Reaching International Students Via Podcasting

When the political situation in Lebanon halted faculty travel for residencies, the program looked for other ways to provide faculty student interaction. Initially, video presentations were taped and sent via DVD. While the DVD presentations transmitted information, and allowed students to see their mentors’ teaching style and personality, they did not meet interaction needs.

This spring, some Lebanon faculty members are experimenting with a variety of synchronous internet technologies. These include voice over IP (internet telephone), text chat, shared graphics (PowerPoint), and shared workspace (whiteboard). Most of these tools are available through the college’s Wimba software. A few faculty members are also using podcasting and the college’s new audio discussion boards. Students can listen to podcasts either directly from their computers, or on their MP3 players. Some mobile phones even support MP3 files!

The audio discussion boards are threaded discussions, created through ANGEL and our Wimba voice tools. The faculty member introduces a question, and students can respond from their computers in Lebanon by plugging in a microphone to their computer. All of the recording software is included in the ANGEL/Wimba interface.

The Lebanon program is investigating other social networking tools, such as Twitter, as a way for students to ask questions quickly. In Lebanon, cell phones are extremely popular and ubiquitous. Tools like Twitter that can send messages directly from the computer to students’ cell phones are particularly appealing as a way for faculty to keep connected to their students.

The Conference Board’s Research Database Now Offers Webcasts and PowerPoint Presentations

The library’s subscription to The Conference Board Business Knowledge Research database is best known for providing full-text research reports from The Conference Board on the executive compensation, corporate giving and latest issues in business, management and economics. Content now includes webcasts, which are web-delivered recorded broadcasts, and PowerPoint presentations, which are visual representations of the Conference Boards’ reports. Both have the potential to be used as supplemental resources for student learning contracts and online studies. For assistance using this database, send an e-mail to askalibrarian@esc.edu.
Embedding Stable Links in Your Online Study

Need to create a link from within your online study or document to a full-text article from a library research database (such as JSTOR or ProQuest)? If so, be aware that this process is not the same as embedding a link to a publicly available web page (such as a CNN article). In order to ensure that such links work smoothly for your students, read and follow the steps below:

Steps for embedding a database link into your online study:

- Locate the article using one of the library’s research databases.
- Copy the article URL using the instructions for the specific database involved as noted in the table available on the library’s web site.
- If indicated in the table, add the college library prefix (3rd column) to the URL you copied – this will create a PURL ("Persistent URL") that can then be used by remotely located students using their MyESC college login. Example: http://library.esc.edu/login?url=http://www.search.eb.com.library.esc.edu/eb/article?tocId=28049
- Highlight the text in your document that will serve as the link and create the link/hotspot. Link creation steps will depend on what system or software you are using to create the document (e.g., Lotus Notes/Angel).
- After embedding the link, check that it is working by viewing your template on the web.

Note: for those creating a longer list of web page links, especially if they will be re-used over time and placed on multiple web pages or study templates, consider routing those links through the library’s ESCORT database (login required). Doing so will eliminate the need to edit a broken link in more than one place. To do this, send a description of your request and the list of citations and their accompanying links to: librarian@esc.edu. We will then add these to ESCORT and send you the proper links to use.

Technology Development Grant Awarded to Frank Vander Valk for Virtual Political Actors Project: Application Deadline, June 15

In March, Frank Vander Valk of CDL was awarded a TDF grant to develop a Virtual political actor pilot project. Over the next year, he will work with CLT staff to explore different media, select and develop content for two actors or avatars that have the potential to be embedded into several CDL political science course offerings.

This program, which is funded by the Empire State College Foundation, supports faculty projects involving the use of technology or technology–based resources to support learning. Applications are considered four times a year. The deadline for the next review period is June 15, 2008. To learn more about this program and to complete an online application, go to: www.esc.edu/TechDevFund.
Tech Tip: Merging Multiple PowerPoint Presentations Into One

PowerPoint allows you to combine multiple presentations into a single one. You can do this by inserting slides from one presentation into another.

1. Begin by opening the presentation that has the most slides and switch to Normal view.
2. From the Insert menu, click the Slides from Files option.
3. Click Browse to find the presentation with the slides you want to merge into the current one and click Open. A Slide Finder dialog box will open up.

4. Next you can choose the specific slides you want to add to the current presentation and click Insert. Conversely, you can add all the slides by selecting Insert All.
5. Click Close and the slides you selected will automatically be added to the open presentation.