



ByteSize

NEA members using technology
to improve education

IN THE CLASSROOM

Surfing Made Easy

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WHAT: Surfing the Internet can turn up hundreds of valuable teaching resources, but it can take thousands of hours to find them all. Here they're all gathered in one place.

INSPIRATION: I see the Internet as a classroom expander. But a couple of years ago I realized that although the Internet offered a huge amount of information, none of it was accessible through any standardized search tool.

I wanted to organize these "sites" on the Internet so that teachers could have information right at their fingertips and use the Internet more effectively in the classroom.

So I pored over various publications and spent thousands of hours surfing the 'Net myself. Now I've gathered information on more than 600 sites. Cool School Tools and the Cisco List of Education Sites are

among my favorites, because they enhance not only curriculum but also professional development.

Each of these sites has an "address." (For example, the address for Cool School Tools is <http://www.bham.lib.al.us/cooltools/>.) At first, I

etc. Clicking on any topic produces a list of all the sites I've collected under that topic. And clicking on any one item in the list automatically takes you to that site.

CLICK: When a sixth-grade class was studying the *Titanic*, we visited the *Titanic* Home Page created by a 13-year-old Australian student. The class was amazed someone so close to their age could have a quality site—and know so much about the *Titanic*!



wrote the Internet address and description of each site on a card and put them in a filebox organized by topic.

Then, thanks to a local Internet provider, I was given the chance to make my "bibliography" available to educators around the world. I got my own "home page"—my own site. I've called it Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators. And its address is <http://www.capecod.net/Wixon/Wixon.htm>.

Things are still organized by topic—arts, history, science, weather,



Photos by Steve Heaslip

BYTES FOR BEGINNERS

Technology goals should be intrinsically linked to your long-term educational vision. The decisions you make early on may dictate your options later—where you place wires and what hardware you purchase now may affect your capacity a few years down the road. Some things to keep in mind:

► Pooling your buying power with neighboring districts may allow you to split the costs of consultants and maintenance resources. Bulk purchases and larger service contracts may decrease your costs.

► Including all constituents of your community in technology planning will ensure a more widespread commitment to the plan's success. Good business partners may offer not only financial and technical resources but expertise in budgeting and planning, too.

► Coordinating with community groups may produce other bonuses. For instance, wiring schools may fit into an overall plan by your local government for bringing the community online. Libraries may play a significant role in providing out-of-school access to those who do not have computers at home.

How long does it take to detect any measurable effect of technology on student learning, and what are the best tools for doing this? Those who have pioneered good technology plans can provide valuable insight on questions like these.

For perspective on what others are doing, check out *Plans and Policies for Technology in Education* (\$35 from the National School Boards Association, 703/838-6722).

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

ED WEB

■ The U.S. Department of Education's improved version of its World Wide Web page provides info on the Department, funding, programs, services, and much more (<http://www.ed.gov>). It includes the America Goes Back to School page, with a "Partners Activity Guide" that offers back-to-school tips for your classroom and ideas on getting technology and computers into the classroom (<http://www.ed.gov/Family/BTS/>).

INTERNET REVEALED

■ A series of four videotapes, *Internet Revealed*, offers an overview of the Internet and its educational resources for both teachers and students. Limited time pre-release price, \$99; individual tapes, \$39. Contact Kim Conlin, Classroom Connect, 1866 Village Lane, P.O. Box 10488, Lancaster, PA 17605-0488, 800/638-1639.

ONE COMPUTER

■ *The One Computer Classroom Video & Technology Planning Guide* lays out the options for classrooms that have just one computer to work with. To borrow a free copy, contact Tom Snyder Productions, 800/342-0236.

RESOURCES

DEVELOPMENT

■ Bank Street College offers eight-week professional development seminars for K-8 educators over the Internet. The focus: math instruction and helping educators bring National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards to their classrooms. E-mail cct@edc.org or visit (<http://www.edc.org/CCT/mlf/MLF.html>).

WHAT'S ACCEPTABLE

■ For information on acceptable use policies, check out (gopher://riceinfo.rice.edu:8002/?acceptable). To get related materials, send a \$10 check (payable to SCWRIP, with "IWAYX" on the memo line) to Stephen Marcus, Graduate School of Education, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

MORE DEVELOPMENT

■ Professional development resources divided by curriculum areas including special ed and international studies can be found at (<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/teis/>) or [gopher to \(curry.edschool.virginia.edu\)](mailto:gopher to (curry.edschool.virginia.edu)).