

## Types of Online Tools & Resources that Support Teachers' Learning

<http://jbharr.people.wm.edu/TeacherOnlineToolsVSTE2005.doc>

### 1. Curriculum content indexes

Example: Blue Web'n

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/bluewebn/>

Description: "Blue Web'n is an online library of 1800 + outstanding Internet sites categorized by subject, grade level, and [format](#) (tools, references, lessons, hotlists, resources, tutorials, activities, projects). You can search by grade level ([Refined Search](#)), broad subject area ([Content Areas](#)), or specific sub-categories ([Subject Area](#)). Each week 5 new sites are added. You can get a list and description of these additions sent to you by signing up...for free [weekly updates](#)."

Example: Marco Polo Teacher Resources

[http://www.marcopolo-education.org/teacher/content\\_index.aspx](http://www.marcopolo-education.org/teacher/content_index.aspx)

Description: "The MarcoPolo program provides no-cost, standards-based Internet content for the K-12 teacher and classroom, developed by the nation's content experts. Online resources include panel-reviewed links to top sites in many disciplines, professionally developed lesson plans, classroom activities, materials to help with daily classroom planning, and a powerful search engine."

### 2. Pedagogical information indexes

Example: Kathy Schrock's Teacher Helpers: Assessment & Rubric Information

<http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/assess.html>

Description: Excellent collection of links to assessment information, tools, models, and examples. Categories include: " | [Web Page Rubrics](#) | [General Rubrics](#) | [Builders](#) | [Articles](#) | [Alternative](#) | [Portfolios](#) | [Graphic Organizers](#) | [Report Cards](#) |"

Example: Educator's Reference Desk

<http://www.eduref.org/>

Description: "From the Information Institute of Syracuse, the people who created AskERIC, the Gateway to Educational Materials, and the Virtual Reference Desk, the Educator's Reference Desk brings you the resources you have come to depend on. 2,000+ lesson plans, 3,000+ links to online education information, and 200+ question archive responses."

### 3. Online professional development programs

Example: PBS TeacherLine

<http://teacherline.pbs.org/teacherline/>

Description: "PBS TeacherLine provides online professional development through facilitated courses, a supportive learning community and exemplary resources."

#### 4. Interactive learning tools for student use

Example: National Library of Virtual Manipulatives for Interactive Mathematics  
<http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/vlibrary.html>

Description: “This is a three-year NSF supported project to develop a library of uniquely interactive, web-based virtual manipulatives or concept tutorials, mostly in the form of Java applets, for mathematics instruction (K-8 emphasis).”

#### 5. Communication and collaboration environments

Example: Tapped In 2  
<http://ti2.sri.com/tappedin/>

Description: Tapped In is an online workplace and meeting place for communities of educational professionals. It employs a “place” metaphor with a central Tapped In building and “tenant” buildings designed for partner districts and universities. It is used for online teaching and learning as well as coordination of research teams and educational organizations.

Example: Knowledge Loom  
<http://knowledgeloom.org/index.jsp>

Description: “Review research that identifies promising practices related to various themes. View stories about the practices in real schools/districts. Learn to replicate the success of these practices in your own organization. Add your own stories, knowledge, questions to the collections.”

#### 6. Collaborative curriculum design/lesson study virtual spaces

Example: Education with New Technologies: Networked Learning Community  
<http://learnweb.harvard.edu/ent/home/index.cfm>

Description: Education with New Technologies is a networked community designed to help educators design learning experiences for students through the effective integration of new technologies. The goal of this “village” is to support teams of teachers in integrating new educational technologies into teaching with guidance from established design principles--specifically those found in *Teaching for Understanding*.

#### 7. Personalized assistance services: Asking questions/ Finding someone to help you

Example: WINGS Online Telementoring  
<http://wings.utexas.org/telementoring.html>

Description: New teachers select an online mentor from a database of information forms completed by experienced teachers. Communication is one-to-one primarily via email and telephone.

(continued on next page)

Example: WINGS Online Information-on-Demand  
[http://wings.utexas.org/info\\_on\\_demand.html](http://wings.utexas.org/info_on_demand.html)

Description: New teachers' requests for specific pedagogical and curriculum content information are answered in summary form and with high-quality Web site recommendations. All questions and responses are added to a growing and searchable database that is publicly accessible.

## 8. Group self-assessment tool for locating expertise and determining needs

Example: Profiler  
<http://profiler.hprtec.org/>

Description: Online service designed to build cooperation and collaboration among teachers to improve their skills around general topics. Survey tool assesses user technology abilities and locates others who can assist in strengthening identified skills within a school or district.

## 9. Public knowledge construction venues:

- by individuals (with Web logs: "blogs")
- and groups (with infinitely editable Web pages: "wikis")

Example Blogs: From Behind the Teacher's Desk (Kate, a young HS science teacher)  
<http://behindthedesk.blogspot.com/>  
 March 2005 posts:  
[http://behindthedesk.blogspot.com/2005\\_03\\_01\\_behindthedesk\\_archive.html](http://behindthedesk.blogspot.com/2005_03_01_behindthedesk_archive.html)

Weblogg-ed  
<http://www.weblogg-ed.com/>

Description: A Web log is a publicly accessible journal that is kept online and can allow for others' comments. Often the person is not identified by name and can write "anonymously." First year teachers might, for example, keep blogs of their concerns and reflections that others can read and comment upon, as in this example. Another possible use might be for teachers to write reflections on the school week that their students could comment upon.

Example Wikis: The Teachers' Lounge  
<http://teacherslounge.editme.com/>

Wikipedia (collective encyclopedia)  
<http://www.wikipedia.org>

Description: A wiki is a set of Web pages that can be edited by individuals or groups without HTML or programming skill, enabling highly interactive group authoring. The encyclopedia ("Wikipedia") is a large, global project but districts or schools could create their own wikis.

## 10. Inquiry-based video case studies of teaching

Example: Inquiry Learning Forum  
<http://ilf.crlt.indiana.edu/>

Description: The Inquiry Learning Forum is also a virtual place, but in this case the place is a school and visitors (virtually) visit the classrooms via videos created by teachers. There is a full video of a lesson and resources to help teachers discuss lessons taught in real classrooms. Example.

Video Traces

<http://depts.washington.edu/pettt/projects/videotraces.html>

Description: Video Traces is a system that makes it easy to capture a piece of rich digital media, such as video or a digital image, and to annotate that media both visually (using a pointer to record gestures) and verbally. The resulting product is a "video trace": a piece of media plus its annotation--in essence, a recorded "show & tell". Traces can be viewed by their creator, exchanged with others, and further annotated for a variety of teaching and learning purposes.

## 11. Interactive electronic portfolio

Example: Open Portfolio  
<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/teachered/projects/openportfolio/password.php>

Description: The electronic portfolio is a server-based tool that helps teachers create and maintain their professional portfolios online. The portfolio's owner may invite collaborative reflection by colleagues and supervisors based upon the artifacts included in the portfolios.

## 12. Online realtime communication tools

Examples: AIM  
<http://www.aim.com/>

ICQ  
<http://www.icq.com/>

WantDBest free chat tools links:  
<http://wantdbest.com/freebies/chattools.html>

Description: Chats are informal ways of directly connecting with people who are online at the same time as you are. AOL's Instant Messenger (AIM), ICQ, or IChat clients can be downloaded for free. Once you sign up (also free) you can identify specific users as members of your "buddy list." You can indicate your level of availability and see if others are online and ready to receive text messages when you are. Clicking on a buddy's name will open a text chat window. If you have the technology available for audio or video chat, clicking on these icons will begin the selected session.