CRD Discussion: Technology in the Classroom
Convened using Adobe Connect and conference call
August 15, 2012
Noon - 1 PM

Classroom Technology

Clickers Pro
- Students enjoy opportunity to participate using clickers
- Use clickers judiciously throughout class (3-4 times/hour)
- Ask resource related questions then have students discuss their answers with each other then ask the same resource question again to see if there is a change in the responses
- Promotes discussion among students and instructor (pose a question in which all choices are correct). Having students Explain/Defend why they voted one way is a good critical thinking exercise.

Clickers Con
- Clickers limiting and inhibited dynamism is classroom discussion
- Clickers interfered with presentation flow

Google Docs – students like collaborative nature of working on documents together.

Keyword Challenges from 21st Century Information Fluency works well in class. An example is
http://21cif.com/rkitp/challenge/Keyword_Challenge/Q2Q_Earthquake.swf

Poll Everywhere (http://www.polleverywhere.com/) is a good tool but discussion of responses is necessary for learning. Need wireless or wired connection to participate. Works with clickers and is device neutral. One librarian worked with the instructor during the classroom session to solicit feedback from students to help determine parameters for their final project.

LibGuides poll feature works well.

Camtasia or Captivate can be used for database demos embedded into online courses or as stand-alone demos. Attention spans are short so keep the demos under 5 minutes in length. Chunk demos into short modules. Camtasia can be difficult to edit.
Jing is also used to create demos and to answer reference questions. (Free alternative if presentation is under 5 minutes)
Wink is another alternative for creating demos but might be more difficult than other software for demo creation. (Free alternative)
Screenr yet another software tool used to create demos.

iPad Usage
 - Quick instruction outside the library
 - See how resources and problems appear (trouble shooting)
 - Filter RSS feeds for reading later
 - Untethered sessions to walk around classroom and prompt student database
   search strategies
 - Problem-based learning exercises for searching Summon and evaluating resources
 - Web evaluation activities

- Roving reference
- Students did not like using the iPad for database searching but liked it for Web browsing
- Possible higher education uses for iPads can be adopted from K-12 uses

Security can cause problems with tablets because most are designed as one-user devices which make it difficult to get IT approval for classroom use. But progress in this area is being made, SMU in Texas uses syncing software to clean their iPads (http://smu.edu/cul/flc/ic/tlc.asp).

A few articles about using iPads in the classroom (mostly recommended apps to try):
 -"Making Your Digital Classroom More Interactive," http://oupeltglobalblog.com/2012/07/17/making-your-digital-classroom-more-interactive/
-"50 Must-Download Apps for Lifelong Learners," http://edudemic.com/2012/08/50-must-download-apps-for-lifelong-learners/

Prezi is an alternative to PowerPoint. One instructor uses it to increase her connection with the students by creating an automated presentation which allows her to move around the classroom. Keep the design simple as some animation can cause dizziness.

Twitter backchannels divide attention during class. Using more than one technology at the same time can be distracting. Twitter to ask/answer questions after a conference/workshop works well.

Tie library instruction to an assignment. If there is no assignment related to the library instruction then direct students to an online tutorial or other instructional resource. Work with faculty instructor and let students know you are willing to help them outside the classroom. Offer open sessions for students. Attendance varies during open sessions.

Librarians can design a series of web-based objects that can be integrated into the curriculum and used throughout the semester.

Discovering New Technology

EDUCAUSE – "7 things you should know about" articles. Concise articles about emerging technology and their practical applications. http://www.educause.edu/research-and-publications/7-things-you-should-know-about

Association for Educational Communications Technology (AECT) member benefits include publications that are not specifically library-related but very useful. http://www.aect.org/newsite/

LifeHacker (http://lifehacker.com/) or some of The Chronicle of Higher Education blogs, such as Wired (http://chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/), ProfHacker (http://chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/), or The Ubiquitous Librarian (http://chronicle.com/blognetwork/theubiquitouslibrarian/), which is also good for general academic librarianship.

Discussion with colleagues:

Mashable (http://mashable.com)

TechCrunch http://techcrunch.com/

Twitter to follow tech companies, other librarians, and community members

listservs

50-minute one shots - book to increase bond between student and instructor. Meredith Farkas blog post on one-shots. Suggest tying catalog, databases, web one-shots together with the theme of evaluation. Some don't like using the one-shots because they are not effective see CRL article http://crl.acrl.org/content/73/4/366.full.pdf+html.

RSS feeds