

Title of Session: WebQuests in the EU

Moderator: Bernie Dodge

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Room: After School Online

CarolB: I'm on the east coast and still don't know what time the Bernie Dodge Webquest session starts

BJ: Carol, click on the Tapped In tab at the top of your screen and then click on calendar

BJ: you can set the time zone of your calendar to your zone

BJ: then you'll always know what time the events take place

MargaretD: I'm in Germany...have you used Webquests?

GabrielG: Hi everybody from Targoviste, Romania! I am here with Laura & Radu, waiting for Bernie!

BJ smiles...very cool, Gabriel. Hi, Laura and Radu! Welcome to Tapped In

MargaretD: Welcome!

BJ: are you the people Bernie visited with when he was in Romania?

GabrielG: Yes indeed **BJ**. Has he told you about his visit here, **BJ**?

BJ: just a little bit, Gabriel. I do the Tapped In calendar

BernieD joined the room.

BJ: I'm looking forward to Bernie's account of what took place

BernieD: Greetings!

BJ cheers...speak of the devil!

MargaretD: hi Bernie

BernieD: How is everyone?

GabrielG: Hi, Bernie from Romania. Targoviste sallutes you! I hope our Internet connection will keep in touch...I'm very glad "watching" you at this moment!

MargaretD: grey here in Germany

BJ: I'm excited about learning more about your visit to Romania, Bernie!

BernieD: Gabi! I'm so glad you could make it.

BernieD: Only one other American. Good morning, Carol.

GabrielG: OK! Laura and Radu are here! Thanks a lot for your last e-mail! ... and for the pictures!

MargaretD: I'm Maggi, American, but live in Germany

BernieD: Well... I'm finally back in my own time zone and eager to describe my trip.

BernieD: Shall we introduce ourselves, or has everyone done that already?

MargaretD is all ears

BJ: let's do that again for the transcript, please, Bernie

BJ: I'm an art teacher in Pennsylvania.

BernieD: OK... I'm Bernie Dodge, a professor of ed tech at San Diego State University.

MargaretD: I'm a business English teacher in companies in Germany

JavierS joined the room.

CarolB: Hi, I'm an ESL and media literacy teacher working on thesis and avoiding work - well, unemployed at the moment

BernieD: Welcome, Javier! We're doing introductions.

VictorGo joined the room.

SusanR joined the room.

BernieD: Bienvenidos, Victor.

GabrielG: Here in Targoviste we are three people involved in "Think, Construct and Communicate" project! Hi Victor and Javier! Targoviste is with you all!

BJ: Welcome, Victor and Susan. Can you please introduce yourselves?

VictorGo: Bienhallados todos.

JavierS: Un saludo a todos

SusanR: Sue from Ontario, Canada.. k to 8 Occasional Teacher and presenter K to 3+ Resources here at TI

BernieD: Victor and Javier are from Valladolid in Spain... the lead institution for this project.

BJ: ahhh...glad you could join us, Victor and Javier!

VictorGo: Javier and me are teachers from the CFIE Valladolid II (teacher training center in Valladolid, Spain), and we are from the Think, construct and communicate project.

BernieD: Great group! Let's get started.

GabrielG: Victor! We could use the transcription for filling the BSCW space!

BernieD: The purpose of today's special chat is to introduce you to some WebQuest work that I've just become acquainted with. Earlier this month, I spent 3 days in Targoviste, Romania as a member of a working group from 5 EU countries. They've been working on creating an online course for teaching WebQuest development to teachers.

BernieD: First of all, some context. The project is called Think, Construct, Create, and it's a part of a much larger program in the EU that is funding multinational groups to work together on common projects. The overall goal is to increase cooperation across EU member states and to harmonize the various institutions in education and technology. As an American, I have to say that I was blown away by how challenging a task that is. Every country has its unique educational system, terminology, language, and requirements. It makes the differences between Mississippi and New York look like no difference at all.

BernieD: I'm going to project a web site. BJ.... do your thing.

BJ: when Bernie projects a url a new window will pop open for you. You'll still be able to see this chat window

BernieD: To begin with, here's the project web site.

BernieD projects <http://cfievalladolid2.net/thinkweb/>

BernieD: Click on Introduction and spend a minute getting the big picture.

BJ . o O (you also might want to click on the actions drop down menu in the top right of the chat window and scroll down to detach to make the chat window larger and easier to read.)

BJ checks to see if everyone got the projected webpage

MargaretD: got it

SusanR nods

ElizabetD joined the room.

BernieD: Welcome, Elizabeth.

MargaretD: the EU is getting better at integrating

VictorGo: Well, my chat window is now legible

ElizabetD: Hi to everyone

BJ: Elizabeth, we're reading the introduction at <http://cfievalladolid2.net/thinkweb/>

BJ . o O (click on the url to open a new window, Elizabeth)

BernieD: So... you can see that it's quite an ambitious project. I didn't even know about it until a few months ago when I got the invitation to go there from Gabriel in Romania.

BernieD: That made my day!

BernieD: Click on Participant Institutions. You'll see that there are universities and teacher centers from Finland, Poland, Spain, Italy and Romania.

VictorGo: The project actually started on Janvier 2003, with a first coordinating meeting at Valladolid

BJ smiles. Sounds like a very exciting challenge.

MargaretD: you have fans in Europe Bernie

BernieD: Tell us more about Valladolid, Victor. Is it a large university? Just for teachers?

SusanR: impressive

VictorGo: Valladolid has a large University. The University has educational dpartments, but also Science, Law, etc.

JavierS: Large and old (from 13th century)

BernieD: And Valladolid is the coordinating institution and houses the web site and collaboration tools for all 5 countries.

BernieD: Wow. Around here, 1930 is old.

VictorGo: But CFIE Valladolid II is a Secondary center that depends on the regional educational authorities (Consejer?a de Educaci?n de Castilla y Le?n).

GabrielG: ...and Valladolid is a very very beautiful town, with a great rugby team!

BernieD: Well... you've seen the big picture, now let's get to the personal side.

VictorGo: Yes, a great rugby team, and we are near Madrid (the most famous soccer team in the world, "Real Madrid)

JavierS: Gabriel es un pelota (tranlate to english)

BernieD: I blogged about my experience as it happened, and as you'll see it was a dizzying experience. Gabriel and Laura kept us very busy and very well fed.

BernieD projects

http://home.earthlink.net/%7Ebdodge/blog/2004_02_08_archive.html#107640026776676327

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BernieD: Since it's a blog, it's chronologically backwards. You might want to scroll down to Targoviste Day 1 and read upwards.

GabrielG: Well, that's typical for Romanians! Busy and well fed...

VictorGo: Well, at Valladolid we host the server with the web site of the project and a electronic platform to virtual cooperation (collaboration): BSCW. This is the url

<http://cfievalladoli2.net/bscw>

VictorGo: Romanians are very nice people

BernieD: Actually, you can't get to Day 1 from there.

BernieD: Yes! Delightful.

BernieD projects http://home.earthlink.net/%7Ebdodge/blog/2004_02_01_archive.html

VictorGo projects <http://cfievalladolid2.net/bscw>

BJ: Please let people know before you project a webpage...it can be pretty surprising to anyone who doesn't know what is happening

BernieD: Would you like to describe the BSCW for us, Victor? It's an interesting system.

VictorGo: Thank you. In BSCW we coordinate the project and we develop the different national versions of our WebQuest on-line course.

VictorGo: BSCW allows us share folders, files, discussions, chat. We can make different workgroups and share workspaces.

BernieD: It's not clear to me what steps you all went through in developing the course. Did you first do it in English, and then translate?

VictorGo: BSCW is a software that started also as a European project. The software is from FIT in Germany. Developed since 1995

VictorGo: Yes. the course have been developed in English as a first edition in 2003. Then, the different partners have translated it to their national languages

VictorGo: After the first edition ended, the on-line course was again re-written and now, we are developing the second edition

BernieD: And as part of the project, the course was actually taken by local teachers who were then responsible for actually inflicting their WebQuest on kids.

VictorGo: The local tutors (in each country) create shared workspaces in BSCW for the students to develop de course

JavierS: <http://www.orbiteam.de> is the website of BSCW

BJ . o O (you can click on the blue hyperlink to open a new window)

VictorGo: The last phase of the on-line course (first or second edition) is the classroom implementation. Then, we evaluate the impact in the classroom with the tools developed by the evaluation partners (Poland and Rumania)

BernieD: One of the features of BSCW is the fact that you can change the prompts to be in your own language. That makes it EU-friendly.

BernieD: The highlight of the trip for me was to see the kids in Targoviste talking about the WebQuests they experienced.

GabrielG: ...but not in Romanian till now, Bernie. You could do it in Poland by example...

BernieD: Gabi... say a few words about how the project worked at your local high school.

VictorGo: Yes. BSCW is not specifically a learning platform, but a collaborative one. But is good for coordinate and teach at the same time. It has different language interfaces (yes, not Romanian)

GabrielG: Excellent! Our students (professors, in fact) were very interested in knowing the Technique, even they have not had more experience on IT

VictorGo: In the project he have also to evaluate the BSCW platform. At the beginning of the project we have to decide what platform we will use. We use BSCW because is free for educational purposes. So, if we use this platform with teachers, then they can continue the work without us.

GabrielG: Beside our professors, the children answered very good to the WQ requirements!

MargaretD: nice to see people not in it for the money

VictorGo: The Romanian children made an excellent job (and of course the teachers)

JavierS: They, teachers and students, made a good job

MargaretD: sounds fabulous

BJ: are we able to access examples of those WebQuests, Javier and Victor?

GabrielG: Well, I think Romanian teachers and children try to reach the western experience as soon as possible. few years ago we could not dream at all of those: from IT implementing to WebQuests, by example

VictorGo: Yes you have many different national examples in the project website, OUTCOMES

BernieD: I've picked out a few that are in English.

BernieD: Shall we look at one?

BernieD projects http://cfievalladolid2.net/pub/bscw.cgi/d95494-2/*/*/tracksofthewolves.htm

BJ nods in anticipation

BJ: did everyone get that projection?

MargaretD: Gabriel I think this shows another reason why you should be part of the EU

BernieD: As you can tell from the "Documento senza titolo" this is from Italy.

GabrielG: Thanks Margaret! Unfortunately, a lot of people say it's not the right time for Romania :((

BernieD: Any feedback from Carol, Susan, Margaret, BJ for the EU folks?

MargaretD: those people don't know anything

BJ: I like the rubrics

BJ . o O (I don't like the font in the title...very hard to read)

CarolB: I think that it is very exciting to see WebQuests and constructivist type of activities spreading

BernieD: (spreading indeed... I'm going to China in June)

MargaretD: hehe

BernieD: Let's look at another one.

BernieD projects http://cfievalladolid2.net/pub/bscw.cgi/d130875-5/*/*/*/*/*/index.htm

CarolB: Is BSCW like Tapped In ?

JavierS: This webquest is from Gijón (north of Spain)

VictorGo: No, BSCW is not similar to Tapped In. Its main features are their asynchronous tools (shared workspaces)

VictorGo: (I don't know why the links in this page are not actives)

BernieD: Easily fixed, though.

VictorGo: Yes.

BJ: I like this WebQuest too...nice collaborative activities and very detailed rubric

BernieD: One of the challenges I'll bet you all faced is in finding resources online in the various languages. So much of the web is in English (and soon, Mandarin).

BJ wonders how that challenge was met

MargaretD: so many countries f Europe learn English for just that reason

VictorGo: Yes, some times it is difficult finding resources in each national language

BernieD: Which must irritate the French to no end.

BJ chuckles

GabrielG: You could see also a WQ dedicated to DRACULA, created by a professor of English from Targoviste.

MargaretD: they were coming along fine till their feathers were ruffled

GabrielG: Could we try the URL: http://cfievalladolid2.net/pub/bscw.cgi/d127330-2/*/*WebQuest%20Ionascu%20Corina

BJ: Thanks, Gabriel.

GabrielG: The URL is offered by BSCW system :)))

VictorGo: Only a question: can we record this session to upload after in BSCW in order all the partners can see it?

SusanR: I see

BernieD: Yes... you'll get a transcript to post as soon as you leave Tapped In.

BJ: o O (15 or 20 minutes after you log out you'll get an emailed transcript, Victor)

GabrielG: The transcription will be in your e-mail account Victor,... FREE! :))

VictorGo: Thank you

VictorGo: Well, Bernie. What about the videoconference project?

BernieD: I haven't had a chance to talk to my local folks about it... sorry!

BernieD: What luck have the rest of you had?

BernieD: (The next step is a multipoint, multilingual videoconference in April!)

GabrielG: We are in discussion here in Targoviste. We hope to do it but if not, let's do Tapped-In with all the partners! What do you think Victor and Javier?

MargaretD: kewl

VictorGo: At this moment all the partners have a lot of work to select and translate into English the "best" webquest to present it by videoconference.

BernieD: (too bad Esperanto never caught on)

MargaretD: did you learn it Bernie?

VictorGo: Yes, Gabriel. If the videoconference don't work we may go to Tapped In

BernieD: I dabbled.

GabrielG: Yes! Yes! We have the room for that! Thank you Victor!

VictorGo: .. and use a local English translator, of course

JavierS: In French better

VictorGo: Of course

BernieD: Maybe we could augment it with iVisit to see the faces.

BernieD: <http://www.ivisit.com>

GabrielG: Well, let's Bernie decides the language!

MargaretD: that is how English is used in Europe Bernie

BernieD: My choice? Let's do it in Latin.

CarolB: sure

GabrielG: OK! Oscar will be very very happy!

BernieD: Well, cousins, our time slot is almost over.

BernieD: I wanted to share the URL for my pictures with our other guests.

MargaretD: thank you

VictorGo: Yes, and here in Spain, we have to go with our children to Carnival celebrations. And you?

BJ: applauds for Bernie and all the participants in the adventure!

BernieD: projects <http://homepage.mac.com/bdodge/PhotoAlbum6.html>

GabrielG: Is ivisit a real good option for a real time video conferencing? If Yes we could try.

BernieD: No carnival here...

MargaretD: we have carnival here too but it is COLD!!

GabrielG: I saw the pictures! Bernie is a great artist!

BernieD: iVisit is OK. If you all had Macs, iChat is awesome.

VictorGo: At this moment carnival is also cold in Spain (we have snow)

BernieD: <http://homepage.mac.com/bdodge/PhotoAlbum7.html> also.

BernieD: Wow.

JavierS: Happy carnival !!

BernieD: Well... it was great to be with you all again. I hope this was useful for our non-EU guests.

CarolB: delicious

BJ: wonderful! Thanks so much.

GabrielG: Javier, could we use Bernie's picture for the webpage section "Picture gallery"? Bernie, are you agree with that?

BernieD: Sure!

CarolB: Thanks to all!

VictorGo: Very nice to meet all of you. Of course, it was very useful.

MargaretD: Thank you

GabrielG: Thanks! When shall we meet again?

BernieD: OK... hope to see some of you again next month. No date or topic set yet.

BJ . o O (hopefully, it will be set soon!)

BernieD: (but I will soon, **BJ**)

BJ grins. Thanks, Bernie

VictorGo: Goodbyeeee....

GabrielG: But I think Victor we could use the chat soon!

SusanR: Thanks all!!

BernieD: OK... good day and good evening to all.

BJ waves bye

MargaretD: Ciao

GabrielG: Good evening everybody!

BJ: Gabi, you can use Tapped In any time ...and meet in a private office

SusanR: au revoir

BJ: any member can have a private office

GabrielG: OK! Thank you all!