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From Kathleen's computer

D-Y's Kathleen Schrock gives teachers the goods on the Internet

By **K.C. MYERS**
STAFF WRITER

SOUTH YARMOUTH - They call her "the Martha Stewart of educational technology." Kathleen Schrock, 43, has written six books about the Internet in education. She runs her own Web site, "Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators," which has a partnering arrangement with the Discovery Channel. She chairs a Cape-wide committee on school technology. The consortium of school personnel meets monthly to review the latest products available to educators . The U.S. Department of Education invited her to Washington, D.C. in December 1999 to be one of the authors of the National Goals for Educational Technology. She's headed to Geneva, Switzerland this month to judge Thinkquest, an international Web design competition for seventh through 12th graders. Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Jane Swift handed her a \$1,000 award from the Massachusetts Internet and Software Council last month. The Above and Beyond Award goes to unsung heroes in the field of education technology. So where can you find this wizard of the Web? She doesn't work in a swank Internet start-up office or reside in an ocean-front trophy home living off her stock options. Instead, Schrock coordinates computer technology for the Dennis-Yarmouth School District. Her day revolves around maintaining 1,200 computers for the district. She trains teachers, and makes decisions about which computers and equipment to buy for the school. Before and after school, Schrock can be found updating her carefully written and loyally followed Web site. "I get an average of 200 e-mails from teachers from all over the world a day," says the trim, blue-eyed woman. **The Web page is organized by topic, with sections on science, math, history, English and technology. Within each topic, hundreds of different sites are just a click away. A former library and media specialist for D-Y's Wixon Middle School for seven years, Schrock still possesses a librarian's thirst for finding sources.**

That thirst, combined with a fearlessness of technology, has enabled her to amass an impressive list of great Web links for educators.

Schrock's Web site contains 30 "best of the best" sites for educators.

In her opinion, one of the best of these is the "Lower East

Side Tenement Museum." The site is maintained by the New York affiliate of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. It provides an interactive history lesson giving information through words and pictures. Users just click on the facade of an apartment building. The scenes change depending on the date, telling history from the perspective of the people living in that building.

Another of Schrock's favorites is the "FDR Cartoon Archive."

It contains 40,000 cartoons featuring President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The cartoons were donated to the FDR Museum in Hyde Park, N.Y. by a collector. They might well have grown moldy in a folder. But now they are on the Internet and organized by categories highlighting the president's numerous accomplishments.

Schrock maintains her Web site between 5 and 6 in the morning and 9 and 10 at night. Her 3,000-square-foot geodesic dome house in Eastham makes a comfortable workspace.

When Schrock first created her Web site in 1995 she just wanted to help teachers she worked with find information on the still-in-its-infancy Internet.

Then Timothy Saddler, the creator of Cape Internet, offered to host her site for free. He also suggested she use her own name in the title.

She worried "Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators" would make her seem egotistical.

But Saddler told her to use her name. Some day, he said, users would call her "the Martha Stewart of the Internet."

For five years, she maintained the site on Cape Internet. It won awards, including the 1996 Pathfinder Award from the Massachusetts Department of Education. Education World magazine called Schrock "an educator's best friend" in 1998.

In 1999, the Discovery Channel hired her to put her site on its Web site for educators, and began to pay her to update it.

Her Web success led her to more traditional forms of publishing information.

Schrock started writing books in 1997. She's now authored four and edited another, all on education technology.

She has never had a fear of technology. In fact, she owns so many gadgets, she gets embarrassed showing her husband, an engineer, her latest purchases.

But such passion comes in handy when recommending the best and least expensive equipment for schools to purchase.

She recently won a grant from the Cape Cod Economic Development Council to buy all the Cape schools NICs, or New Internet Computers, an Internet appliance that offers speedy e-mail and Internet access at a fraction of the price of a normal personal computer.

Schrock knows her recognition has grown. But she did not understand just how much until a few years ago.

She was attending a National Education Computing Conference in San Diego, Calif. One of the exhibitors asked a question that made Cape Internet's Saddler seem like a

prophet: "Who is the Martha Stewart of education technology?"

She can be found in a corner office at the Dennis-Yarmouth regional school district's administration building.

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