

Title of Session: Surviving and Thriving Online with Knowplace
Moderator: Frances Long, Helen Kershaw, and Dyan Grant-Francis
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Room: After School Online

Posted on the Whiteboard in the ASO:

BJB2: Knowplace (Knowplace.ca) is an international online community of educators and career practitioners. They have worked with the Knowplace courses to learn how to transfer their f2f skills into the online environment.

BJB2: The Knowplace philosophy: relationship first, information second places and emphasis on collegial sharing and cooperation. This has led the way in the formation of a volunteer group of Knowmates (colleagues, graduate students and current students). They are working together to share what they have learned and develop those skills, volunteering to create an online conference.

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HelenK: Susan, Welcome to the "Survive and Thrive' presentation - please take a minute to read the info on Knowplace that we have placed on the whiteboard

BJB2: Welcome to the Special discussion Surviving and Thriving Online!

BJB2: a couple housekeeping tips for you...

HelenK: Bill and Kim, Welcome to the "Surviving and Thriving' presentation - please take a minute to read the info on Knowplace that we have placed on the whiteboard

BJB2: when you have read the whiteboard go to the Actions menu in the top right of this chat window and click on DETACH

HelenK: Michelle, welcome to the "Survive and Thrive' presentation - please take a minute to read the info on Knowplace that we have placed on the whiteboard

BJB2: This will make your chat window larger and easier to read

BJB2: we usually start the discussions in Tapped In with introductions, but I'll leave that up to the KnowTIPS presenters.

BJB2 hands the virtual floor over to Frances, Helen and Dyan

HelenK: I will start then...

HelenK: I work with Dyan and Frances at Knowplace where we help people learn to transfer their f2f skills online

FrancesL: Hi I am Frances and I work with knowplace as well - and I will turn it over to Dyan who will lead us through our time together

DyanG: Thanks Frances. Hi everyone and welcome to our presentation today

DyanG: we work together at Knowplace.ca and have an virtual community of over 600 people

HelenK: Lynne, Bill, Michelle, Susan and Kim would you like to tell us where you are from?

BillGst3: Hey. I'm in Maine.

LynneW: I am a professor of educational technology at Concordia University in Portland, OR. I teach both face-to-face and online courses.

MichelleOL: I am from Milwaukee. I am doing MPS help desk right now, so excuse me if I have to leave

KimFe: Hi, I'm from Kansas.

HelenK: thanks everyone

DyanG: Thanks everyone. I'm Dyan and I live in Victoria BC, working mainly online.

DyanG: Frances is the 'leader' of Knowplace and the person that has helped the most with the online conference

DyanG: So if you have specific questions while I go through this information, please ask.

HelenK: we will post a list of things to consider when organizing a conference first and then Dyan will answer any questions you have

HelenK: whenever you are ready Dyan

DyanG: There is a powerpoint presentation that we will direct you to where you can get more information about organizing an online conference

DyanG: Does anyone have specific questions before we start?

DyanG: okay

DyanG: so the conference has been organized entirely online and will be run virtually

HelenK: First things to consider - Info management:

HelenK: Collaboration through virtual discussion (chat and voice), email and a threaded discussion area in the conference planning section of Knowplace

DyanG: Information management was one of the big challenges

DyanG: how to keep everyone in the loop with information and decisions

DyanG: we found that meeting times that were the same day and time for each committee worked best

DyanG: so the organization committee meets at 2pm pst on Thursday...every Thursday

HelenK: Keep postings up-to-date so all can/will stay informed

HelenK: Committees (site, social, registration etc.) and their core responsibilities

DyanG: yes, Frances set up a site with discussion forums where we could post our decisions for everyone to see

DyanG: it definitely has been a collaborative process

FrancesL: very open decision making process

DyanG: an organic one that evolved as the work was undertaken

HelenK: any questions on Info Management?

BJB2 wonders if anyone else has had experience with doing this?

KimFe: NO

SusanPy: I don't mean to just jump in, but this is my first time here, and I am feeling a little lost

LynneW: Nope

DyanG: How can we help Susan?

SusanPy: What were/are you trying to set up?

BJB2: perhaps you can show Susan the url for the knowtips conference?

FrancesL: I placed it on the whiteboard

DyanG: We are setting up an online conference that runs in February 25-27

FrancesL: if you refresh your whiteboard it is there

DyanG: thanks Frances

SusanPy: thanks

DyanG: the conference is organized virtually - this means we have never met

BJB2: The online conference is located at <http://knowtips.ca>

DyanG: we are from various countries around the globe

BJB2: if you have a pop up blocker, hold down the ctrl key as you click on the url

SusanPy: if I go there now is there anything there?

EmilyW: that is really neat

DyanG: thanks BJB, that's our conference site.

FrancesL: yes, there is a description of the conference

DyanG: we have two - one for the conference presenters, registrants and so on

DyanG: and another site for the organizers

DyanG: this kept the information flowing in a fairly organized fashion

DyanG: another challenge was time management - in the sense that we all have jobs and busy lives

HelenK: Committees were used to reach consensus and the team leader to move things forward.

DyanG: so the committee membership was fluid as well

HelenK: and to coordinate different perspectives for a cohesive whole

SusanPy: How many people total put this conference together?

EmilyW: can I ask a quick question?

HelenK: as well as, time zones restrictions for access to all committee members and collaborations for timelines - who does what and when

DyanG: Frances - how many would you say?

FrancesL: mmm - thinking

FrancesL: about 26 off and on

HelenK: what is your question Emily

DyanG: yes, about that in total but with only a few keeners

EmilyW: what exactly is knowplace?

FrancesL: If you refresh your whiteboard again, I have put in more links to our conference site and our presentation about highlights of offering online conferences

DyanG: Frances, I leave that to you

FrancesL: Knowplace is an online learning community that offers courses and activities...

FrancesL: that help people transfer their skills online eg: teachers, coaches, professors, trainers

SusanPy: So you all help regular classroom teachers put their teaching on the computer?

FrancesL: knowplace is an online learning community that offers courses and activities

FrancesL: we guide you to do this yourself - yes

FrancesL: through courses and activities

DyanG: and e-peer relationships

DyanG: we help each other and learn from each other as well

SusanPy: Very interesting

FrancesL: big part of working online is the e-peer and e-mentor relationships

DyanG: and the conference has been done that way

DyanG: we collaborate, keep everyone informed, make decisions through discussion

FrancesL: very collaborative

DyanG: and we have people from different cultures as well as very different skill levels on the computer

DyanG: part of the conference organization is to help everyone get training on the software that we're using

DyanG: of course, this has to be organized taking into account time zone differences and skill differences

DyanG: that's why e-Peer relationships are so important

HelenK: there are also Global issues to consider like - Time zone accessibility,

EmilyW: what type of forums are on the knowplace site?

FrancesL: well, we have open free weekends that offer "how to learn online, using a mac, working as a virtual moderator

DyanG: there are courses in communication, learning management systems, HTML

FrancesL: using moodle as a facilitator (our learning management system)

FrancesL: role of the e-moderator, active learning strategies, search and investigate are more courses

EmilyW: is there anything you can do on there besides courses?

FrancesL: are you thinking of anything specifically Emily?

SusanPy: For the conference- will there be different times so that people all over can join in? Is it done in the same format as we are chatting here?

EmilyW: like discussion forums

FrancesL: almost everything we do is in discussion forums, emily - these form the foundation of our courses

DyanG: yes Susan, the speakers are scheduled as different times and there will be asynchronous forums as well

EmilyW: but do you have to pay to use the features?

FrancesL: yes Susan - there are different presentations, if you can't attend you can listen to it

DyanG: the forums will promote discussion about the various topics

DyanG: Emily, do you mean pay for the courses?

FrancesL: you can take our open weekends for free, our courses cost - we are not the same as Tapped In - our business is to teach you to transfer your skills online

DyanG: the conference focuses on what works in this area

DyanG: how to thrive in the online world!

SusanPy: does this thriving apply to anyone?

DyanG: it can be a steep learning curve and it's nice to have support

DyanG: yes Susan, it does

DyanG: we can all learn the technology and how to transfer our f2f skills to the online world

JasonDe joined the room.

DyanG: Hi Jason

JasonDe: hello all

HelenK: the presentations will be synchronous (live) and also recorded for later viewing with voice and whiteboard - in the Conference

HelenK: time check - we have about another 20 minutes scheduled here

DyanG: One of the reasons for the conference was to share what we've learned with others

HelenK: on to other global issues?

SusanPy: ok

DyanG: so one of the main global issues was different currencies

EmilyW: I know you aren't the same as Tapped In. I am really interested in online learning and I am trying to figure out what I can do on there for free before I sign up.

FrancesL: the open weekends - every weekend we have something for free

FrancesL: we start Friday noon and end Sunday afternoon (PST)

EmilyW: ok

EmilyW: thanks

EmilyW: sorry for changing the subject of this chat

HelenK: other global issues: Speakers schedules and expectations, and whether participant (attendees, presenters, volunteers etc.) have the technical training necessary, if needed

FrancesL: no problem

SusanPy: the global issues are related to the conference?

BJB2: Helen, Dyan and Frances, Jason is in Canada

DyanG: hmmm

DyanG: Susan, we had to deal with global issues like currency and time zones since our speakers are from around the globe

HelenK: Plus/Minuses + Community growth and development

HelenK: yes - related to the conference but also classes as there can be an international group participating

SusanPy: ok - so you had to figure out time zones for scheduling and currencies for paying them

DyanG: yes

SusanPy: gotch ya

HelenK: Other pluses to date: + Working and experiencing together has created a virtual team

HelenK: + Strong e-Peer relationships

HelenK: - never knowing the number of people available to continue process (volunteers with busy lives)

DyanG: and technological challenges too like broken computers

FrancesL: where are you from in Canada, Jason?

HelenK: BIG + enthusiasm - already thinking of what can be done to make it better next year!

JasonDe: I am in Windsor, Ontario

FrancesL: ok thanks!

DyanG: this is a committed group of online enthusiasts

DyanG: There were several committees - each with a floating leadership

DyanG: again the e-Peer relationships

DyanG: But the biggest thing we learned is that there needs to be ONE person to hold the overall vision

HelenK: Most important thing to keep everything developing - the team leader (Frances) takes responsibility for the complete picture (overview) of the conference. She keeps everyone on track.

FrancesL: and if I don't I do indeed hear about it :>

DyanG: other things are marketing - how to get the word out there

SusanPy: More power to you - sounds like a big job

FrancesL: quite the learning curve

DyanG: but you're great at it!!!

DyanG: let's take a moment for other questions

DyanG: Helen?

HelenK: I'm good

FrancesL: we just have Susan left - any questions Susan?

DyanG: Don't feel pressured Susan....:)

HelenK: The Powerpoint presentation "Tips and Tricks: Planning an Online Conference Virtually" is available on the Knowplace site (knowplace.ca) or use this link: http://knowplace.ca/moodle_1.4.3/mod/forum/view.php?id=878 and select the topic

SusanPy: I don't think so - I would like to thank for your help - this was my first Tapped In session

DyanG: Tapped In is a great community and very helpful

FrancesL: great - well we are all loyal Tapped In members/fans so we hope that you keep coming back

SusanPy: I will try

FrancesL: ... and that we haven't scared you away

HelenK: If you would like to see what has been created, here is the link to the KnowTIPS site

HelenK: http://knowtips.ca/www/moodle_1.4/moodle/index.php?logginguest=true

SusanPy: this is interesting

SusanPy: thanks

DyanG: You're welcome

HelenK: Susan - you might like to take one of the virtual tours for Tapped In

DyanG: Thanks Helen and Frances...and BJB of course!!!

SusanPy: I am doing that on Saturday

HelenK: they take place on Saturday at 4 PST or Tuesdays at 2:30 PST and are very helpful

SusanPy: it was suggested to me by someone in my class

BJB2: thank you, Helen, Frances and Dyan!

SusanPy: Thanks BJB for helping me find my way here

HelenK smiles

DyanG: waves bye

FrancesL: bye bye

SusanPy: bye

BJB2: you're welcome, Susan

BJB2 waves goodnight

DyanG: waves bye to everyone. have a good night

HelenK: bye