx)

## Study Skills

### *Improving long-term learning through spacing of lessons*

Article from Science Daily about findings from a study that found “Proper spacing of lessons...can dramatically enhance learning. And larger gaps between study sessions result in better recall of facts.” Excerpt: *the optimal amount of time over which learning should take place depends upon how long the information needs to be retained: "If you want to remember information for just a week, it is probably best if study sessions are spaced out over a day or two. On the other hand, if you want to remember information for a year, it is best for learning to be spaced out over about a month."* Extrapolating from the results, he added, “it seems plausible that whenever the goal is for someone to remember information over a lifetime, it is probably best for them to be re-exposed to it over a number of years.”

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/11/081118141708.htm>

## Technology & Youth: Digital Youth Project Findings

### *Study suggests ‘hanging out’ on Facebook, MySpace not a waste for teens*

Article from Boston Herald.com on recent study by Digital Youth Project by MacArthur Foundation found that using these types of social networking software is “increasingly becoming an essential part of becoming a competent citizen in the digital age.”

<http://www.bostonherald.com/business/technology/general/view.bg?articleid=1133714&srvc=home&position=emailed>

### *Living & Learning with New Media: Summary of Findings from the Digital Youth Project*

2 page summary of the recent findings of the Berkeley Digital Youth Research Project. (Summary white paper and full paper available on the Digital Youth Research link below.)

<http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/files/report/digitalyouth-TwoPageSummary.pdf>

### *Digital Youth Research: Kids’ Informal Learning with Digital Media*

Berkeley’s Institute for the Study of Social Change funded by MacArthur Foundation; investigates the gap between the informal digital learning of youth and the educational experiences in an effort to re-energize education by providing insights & opportunities.

<http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/>

## Online Learning

### *Report challenges online-learning assumptions*

Article from eSchool News on recent study by Indian University that found online learners reported deeper learning approaches, more challenging coursework than their peers in face-to-face classes

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=56098>

## Teaching Math

### *(US) Study: Math teachers often only a chapter ahead of students*

eSchool News story re. US report findings about teachers with neither an academic major nor certification in the subjects they teach

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/around-the-web/index.cfm?i=56210>

## Aboriginal Math Education

### *Any kid can learn math*

Article from Globe and Mail on the JUMP (Junior Undiscovered Math Prodigies) program created by John Mighton (Toronto) & being used in Port Hardy @ Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw School as well as more than 12 First Nation school in Vancouver area. (Link courtesy of Jennifer Brownlow)

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20081108.COWENT08/TPStory/National>

## Aboriginal Education & Technology

### *Adapting to the era of information*

Article from Diverse on the challenges tribal colleges in the US are facing re. the persistent digital divide

[http://diverseeducation.com/artman/publish/article\\_11995.shtml](http://diverseeducation.com/artman/publish/article_11995.shtml)

## Teaching Science from Under the Ocean

### *MAST teacher holds class from the bottom of the sea*

Article from the Miami Herald about science teacher, Mark Tohulka, selected to board Aquarius, "the world's only undersea research station". Tohulka broadcast lessons from Aquarius to his science classes back home.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/education/story/781276.html>

## Online Searches

### *Experts: Alternative search tools can help students*

Article from eSchool News on some task efficient alternatives to Google & Yahoo (Specific inks to search engines in Technology Tools at end of this edition.)

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/top-news/index.cfm?i=56196>

### *Google empowers users to edit search results*

Article from eSchool News on new Google function allowing users to reshuffle results to highlight better sites and discard useless sites. Will require individual login for editing rights. Currently will not affect Google's overall ranking policies.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/around-the-web/index.cfm?i=56152>

## FOSS (Free & Open Source Software)

### *Free & Open Source Educational Software*

Site with collection of lots of free software for educational use that runs on Windows. Grouped by key learning areas.

<http://os.cqu.edu.au/oswindsvd/doc/README.html>

## Music

### *A computer composing & playing jazz*

Norwegian PhD student & jazz musician programmed a computer and musical instrument to improvise jazz.

<http://blogs.zdnet.com/emergingtech/?p=1100&tag=nl.e550>

## Social Studies: Ancient Rome

### *Google Earth brings ancient Rome online*

Article from eSchool news about Google's new 3D simulation of almost 7,000 buildings in ancient Rome

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/site-of-the-week/site/?i=56215>

## Business Education & Invoicing

### *Create a simple invoice in Word*

Article from TechRepublic on how to use Word to create a customized, itemized invoice that does calculations WITHOUT embedding Excel tables <http://blogs.techrepublic.com.com/msoffice/?p=784&tag=nl.e056>

## Online Safety

### *WebWiseKids*

Website providing programs & resources to support online student safety

<http://www.webwisekids.org/index.asp?page=resources>

### *19-year-old commits suicide on Justin.tv*

Recent streaming video where 19 yr. old egged on by watchers, committed suicide.

<http://newteevee.com/2008/11/20/19-year-old-commits-suicide-on-justintv/>

## **Technology Tools**

### *Open Office*

Free software compatible with Microsoft applications for FREE! <http://earth.google.com/rome/index.html>

### *Google Earth: Ancient Rome*

3D simulation of almost 7,000 buildings in Ancient Rome. <http://earth.google.com/rome/index.html>

### *ChaCha*

Alternative online human enhanced search tool accessible from cell phones—post question via voice or text. <http://www.chacha.com/>

### *Grokker*

Alternative online visual search tool providing thumbnails & zoom, search refining, etc.. <http://www.grokker.com/>

### *Kartoo*

Alternative online visual search tool provides thumbnails. <http://www.kartoo.com/>

### *Internet Archive*

Archives web pages 1996-present—capturing what the pages were like at that point in time. <http://www.archive.org/index.php>

### *Blinkx*

Audio & video search engine providing text of content. <http://www.blinkx.com/>

### *Touchgraph Google Browser*

Google applet that produces a visual conceptual/relational map of search responses. Make sure you have the latest Java download by following the link provided in “Getting Started”. Mine didn’t work until I did the update. I have to comment: “Way cool!” <http://www.touchgraph.com/TGGoogleBrowser.html>