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INTE 5345: Exploring Culture through Digital Storytelling
Field Study Presentation

WLA Digital “Stories of Growth”

“ Instructional design stands at the crossroads of opportunity. With new tools and media capabilities, we have an opportunity to “raise the bar” of our ambitions as we try to have deeper and more lasting impacts on learners. As a profession we can add value to routine instruction by using storytelling, media, and message design, and fully present facilitation as we craft instruction for deeper impacts”. (Wilson and Parish, 11)

My digital story presentation tracks the beginning to end of my field study project. The purpose of this type of presentation is to offer students multiple ways of interacting with each other. I felt that beyond my instruction, this would grant the participants the opportunity to communicate: to comment and offer feedback on the process of the digital storytelling experience. Digital stories are such wonderful multi-modal approaches to learning about ourselves, I felt that the WordPress site would only piggy back their creations. I also wanted to use this information for narrative inquiry purposes at the end of my field study and to offer guidance and knowledge to others who may be interested in conducting the virtual digital storytelling experience in the future. It has also served as a great reminder for myself if and when I conduct another virtual project.

Link to Field Study Report:

<https://drive.google.com/a/bucknell.edu/?tab=mo#folders/0B4u6b1Lt27KpLUJza0NpQ3JjMVE>

Link to WordPress Presentation site:

<https://wladigitalstories.blogs.bucknell.edu>

Instructional Design

My basic approach to the creation of the WordPress site was to track the entire process of the virtual digital storytelling experience for others who would like to understand the process. I wanted to explore the successes and challenges of the virtual environment and report on it. Digital Storytelling is still such an unexplored realm that most do not understand what it is or how it works. This is my attempt to help them understand and get into the guts of it.

Incorporating the WordPress site when I conduct workshops with students at Bucknell University has been something I developed recently. I felt that the students needed a communication hub to access information in addition to my instruction.

They also needed to see the process to understand it. Showing examples of work related to their topic of study really helped the students relate. The sites are highly organized and offer step-by-step instructions, examples of the various stages of the process such as how to create a storyboard, previous student videos, and resources.

The key design decisions included on my WordPress site are:

- What is a digital story?
- The Process
- Storyboard
- Resources
- Schedule
- Digital Story Video Premiere

I included two additional pages after the conclusion of the field study project:

- Field Study Report
- Field Study Presentation

Reflections

I am very pleased with the outcome of the presentation. I believe it included all the key elements needed for production of the digital stories. I would have liked the students to use the WordPress site to offer feedback to their peers. They did not. This would have served as great narrative inquiry for the project and useful information for future projects. I also am still working with one more student, Robert, to finish the edit of his digital story. I would have liked to include his digital story in the final presentation in the video premiere section but unfortunately it is not ready.