10 Must-try Technology Tools for Teachers

In today's classrooms the average student is aware of new online resources the moment they become available. In order to stay ahead, Canadian educators must also be kept abreast of these resources and find new ways to integrate them into the learning environment. CDW Canada has compiled a list of some of the new, must-try technology tools we think every teacher should use in the classroom.

Netvibes

Utilizing tab technology, Netvibes is a multi-lingual start page that enables users to research a topic across multiple online platforms (including YouTube, RSS feeds, blogs, discussion boards and search engines) from a single location. Great for research assignment, reports or to monitor the latest news on education technology.

SlideShare

SlideShare is a free online utility designed for creating slideshows using user-uploaded content. It provides the option of sharing the finished product virally through blogs and social networks, and is an excellent way to share a class presentation or lesson online. Users can also synch audio to slides, market events on SlideShare, join groups to connect with SlideShare members who share interests and even download the original file.

Todo.ly

For educators and administrators who find that the days are getting too disorganized, or even the student trying to get a handle on their activities, Todo.ly is an online personal task manager which provides users the ability to sort tasks by project, use intuitive smart filters, create task hierarchies and make easy edits to entries at any time.

Wix

For the aspiring web developers or educator trying to build a class website, Wix is a free site where users can design, create and host their own website built entirely with Flash technology. All construction is done using simple drag-and-drop techniques and users can create their page from the ground up or use templates offered by Wix.

Jumptags

Jumptags.com is a revolutionary Web 2.0 social bookmarking web service for collecting, storing, sharing and distributing web bookmarks, notes, rss feeds, contacts, and much more. The website offers the easiest, fastest, most intuitive and productive way of maintaining and collaborating bookmarks and other internet resources online. Jumptags is ideal for keeping track of your favourite education, technology and news resources.!

Identi.ca

Identi.ca is a microblogging site, similar to Twitter, but built on an Open Network Service. By developing the site this way and having the source code free to any user who wants it, teachers can create their own microblog but run it on a private network!

Fotki

Fotki is a photo sharing utility that incorporates uploading photos and videos, creating albums, editing images, framing and even ordering prints of everything from individual images to complete albums in a single place. Classrooms and schools can use the free version and still have the advantage of almost every feature.

AnswerGarden

AnswerGarden is designed as a kind of hybrid forum discussion and Wikipedia page. Similar to a poll, it is ideal for gauging student opinions or knowledge on any given topic. After creating and posting a topic, those with access post their answers, and the resulting data can be used to analyze class sentiment, encourage discussion or upload to Wordle.

GoAnimate!

GoAnimate.com enables the simple creation of unique computer animated stories, satires and sentiments that can be shared with the community. Incorporating the site into the learning environment offers educators the opportunity to take the basic concept of creative writing to a new level for students. Instead of just writing original stories, students can use this program to develop a visual component to accompany their work.

NCRTEC Lesson Planner

The North Central Regional Technology in Education Consortium (NCRTEC) Planner addresses essential questions that are often overlooked when planning curriculum units. Teachers bring their own content and are guided through each section by answering specific questions. The result is a comprehensive lesson plan aligned with standards that addresses assessment, content, teaching strategies and use of technology.

Teaching with technology is not just the way of the future, it is the reality of today. Try using these tools in your classroom to stay ahead of the technology learning curve. If you are already using technology in your classroom, enter our annual Teaching with Technology contest at http://www.teachingwithtechnology.ca/.

Follow Teaching with Technology on Twitter.

Find more IT resources and free tools for teachers on the Teaching with Technology Facebook Page.