

Web Review Process and Checklist for Teachers

Goal: develop consistent method of evaluating educational software and Web sites.

List Site URL and Developer/Organization:

Browser software and site review criteria

- Have you been able to view this site with a variety of browsers?
- What is the type and speed of your Internet connection (e.g., high-speed cable modem or dial-up)?

Site Overview

- *Primary audience:* Is the site primarily developed for educators, students, both or another audience?
- *Special features:* Are there special attributes, such as interactive components, or free content?
- *Navigation:* Was the navigation intuitive and provide methods for viewing multiple content areas?

Programming/Usability

- Was it easy to find what you were looking for?
- Did the site structure provide both browse and search capabilities?
- Did the pages load quickly or were there many delays in downloading content?
- Did the download time exceed 10 seconds?
- If the graphics did not download did the site have alternate text tags to assist those with disabilities?
- Did you have to scroll a lot to view content?

Design

- Is the site visually appealing and why?
- What type of graphics are included (e.g., photography, sound, video, illustrations, animation)?
- How is the design and graphics appropriate for the primary audience?
- What type of consistent design tools are incorporated (e.g., headers, footers, color, page layout)?

Content

- What is the primary subject matter?
- Does the site effectively help users learn this content – can you provide examples of how?
- Who is the primary content author?
- Has the content been authored, edited and peer reviewed by credible sources and if so by whom?
- Does the site indicate that teachers and/or students provided usability studies and what was done with this type of feedback?

Ownership and Use

- Is the site content been explicitly copyrighted and if so, by what organization?
- Is the content available for use at no charge and if so, what is the appropriate source citation?

Contact

- Is there someone (e.g., Webmaster, author) to contact to provide feedback?

Comments

- Provide any additional comments about the site

Classroom Activity

- *Driving Question:* How does photography help tell a story about my life?
- *Goal:* Introduce image photo software for organizing and creating digital slide show software (low cost or free) to increase skills in imaging technology (downloading and/or scanning, sorting, retouching and organizing images).
- *Activity:* Students will create a slide show of images, learning how to catalog images, apply titles/keywords, learn to search – creating their own library system of organization. *Possible products:* www.apple.com, www.breezesys.com, www.opendoor.com.
- Students choose images (e.g., photos from summer) from friends, family or others. If no digital camera, can scan images.
- *Evaluation:* Photo retouching and organization: 30 points. Slide show: 70 points.
- *Extension:* create an interactive slide show with music and text. Burn a DVD that combines photos, music and notes about their experience(s) and show the DVD to classmates and family.

Digital Slide Software – Product Checklist

Product	Function	Features	System Requirements	Purchasing Source	Cost	Review Comments
Breeze Browser	Digital Photo/Slide Download, convert and organize images into collections Print contact sheets Watermark photos	Slide viewer/show builder –Formats: raw, TIFF, JPEG, PNG, JPEG 2000, GIF, BMP, Photoshop PSD, Paint Shop Pro	Windows 98, ME, NT4, 2000 and XP	www.breezesys.com	\$49.95	Downloader Pro is still excellent value and is a must-have for PC users of a digital camera.
Envision (Open Door Networks)	Digital slide show – focus on Web function	HDTV built-in functionality	Mac 10.28 or later	www.opendoor.com	\$49 – Edu. Discount	N/A
IPhoto	Digital photo/slide show – organize and present photos	Create albums, fast scrolling – Use itunes to create show w/music – burn DVD	Macintosh computer with a PowerPC G3, G4, or G5 processor	www.apple.com	Free w/ Mac hardware	Four of five star rating Note: consider using keywords with images – better to search with large collections. Keyword Assistant -- www.macosxhints.com

Questions for teachers:

1. What does the software help students learn and how does it meet student needs?
2. At what level of development does the software operate and is it consistently at this level?
3. Do you have the tools to effectively use the software in your school?
4. Is there a method of sending feedback about the software for the students and/or teachers?