

Title of Session: LOC Learning Page-Exploration and Explorers

Moderator: Leni Donlan

Title of File: 20040415loc

Date: April 15, 2004

Room: After School Online Room

MichaelH: Welcome to tonight's Learning Page Chat...

MichaelH: As always, Leni has a plethora of great stuff to show,

MichaelH: so without further adieu...

MichaelH: let's start our session.

MichaelH: As always, let's start with everyone introducing themselves... who you are, and where you are from...

RonaldJ: I'm Vance Jenkins. I teach high School English in Greenville, South Carolina.

LeannM: I'm LeAnn from Greenville, South Carolina. I teach second grade.

JeffC: Jeff Cooper... ex-Education Technology Specialist from Oregon... looking for new ideas... and work.

SuzanneH: I am Suzanne from Starr Elementary in Anderson. I teach special education grades 1-5, self-contained

JanGst4: Jan - Thornton CO business & tech teacher - chat rookie

GradyM: I am a seventh grade language arts teacher from Iva, S.C

GailP: Hi - I'm Gail and I work with Leni in DC on the Learning Page - I'm a retired Library Media Specialist from New York State - mostly elementary school...

LawrenceH: Larry Hansen - AIU student Masters candidate in Education Technology, living in Brazil

CraigN: Craig Nansen - district technology coordinator in Minot, ND

JosephLH: Joe from Carolina HS in Greenville, SC. I teach U.S. and World History

MichaelH is Michael Hutchison, technology curriculum facilitator in southern Indiana, and straight man for Jeff Cooper

LeniD: Welcome, Vance, Leanne, Jeff, Suzanne, Jan, Grady, Gail, Lawrence, Craig, Joe!

LeniD: I'm Leni Donlan, formerly a classroom teacher ... currently the coordinator of the Learning Page Project at the Library of Congress.

GailP: What a nice crowd - we're glad you are here!

MichaelH checks to see if anyone else would like to say "hey"

LeniD: Nice to have you ALL here

SuzanneH: Thanks

LeannM: thanks

LeniD: Let's get started...

LawrenceH: obrigado

JulieSz joined the room.

LeniD: Hi Julie...we were just introducing ourselves. Would you like to do so before I begin our chat?

JulieSz: Sure, thanks. I'm Julie...I live in Missouri and work for the eMINTS program

JulieSz smiles

LeniD: Thanks

LeniD: Throughout history, mankind has sought new experiences and new territories.

JulieSz: no problem

LeniD: Astronaut Frank Borman said, "Exploration is really the essence of the human spirit."

LeniD: Would you agree with Borman?

JosephLH: not really

LawrenceH: absolutely

JulieSz: I think it's a driving force

LeniD: Joe, why not/

RonaldJ: I'm with Joseph.

JanGst4: from birth!

LeannM: I agree that exploration is a great part of the human spirit

JosephLH: Without getting into too much detail, I think other things would be more of a true essence.

LeniD: Ronald and Joe...speak up

LeniD: Aha! Essence is a tricky word...good point.

GradyM: I really think it is part of being human

LeniD: Photographer Ansel Adams said, "In wisdom gathered over time, I have found that every experience is a form of exploration."

LeniD: Does Adams' sentiment ring true for you?

RonaldJ: Is the mind and the spirit one and the same? We have to consider this while we tackle Borman's philosophy.

JosephLH: That I can agree with.

JulieSz: I agree

LeannM: true

SuzanneH: Yes. We are in essence always looking for things

MichaelH: but, in Borman's case it was a study of exploration AND knowledge... the mind and body were one...

JulieSz: looking to better ourselves, our lives, our family

LeannM: and everything that we experience is a new exploration for us

LeniD: So while exploration may or may not be the "essence" of the human spirit...we agree that every experience is a form of exploration.

JeffC: I'd like to agree with Borman's philosophy... but I fear that what we're doing in American schools tends to stifle exploration more than engender it... we're more about conforming... testing... than challenging and questioning.

JulieSz: yes

SuzanneH: Sure

JosephLH: true

LawrenceH: we both explore ideas (philosophy) and territory

RonaldJ: Agreed

GailP: Sad, but true, Jeff!

LeniD: When we watch our students, this thinking is reinforced...even though we can't always give it free reign, as Jeff points out

LeniD: Tonight, let's take a look at resources about explorers and exploration available on the Library of Congress Web sites.

MichaelH perks up!

LeniD: Michael, will you explain how this works, please?

MichaelH: sure, Leni, be glad to...

MichaelH: Leni will show us a lot of great stuff tonight...

MichaelH: however, don't take too long looking at any one site

MichaelH: or you'll miss the bus to the next great exploration adventure

MichaelH: remember, everything will be in the transcript...

MichaelH: ok, Leni, they're all yours

LeniD: Thanks

LeniD: Are you ready?

SuzanneH: Yes

JosephLH: yup

RonaldJ: You bet.

LeannM: sure

JulieSz: yup

MichaelH is

LeniD: Let's start with some exhibitions from the Library.

LeniD: If you are lucky enough to visit the lovely Jefferson Building in Washington, DC, you can see some of these exhibits in person.

NuritS: yes

LeniD: Others are no longer on display and can be seen ONLY online.

RonaldJ: Why is this, Leni?

LeniD: (Welcome, Nurit!)

NuritS: hello, sorry I am late

LeniD: Exhibitions are on display for limited time...but all exhibitions have an online version which is always available, Ronald.

LeniD: When we think of explorers, Christopher Columbus quickly comes to mind. Take a look at...

LeniD: 1492: An Ongoing Voyage, one of the Library's early online exhibits.

LeniD: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/1492/intro.html>

MichaelH . o O (click on the blue link, and the page will open in a new window)

MichaelH: but don't stay away too long...

MichaelH checks to see if everyone sees the page Leni is showing?

LeniD: From the Library's Prints and Photographs Reading Room: Images of Christopher Columbus and His Voyages...

LeannM: I'm sorry but it won't let me click on the link

JosephLH: I have it

LeniD: http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/list/080_columbus.html

JosephLH: Leann, remember to hold down ctrl

JulieSz: got it

MichaelH: Leann just click on the blue in the chat window...

MichaelH: it should be a "live" link

SuzanneH: I can't get it either

LeannM: got it

JulieSz: the second link won't work

LawrenceH: I have a pop-up killer that prevents the link from opening - I'll look later

GailP: These are images that you should be able to both view and download from the LOC site

JosephLH: Pop up blockers: use ctrl when clicking the link

SuzanneH: Got it. You had to push the control button while clicking

LeniD: Thanks, Joe!

LeniD: and Suzanne

LeniD: Moving along...

LeniD: In 1493, Columbus reported his discoveries. Note that you may view the original document, OR a translation...

GailP: If you can't see the images now, come back to the transcript links.

LawrenceH: thanks for the tip - works fine, lasts long time

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/treasures/trt038.html>

LeniD: Glad it helped, Lawrence :-)))

LeniD: And for your students...from America's Library...

LeniD: http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/colonial/columbus_1

LeniD: While Columbus may have "led the way," many followed...

LeniD: Are you familiar with Diego Gutiérrez and his 1562 map of America?

GailP: If you haven't used America's Library, this LOC site is geared for families and younger students.

JosephLH: Vaguely

SuzanneH: No.

LeniD: Let this Special Presentation acquaint you with the explorer and his map..

RonaldJ: I'm sorry, but I am not familiar with this.

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gutierrz.html>

LeniD: Now you will be!

LeniD: Jacques Cartier was exploring for France during this era, as well. Here is information for your students about his exploration of the St. Lawrence River.

LeniD: From America's Library...

GailP: The Library of Congress has an amazing collection of maps - and this one is from 1562

LeniD: http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/colonial/cartier_1

JanGst4: This is great - gotta go - thanks for the experience - I'll come back another day!
- is there a topic list somewhere?

JosephLH: I love the map features from LOC to zoom in and out!

LeniD: On the Learning Page Community Center, Jan...bye!

LeniD: Isn't that wonderful, Joe!

LeniD: And from Today in History (scroll way down the page)...

LeannM: I like the maps too!!

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/jun09.html>

GailP: You can zoom in on the Gutierrez map and see wonderful details.

RonaldJ: I would like to use more maps in my English classrooms - I enjoy trying interdisciplinary approaches to instruction.

LeniD: Excellent! I have many more to share, tonight

LeniD: Here's another description of Spanish exploration...in Florida!

LeniD: From America's Library...

LeniD: http://www.americaslibrary.gov/cgi-bin/page.cgi/jb/colonial/augustin_1

LeniD: Within the Hispanic and Portuguese Collections, you and your students can learn about "Encounters in America"...

LeniD: <http://leweb.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/guide/encameri.html>

LeniD: In the early years of the 16th century, Dutch exploration was occurring in North America, as well.

LeniD: In the international collection, The Atlantic World, you and your students can learn more about the Dutch in America.

LeniD: <http://international.loc.gov/intldl/awkbhtml/kb-1/kb-1-1.html#track1>

LeniD: Visit “Spain, The United States & The American Frontier: Historias Paralelas,” to see more of the Library’s international collections...

LeniD: <http://international.loc.gov/intldl/eshtml/eshome.html>

RonaldJ: Leni - my project focuses on the West African Slave trade to the U.S. as an introduction to events leading to race relations in the South (as a prelude to our study of Lee's TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD. I want to iterate how great the International Collection is, and how much stuff there is here.

LeniD: Glad to hear that you have explored them, Ronald.

LeniD: Note that these international collections from the Library’s Global Gateway, created in collaborations with other international libraries, are written in two languages.

LeniD: Take some time to explore this area of the Library’s web site if you have never visited it.

LeniD: <http://international.loc.gov/intldl/intldlhome.html>

LeniD: Now...from the Wise Guide...how America got its name...

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/aug03/america.html>

LeniD: How are we doing? Any cases of whiplash, yet?

RonaldJ: Doing fine.

MichaelH had his seatbelt on the whole time

GailP: The Wise Guide has lots of great offerings - and you can find them all in the Archives - <http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/archives.html>

LeannM: my head's spinning! just kidding

NuritS: Great here!

LeniD: Glad to hear you are all right, folks

SuzanneH: Yes. Now I see why you can get a printed transcript.

LeniD: Thanks, Gail.

LeniD: And of course...Lewis and Clark immediately come to mind when one thinks of explorers...

GradyM: I am having trouble still going to the sites. I am able to get to some that are really interesting

LeniD: From the Wise Guide, once again...links to sources about this famous duo:

RonaldJ: I just saved the Wise Guide as a WEB favorite

LeniD: “Go West, young men!”

MichaelH: Grady, you can always refer to the transcript after the session

ChristyD joined the room.

LeniD: <http://www.loc.gov/wiseguide/aug03/lewisclark.html>

LeniD: Welcome, Christy.

LeniD: To support a study of the Lewis and Clark expedition, this interactive activity from the Learning Page...

LeniD: Fill up the Canvas...

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn//features/lewisandclark/index.html>

JulieSz: a hot topic in MO

LeniD: A hot topic many places, this year :-)))

GailP: And for a couple more years I think!

LeniD: True, Gail!

RonaldJ: WOW!

LawrenceH: A 4th grade topic in Washington (in the 40s)

LeniD: And from the Library's amazing Map Collections...

LeniD: Discovery and Exploration..

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/dsxphome.html>

GailP: Here is the Canvas Resource Page - come back and visit later - it will link you to many primary resources in the LOC related to the Lewis and Clark Expedition -

http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/lewisandclark/resources_toc.html

LeniD: And a Learning Page activity to help teachers and students glean all that can be learned with maps....

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/maps/exploration.html>

CraigN: Here is one we have done - a VR movie from the inside of an earthen lodge similar to one that Sacagawea lived in.

CraigN: <http://www.minot.k12.nd.us/index.php?page=67>

GailP: Craig - that is wonderful! Thanks for sharing!!!

LeniD: Ah, yes! I remember this one, Craig. It was "in process" when last you shared it. Cool!

RonaldJ: The student graphic organizer for these maps are a great feature.

LeniD: It helps to scaffold the thinking, doesn't it Ronald?

RonaldJ: Indeed so.

LeniD: Does anyone else want to share resources before I move us on?

LeniD: Are you looking for classroom tested lessons?

CraigN: How about a quote - one I use in my signature - deals with how you are using technology to share these resources. If learning is an act of exploration, then technology equips the explorer for the journey of a lifetime.....

JeffC: I have a couple hundred Social Studies links at

<http://www.mybookmarks.com/public/coops>

LeniD: Nice, Craig! Thanks for sharing

JeffC: Going to take me a while to add all the ones Leni gave us tonight.

RonaldJ: I did last Saturday night when trying to access the tutorial site of Do's and Don'ts for Tapped In. My wireless connection kept knocking me out.

LeniD: Hmmm...I've seen a lot of drop outs, tonight, too. I'm going to move us on...

LeniD: Classroom lessons...

LeniD: How about this one for grades 8-12...

LeniD: Explorations

MichaelH . o O (don't forget Leni posts a transcript on the LP web page soon after the session is completed, too)

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/98/environ/intro.html>

LeniD: Sure do, Michael

RonaldJ: This would be terrific when used in conjunction with T.S. Eliot's "The Wasteland"

JulieSz: any for elementary grades?

LeniD: Good connection, Ronald!

LeniD: And for grades 3-8...

LeniD: Marco Paul's Travels on the Erie Canal...

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/00/canal/>

JulieSz: thanks!

LeniD: and this new lesson...

LeniD: Journeys West

GailP: Julie - we'd love to hear what would help you - at the elementary level - beyond this lesson -

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/01/west/index.html>

LeniD: Yes, indeed, Julie.

GailP: And remember - even if a lesson is targeted to a higher level - you can use the resources suggested and adapt them to your own level...

LeniD: The Learning Page collection connections take an in depth look at a single collection...

RonaldJ: Again - another literary connection - Steinbeck's work (naturalism, the dust bowl -) all great historical information as background to the study of these novels.

SuzanneH: Fabulous. I am doing westward expansion this month.

NuritS: This lesson would be great for 4th or 5th!

LeniD: Yes, I love Journeys West, too

LeniD: you are the "connections man," Ronald! Bravo!

LeniD: Visit these collection connections to learn about exploration and explorers...

LeniD: Evolution of the Conservation Movement: 1850-1920...

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/collections/conserv/index.html>

GailP: Both Leni and I are so interested in your needs and how the Library of Congress can work to help you in the future...

RamonsT joined the room.

LeniD: Feel free to write to us, offline, if you wish. We WOULD love to hear from you!

JulieSz: I'm back! I work primarily with 3rd and 4th grade teachers

LeniD: Welcome, Ramons.

LeniD: History of the American West, 1860 - 1920...

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/collections/amwest/>

JulieSz: It's hard to find age appropriate materials for that age that they can read and understand

RonaldJ: Gail - I'm interested in tying these LOC documents/sites to literature and writing. Students need these as a 'hook' to get them interested in American literary classics. If I can link history with imaginative literature, then I have generated some interest.

LeniD: You are right, Julie, though there is much in America's Library that you can use.

NuritS: Yes, I teach 3rd and their reading and comprehension levels are so varied.

GailP: I'm so glad to hear that, Ronald.

JulieSz: And the varied levels makes teachers not use some great sites

LeniD: Julie and Nurit...many activities on the Learning Page, in addition to America's Library, can be used with teacher "facilitation".

GailP: I agree, Julie...

LeniD: Mapping the National Parks...

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/learn/collections/parks/index.html>

NuritS: I usually use partners and literature circles to group some of the advanced readers with the slower ones

JohnLi: In California, Lewis and Clark is initially covered in fifth grade (slightly higher reading levels, for those on-level anyway).

RonaldJ: All too often, our disciplines are departmentalized. They needn't be so much. If the teacher is willing to dig, each discipline can in some way inform the other - and for good purposes in the classroom.

LeniD: Great...that's very effective, Nurit.

LeniD: John, here's one just for you...

LeniD: "California as I Saw It": First-Person Narratives of California's Early Years, 1849 - 1900

LeniD: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/collections/cab/index.html>

JohnLi: That would be great for our fourth grade teachers, who concentrate on California history.

JohnLi: Thanks.

LeniD: Ronald, I'm a firm believer in "whole" learning...that's how we make real connections!

JulieSz: The classrooms I work with are all equipped....2 kids per computer. They do a lot of online activities (webquests, online projects, etc)....but get hung up on the reading level of some of the resources on the Internet

LeniD: Julie, much of what we do in workshops is done with image sets...and can be done by any age group.

RonaldJ: You're right, Leni. But I find that the teacher must be a student, too, in order for this to happen. I've also found that not to be the case in many situations.

JosephLH: California Pictures in Prose and Verse would be great to link Social Studies and Language Arts

GailP: I think, Julie, that we are aware of that....but what could we do to help you make our resources more accessible?

CraigN: Have you looked at Nettekter? A subscription service that has collected web sites by curricular area, grade level, and standards.

RonaldJ: I'm sorry - I didn't mean to digress.

LeniD: Especially in secondary education...it's easier for the elementary teachers I think, Ronald.

JulieSz: hmmm...lower the readability level a bit, or at least "chunk" the information into 8-10 year old pieces

LeniD: Good suggestion, Julie. Have you used America's Library? Is it hard for your youngsters to use, too?

GradyM: I think many teachers are just unaware of all the resources offered by the LOC. I really feel this is a vast tool we haven't taken advantage of.

GailP: I think we are all here for the same purpose - to share great resources to make the teaching of history more fun, meaningful and understandable....give us your suggestions...

LeniD: Craig, that's a good suggestion, too...thanks

LeannM: I agree with Grady

JosephLH: The more I look, the more I want to use.

LeannM: I'm so excited about the material that the LOC provides for teacher and students

LeniD: It can be overwhelming, Grady and Leann...we know that But we are definitely looking for ways to make it more approachable...

ChristyD: After looking at what the Library of Congress has to offer, I think materials can be found for most every grade level to use.

JulieSz: It's a bit over the heads of some of the younger kids. Now a days, you get a group of kids in a third and fourth grade room that really struggle with reading

LeniD: that is the whole point of the Learning Page. We WELCOME your comments and suggestions

JulieSz: If they can't read, they can't comprehend either

LeannM: I have been sharing information from the LOC with other teachers as well as friends that are interested in America's history

GailP: Grady...I'm sure you are the voice "of the people"...any suggestions....???? We're listening....

GradyM: The more you explore, the easier it seems to navigate and search. At least for me, anyway.

JulieSz: I now know I need to spend a LOT more time looking through everything you have to offer. This way I can make useful suggestions to my teachers

RonaldJ: The problem with me is that I don't know when to stop and use. I just keep looking and looking and looking.

LeniD: Definitely true, Grady. There is a real learning curve...but then the possibilities are endless.

LeniD: LOL...Lost in LOC-Land...been there, done that

JosephLH: Whenever I look for anything on the internet, I often find myself looking and looking, etc. I just love to learn!

JulieSz: Is the LOC-ness monster there too?

KellyRo joined the room.

LeniD -)))

LeniD: Welcome, Kelly.

LeniD: All of the resources I shared this evening (and many more) can be visited in the Exploration and Explorers Community Center from the Learning Page...

LeniD: http://memory.loc.gov/learn/community/cc_exploration.php

GailP: I think we'd love to hear, Ronald, what might be the kind of resource you Would stop and use - one document, an activity, a lesson... or something that we are not offering...?

CraigN: our Lewis and Clark links can be found at

http://www.minot.k12.nd.us/index.php?cat=36&page=1&mode=links_category_2

GailP: Thanks, Craig!

CraigN: Our general curriculum links are at

http://www.minot.k12.nd.us/index.php?mode=links_category_2&page=1

RonaldJ: I would love to see more literary connections and uses -- especially more linkages between the Library's holdings and our nation's literatures.

LeniD: Nice, Craig!

JosephLH: I think what helps are personal stories or background-to help link the big idea.

RonaldJ: You would get more English faculty involved, I believe.

GailP: Ronald - give us some titles and maybe we can make the connections....

GailP: Agreed, Joseph...

LeniD: I always made those connections with my students, too, Joseph. Agreed.

CraigN: those were thematic links. curricular links at

http://www.minot.k12.nd.us/index.php?mode=links_category_1&page=1

MichaelH knows there's a good "To Kill A Mockingbird" lesson on the LP site

RonaldJ: Starting with Oral traditions and Native American literatures - then following up the philosophic/literary historic timeline. I'll be glad to put together a few ideas, if you're interested. How may I get in touch with you?

LeniD: Please!

GailP: But how great if you would give us 10 of your top 10 titles for connections....

LeniD: Write to learningpage@loc.gov

GailP: I feel a research project coming on.....:-)

RonaldJ: Gail - I would be glad to.

GailP: Wonderful, Ronald...

GradyM: As a seventh grade teacher, our SC curriculum standards don't seem to focus as much on U S history as much as they do on a broader "world communities" concept.

Hopefully, the LOC might be able to expand into more world regions.

RonaldJ: You can expect it this evening.

CraigN: www.unitedstreaming.com has over 2,000 educational videos and a 30 day free trial. One 50 minute video broken into many short clips on Lewis, Clark and Sacagawea.

LeniD: Thanks, Ronald.

GailP: Thanks, Ronald!

LeniD: Grady, the Global Gateway is slowly growing...keep an eye on that...

ChristyD: I teach with Grady. I agree. It has been difficult trying to find resources that fit our curriculum standards. I would like to see more on world regions.

RonaldJ: Glad that I can help. This site makes me want to teach HISTORY and Social Studies. It's terrific.

LeniD: and we will try to make some connections through the Learning Page, too.

JulieSz: This will help with Lewis and Clark...

<http://emints.more.net/resources/index.shtml>

LeniD: United Streaming is AMAZING!

GailP: Please do keep in touch with us.....

GailP: And thanks Julie...

LeniD: Thanks, Christy and Julie

JulieSz: Check out the MO heritage videos

LeniD: Our time is drawing to a close...

JulieSz: it went fast!

LeniD: Hate to stop this very helpful discussion...

LeannM: it sure did

LeniD: Please join us next month, on May 20, when we will be discussing War and Peace (and hopefully, seeing more peace in our world than we do today!).

GailP: I congratulate you all for your caring and interest about your profession....

GailP: We're here to help you....

LeannM: this has been wonderful

RonaldJ: Thank you, Leni and Gail, for your time.

ChristyD: Thanks!

JulieSz: thanks!

CraigN: thanks. bye

GailP: and we want to hear from you....

RonaldJ: This has been most informative and helpful.

GailP: Bye....

SuzanneH: Thanks a lot for everything. I can't wait to use the westward expansion stuff.

JosephLH: Thank you

MichaelH waves

NuritS: thanks, very useful info!

GradyM: I have enjoyed the sites I got to visit, and I look forward to viewing those I couldn't access. Thank you for the information

LeniD: We thank you for making time to join us! Great discussion...thanks!

RonaldJ: And Michael H, too!

LeniD: Thanks, BJ and Michael

GailP: Peace to you all...and off to toddlers....