

The Science Circle Seminar on 23 June, 2016

"Thoughts on an Educator Specific Orientation in SL"

Greg Prumier

Participants: アカーシヤ (AkashaKokuu Resident), faridamih2 Resident, Giuseppe Longo (giulon Ragu), herman Bergson, HottleSummer Resident, jgrab Resident, K.T. Burnett (KayT Resident), Letty Luckstone, Lucia TopHat, marrquisdesoire Resident, Natalie Nussli (DoraApfelbaum Resident), Theo Finney, T ε Δ Δ ι (theodolite.wickentower), Wisdomseeker (Lissena Resident)

Organizer: Chantal Snoek (nymf.hathaway), Jes Stannard/ Jesaurus (Jes Cobalt,), Hajime Nishimura (Yan Lauria)

[8:01] Yan: Then, Time to start.

[8:01] Yan: I'm a curator of Abyss Observatory, The Modern museum and the Education Portal.

[8:02] Yan: Now I'm working on Teacher Training Tutorial Project with Greg and Natalie Nussli.

[8:02] Yan: Today, we have a seminar "Thoughts on an Educator Specific Orientation in SL" by Greg.

[8:02] Yan: Greg uses Voice.

[8:03] Yan: Then, Greg, please.

Thoughts on an Educator Specific Orientation in SL

Presenter: Greg Perrier (avatar Greg Prumier)

**Associate Professor of Biology at the Northern Virginia Community
College**

gperrier@nvcc.edu

[8:03] Greg: Most of what I am going to say is covered in the slides I will show and so if you cannot hear voice, it should not be a problem.

[8:03] Jes: 😊

Outline

Introductions

Overview

Topics for an educator specific orientation

Questions and discussion

Introductions

Please take a minute to introduce yourself in local chat.

(Self-introduction)

[8:05] herman: herman Bergson - SL teacher of philosophy since 2007

[8:05] Letty: Dr. Leticia De Leon, Associate Professor, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. I teach in an undergraduate teacher prep program.

[8:05] KT.: K.T. Burnett (KayT Resident), a blogger in SL, an applied math student in RL

[8:05] Chantal: Chantal Snoek created the Science Circle and maintaining it

[8:05] Lucia: Lucia TopHat, Psychologist and Teacher in both SL & RL.

[8:05] Teddi: T ε Δ Δ ι (Theodolite Wickentower) (a.k.a. Kate McCridhe... I am an out of work drafter/designer that ends up being an accidental educator on SL.

[8:05] Wisdom: Lynne Berrett, Whole Brain Health on Inspiration Island - orientation and

well-being immersive education in SL for people over age 50

[8:06] Jes: Jes Stannard, I assist operation of The Science Circle

[8:06] Natalie: Natalie Nussli (DoraApfelbaum), University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland, faculty member in the English department. Working on teacher training projects with Kevin Oh, University of San Francisco

Contacts

To get on the email list and added to the drop box contact:

Hajime Nishimura (Avatar: Yan Lauria)

hajimen@jamstec.go.jp

[8:06] Yan: Please send your e-mail to hajimen@jamstec.go.jp to participate in mailing list of our project.

[8:07] Teddi: Cool

The Purpose of this Presentation

- To introduce the concept of an educator specific orientation.
- To bring interested people together to discuss this topic.
- To identify next steps.

My Experience

I came into SL to teach in January 2010.

I became manager of my college's virtual campus in January 2012

I have worked hard to get more faculty using the virtual campus.

My own frustrations early on and the struggles of the faculty I work with lead me to believe an educator specific orientation is needed.

<http://blogs.nvcc.edu/gperrier/>

The Issues

Educational institutions have had few faculty members incorporate virtual worlds into their courses or teaching.

As a result, many current virtual campuses are underutilized and many educational regions have closed.

In addition, we have failed to effectively capture and share with people new to VWs the lessons from years of experience with education in VWs

The Reasons

There are many on-line tools available to educators. VWs are just one option and they are often not the easiest to learn and use.

There is a steep learning curve to become comfortable enough in VWs to work with students in these environments.

Few educators feel they have the time or energy needed to reach that comfort level.

The different groups working on education in VWs have not effectively coordinated to develop a useful educator specific orientation.

What is Needed

There is a need for an orientation specific for people who wish to conduct educational activities in Second Life (SL) and other VWs so that it becomes easier to incorporate VWs into their courses and teaching.

In addition, through both experience and studies we have greatly improved our understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of education in a virtual world environment. These lessons need to be gathered and shared widely so mistakes are not repeated and successes can be further advanced.

[8:11] Yan: SL's museums also not so user friendly.

[8:12] Greg: The educator specific orientation would be in addition to a general orientation.

Ideas for an Educator Orientation in SL

I see the educator orientation being divided up into various topic specific areas. Ideally, these would be in some logical layout so that a new educator can easily flow between these topics.

These could be provided at different areas in one region or be provided separately on different regions, but linked so a person could easily move between the areas.

Consideration also needs to be given to how to include people from different language and cultural backgrounds.

The seven topic areas I thought of are presented below.

1. A discussion of lessons learned

I have come up with over 60 lessons from using SL for education over the last 6 years. So the number of lessons can be overwhelming at first, and many of these lessons would not make much sense without some experience in SL. There are a variety of ways this information could be presented to educators new to SL.

I would suggest initially providing in one area those lessons that would be most useful to an educator new to SL and then providing in a nearby but separate area those lessons more appropriate for more experienced educators.

To expand this list, people with experience in education in SL can add to the list of lessons that I started and a method can be determined to present these lessons in an organized manner.

These lessons should be expanded to include experiences with education in other VWs, such as Open Sim, Minecraft, etc. and experiences in both higher education and K-12 environments.

2. Provide sample educational builds

There are many different educational builds on different educational regions throughout SL.

An example of such builds for science, history, language, arts, etc. would be recreated on the orientation region and a notecard provided for each build on how that build is incorporated into the course curriculum, how the material is taught, and how learning is assessed.

New educators would be encouraged to interact with these builds to gain an understanding of this method of teaching.

3. Educational tools and applications

There are numerous educational tools and apps for virtual worlds that educators would benefit from understanding and learning to use.

A list of such tools and apps needs to be developed and tutorials on the use of these tools created. Here, I am thinking of things like using a slide board, using a whiteboard, using a web-board, working with groups in chat and voice, etc.

Clothing is often a very frustrating part of SL for new educators. Educators tend to want to dress in clothes similar to what they wear on campus in RL. One of the nice features of the old ISTE region was that it provided such clothing.

Providing such clothing along with a review of how to obtain, store, wear or add, and remove clothing would be an useful addition to the educational tools area.

[8:13] Teddi: Tools available.

[8:20] Teddi: (There are some hobbyists that have built some very good tributes to the subject of their choice... it would be good to have someone with an eye out for these builds)

[8:20] Wisdom: **VWER is talking about outside educational tools that can be used for SL today at 11:30**

[8:21] Wisdom: Beth Ghostraven has a store for that kind of clothing now too

[8:21] Teddi: /me smiles.

[8:22] Yan: good, Wisdom!

[8:22] Teddi: You do kinda want to present a professional appearance.

[8:23] Wisdom: should also include the MOOCs held in SL - from Chilbo?

[8:25] Teddi: LM, ty, yvw, irl... etc.

[8:25] KT: lol

4. Discussion of the different educationally focused groups in SL

For a new educator in SL there is a dizzying array of educationally focused groups: ISTE, VSTE, VWBPE, Science Circle, Educators Roundtable, etc.

The orientation region would offer an explanation of these different groups, covering who runs them, where and when they meet, what their focus is, etc.

5. Facilitating visits to educational regions

There are numerous educationally focused regions that educators new to SL could benefit by visiting.

Yan Lauria (avatar name) has made an impressive collection of these at the Science Circle, each with a panel having an image from the region.

When information is available, clicking on these panels could provide the new educator with a notecard about that region, what is its focus, who runs it, how it is used in education, etc. as well as being provided with a LM to the region so they can visit.

6. Explanation of Terms

There are many words in general use by people active in VWs that people new to VWs find confusing at first.

I am envisioning a simple notecard that would list these terms and provide a short explanation of each term. I am thinking of terms like Rez, Teleport, Sandbox, Skybox, Mesh, Classic, Prim, etc.

7. The different ways educators use VWs

This section of the educator orientation region would provide a presentation on each of the different ways educators use SL. A discussion of the lessons learned from experience using each method in SL would be provided as well as guidelines on how best to organize the lesson, conduct the activity, and assess learning from this activity. When available, references to articles or studies about each method would be provided. I know of 14 ways educators use VWs, but more methods might be identified.

List: Lectures, Interactive activities, Role play scenarios, Office hours, One-on-one student consultations, Review sessions, Student presentations, Displays, Machinima, Tours, Hunts, Meetings, Professional presentations, and Conferences.

[8:26] Wisdom: different ways educators use VWs

[8:26] Wisdom: oops

[8:26] Wisdom: making notes

Questions

1. Is there the desire, time, and energy needed to work towards the development of an educator specific orientation?
2. Assuming there is interest to move forward, how do we best organize ourselves to achieve this goal, recognizing that we come from different institutions, have different experiences and interests, and different levels of engagement with educators and students in virtual worlds?
3. Should we ask LL for a free region dedicated as an educator specific orientation and accept the dictates of LL that come with this or should we develop different aspects of the orientation on our different existing regions?
4. What are the components that need to be included in an educator specific orientation? I listed 7 components that I identified, but what needs to be added to this list.
5. Other questions you might think of.

[8:31] Teddi: There could be interest in the population at large to help with various aspects... Is there a way to broad cast needs?

[8:32] Yan: Thank you Greg

[8:32] Wisdom: very comprehensive approach

[8:32] [Greg: thanks](#)

[8:33] Yan: yes Lissena

[8:33] [Greg: What do people see as logical next steps?](#)

[8:33] Giuseppe: Sorry but I arrived late. I have a question: you spoke about the difficulties encountered by teacher. In my experience the main difficulties arise from the fact that students need quite a lot of time to familiarize with SL, can you comment on this?

[8:33] [Greg: yes](#)

[8:33] Yan: Collaboration with educators and museum creators.

[8:34] [Greg: I have a day when I offer help to students in a computer lab](#)

[8:34] KT: An opinion. First thing that comes to mind, concerning bringing people here... People should realize that virtual worlds are becoming one of the mediums, and can be used not only SOLELY for education, but for many other activities as well. I don't know a student who uses Internet ONLY for educational purposes. Same should apply here. They need to take interest in digital worlds themselves, not solely consider them a tool.

[8:34] Natalie: For our teacher training purposes, it would be great to have one location where we can take pre-service teachers and explore interactive activities for K-12. In the past, Yan's Abyss Observatory was one of our favorite spots because it was all encompassing. It would also be great to have lesson plans and practical suggestions how to incorporate these, as Greg suggested.

[8:34] [Greg: and then we give students detailed handouts on how to get an avatar and function in SL](#)

[8:34] KT: I did not come to Second Life only to study day in day out

[8:34] Greg: also we send them to Caledon Oxbridge for an orientation

[8:34] KT: But I do it, along with other activities

[8:35] Letty: the goals of any orientation you create need to be aligned to the goals of teacher preparation - like learning specific skills will also help them with particular educator skills

[8:35] Greg: Yes KT we could discuss the social and networking aspects of SL

[8:37] Letty: I also recommend VAI's orientation area. That's the one I direct my students toward because it's fun and easy. (Virtual Ability)

[8:37] Natalie: It would also be extremely useful to have machinima (one of the tools on Greg's list) demonstrating how virtual teachers are actually teaching such a class. Just having access to a lesson plan is too abstract for many pre-service teachers.

[8:37] Teddi: Originally I came into SL because there were new articles on real life IT job fairs being conducted here. Of course, about the time I managed to get a computer that could handle SL, heh, the fad was passe'. I stayed because I saw so many possibilities in SL as a medium (including education). I am wondering if there is a way to have regular meetings on this subject.

[8:37] Giuseppe: Sorry would it not be better if we ask questions in the chat and you answer by voice?

[8:38] Yan: I see, I agree!

[8:38] jgrab: Have you found techniques to let students have embedded materials and the conversations to annotate their experience (later network back, follow up on conversations)? In other formats, I think the "watch this video, read this comment feed, etc" loses some of the momentum between students and educators.

[8:39] Greg: During the semester, I am often on campus and talk to any student who shows up

[8:39] Greg: I also do evaluations of the student experience

[8:39] Greg: From these we change things every semester

[8:39] Greg: I think Yan plans to have regular meetings on this topic, correct Yan?

[8:40] Yan: Moodle help discussion between teacher and students

[8:40] Yan: Yes, we'll have regular meeting

[8:40] Greg: This is the second meeting

[8:41] Yan: by google mailing list and meeting in SL.

[8:41] Letty: agreed, Yan. Using an online LMS or other forum can help with the trauma of the first entry into SL :)

[8:41] Yan: please see project definition document;
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BnU_AqTRi8ZX6ETnm_6BHdB8rBxbbu74rvnvvQLJjHE/edit?usp=sharing

[8:42] Yan: sorry what is LMS?

[8:42] Letty: oops, my bad: Learning Management System, like Moodle, Blackboard, Canvas, etc.

[8:42] Letty: typically used by universities

[8:42] Yan: I see

[8:43] Yan: I like Philosophy of Moodle.

[8:44] Yan: And also we need demonstration area of Teacher Training Tutorial

[8:44] Natalie: As far as our pre-service teachers are concerned, they would be most interested in learning about the "why" that Greg mentioned. Why are we doing this (i.e., teaching in VWs)? So, it would make sense if one area of our work here could focus on this topic.

[8:44] Yan: Please visit <http://maps.secondlife.com/secondlife/The%20Science%20Circle/37/168/22> later.

[8:45] Yan: mini demonstration.

[8:45] Greg: Yes, good idea

[8:45] Letty: the "why" is very important

[8:45] Yan: I agree!

[8:45] Greg: you need to know why before you can get excited

[8:45] Letty: exactly

[8:45] Natalie: exactly

[8:46] KT.: To have guest students/educators from other countries on a budget, perhaps?

[8:46] Letty: which is why aligning teacher training goals to SL skills is useful

[8:46] KT.: Just what comes to mind concerning "why"

[8:46] Yan: Natalie's paper shows "why" very well.

[8:46] Greg: there are just some things you can do in VWs that are very difficult and costly to do otherwise

[8:47] Natalie: Why would anyone want to teach and learn in a VW? What makes it superior to classroom teaching? That's what our pre-service teachers want to know.

[8:47] Greg: Our students can float around inside a cell

[8:47] KT.: ¥o/

[8:47] Wisdom: where is that paper, Yan?

[8:47] Yan: wait

[8:47] Greg: and something are better done in RL. I think lectures in SL are not as effective as in RL

[8:48] Yan:

- Natalie Nussli, "An Investigation of Special Education Teachers' Perceptions of the Effectiveness of a Systematic 7-Step Virtual Worlds Teacher Training Workshop for Increasing Social Skills" (2014), Doctoral Dissertations, Paper 113, University of San Francisco Scholarship Repository

- Natalie Nussli, Kevin Oh, Kevin McCandless "Collaborative science learning in three-dimensional immersive virtual worlds: Pre-service teachers' experiences in Second Life", Journal of Educational Multimedia and Hypermedia 08/2014; 23(3):291-322.

- Kevin Oh, Natalie Nussli, "Teacher training in the use of a three-dimensional immersive virtual world: Building understanding through first-hand experiences", Journal of Teaching and Learning with Technology, Vol. 3, No. 1, June 2014, pp. 33 - 58. doi: 10.14434/jotlt.v3n1.3956

•Natalie Nussli, Kevin Oh, “The Components of Effective Teacher Training in the Use of Three-Dimensional Immersive Virtual Worlds for Learning and Instruction Purposes: A Literature Review”, *Journal of Information Technology for Teacher Education* 04/2014; 22(2):213-241.

[8:48] Wisdom: ty Yan

[8:48] Natalie: Wisdomseeker, please let me know if you want me to send you any of the papers.

[8:49] Wisdom: would love that!

[8:49] Yan: Too much sentence for me Japanese. So I ask Natalie to have a presentation in next seminar.

[8:49] Natalie: Wisdomseeker, can you email me at: natalie.nussli@fhnw.ch and I'll send you the bunch of papers.

[8:49] Wisdom: ty

[8:50] Wisdom: excellent

[8:50] Greg: A list of references on edu in VWs would be useful at the orientation

[8:50] Wisdom: yes Greg!

[8:50] Wisdom: even for us

[8:50] Greg: I frankly have never read one

[8:51] Natalie: I can provide a list, no problem.

[8:51] Yan: And I think we need Lesson Plan Database

[8:51] Teddi: (Perhaps the initials can be explained, often we come from different contexts, and those initials can mean very different things...)

[8:51] Greg: nods

[8:52] Yan: Curators of educational contents know well about each lesson plan using their exhibits. We need their contribution.

[8:53] Greg: yes, we can invite them to contribute that info

[8:53] Natalie: Yes, a lesson plan database is crucial. If beginning teachers have to create everything from scratch, many of them are going to abandon the idea of teaching in a virtual world.

[8:54] Greg: we have made it so professors do not even have to come into SL, they just send their students

[8:54] Yan: So our project need help of educators and educational contents curators.

[8:54] Greg: There are prepared handouts for the students

[8:54] Greg: Slowly the professor come in more and more once they start sending students

[8:55] Wisdom: Do you have a target group you want to focus on first?

[8:55] Greg: That would need to be discussed

[8:56] Yan: Almost SL educational places are not user friendly for me, Japanese. Even Genome Island.

[8:56] Wisdom: why is that, Yan?

[8:56] Yan: Orientation, Navigation, Unify of Information post, etc.

[8:57] Wisdom: good to have your perspective here, for sure

[8:57] Wisdom: things I don't always consider

[8:58] Greg: The multicultural aspect is important

[8:58] Wisdom: whispers: I have to go attend a class myself now - will leave my avatar to capture chat :)

[8:58] Yan: Shailey of Open Univ, UK develop design criteria for good navigation.

[8:58] Greg: ok. Thanks for coming

[8:58] Yan: thanks Wisdom

[8:59] Teddi: It would be excellent to cultivate that resource... multi-lingual folks to help with these differences in cultures.

[8:59] Greg: yes

[8:59] Chantal: Thank you Greg, Yan and Dora ☺

[9:00] Greg: Even the educational institution culture is different in different countries

[9:00] Greg: I see the next step as a presentation by Natalie

[9:00] Yan: Yes

[9:00] Greg: but keep thinking on how to move forward with this

[9:00] Natalie: I'd be happy to. Let me see if I can bring in Kevin Oh too.

[9:00] Greg: and be sure to send Yan your email

[9:01] Yan: Next time, we'll have a presentation by Natalie Nussli (DoraApfelbaum). I'll notice you the date soon.

[9:01] Greg: bring anyone who is interested

[9:01] Teddi: I am not an official educator, by any means, but I am available to help where I can.

[9:01] Yan: Natalie, do you have something to say?

[9:01] Greg: We might later develop a working group on this

[9:01] Greg: but at this point, it is just brainstorming to get ideas

[9:01] Natalie: Thanks so much, Greg. I appreciate your input. Great presentation.

[9:01] Teddi: /me smiles.

[9:02] Greg: thanks

[9:02] Yan: and please rez own idea at demo area
<http://maps.secondlife.com/secondlife/The%20Science%20Circle/37/168/22>

[9:02] Natalie: OK, will do.

[9:03] KT.: Great presentation indeed, very well systematized and clearly shows the known issues

[9:03] Natalie: Yan, do you want me to create a list of references in the field of VW research that might be interesting for everyone? Or should we talk about that at our next meeting?

[9:04] Greg: I think a list would be useful

[9:04] KT.: Oh, any chance in getting it in PowerPoint format?

[9:04] Natalie: Sure, anything's possible.

[9:04] Teddi: Especially in SL.

[9:04] Teddi: /me smiles.

[9:04] Yan: You have too much references.

[9:04] Greg: My medical science faculty are going deep into the literature on role play scenarios

[9:04] Yan: so we need summarize next appealingly.

[9:05] Natalie: Let me work on it. I'll pick those that might be most relevant for us.

[9:05] KT.: Beth has shared a notecard with me, where all the known education and library resources are listed, I can pass it over if somebody doesn't have it

[9:05] KT.: Beth Ghostraven

[9:05] Greg: great

[9:06] Teddi: Pass me a card.

[9:06] Yan: I got the list from Beth and reflected to my Education Portal.

[9:06] Greg: Beth is on holidays or would be here

[9:06] Yan: or One prim teleport hub system

[9:06] Yan: please get this and rez.

[9:07] Letty: Thanks for an interesting presentation! Very handy recommendations. :)

[9:07] Yan: this is not HUD but HUB

[9:07] Teddi: Yes.

[9:07] Greg: thanks

[9:07] Yan: So we'll close today's presentation

[9:08] KT.: y no copy?

[9:08] Teddi: Ah, excellent, most is full perm, I can copy it over to my builder alt, can up it up at the gallery.

[9:08] Yan: Thank you very much for participate

[9:08] Natalie: Thanks again, Greg and Yan. Bye everyone.

[9:08] KT.: Thank you Greg and Yan!

[9:08] Greg: bye

[9:08] Teddi: Thank you Greg and Yan. Excellent work!

[9:08] Yan: aha, if you need copy version, I'll give you.

[9:08] Chantal: Thank you ☺

[9:08] Natalie: Yes, I agree, excellent work.

[9:08] Jes: Thanks Yan and Greg

[9:09] Greg: Thanks, hopefully to be continued at the next presentation

[9:09] Chantal: I will have to go to rl

[9:09] Greg: take care Chan

[9:09] Chantal: Wishes everyone a good time ☺

[9:09] Teddi: Take Care! all! Have a good'n!

[9:09] KT.: Yan, are you on SL often?

[9:09] Jes: have fun ☺

[9:09] KT.: Have a great one Chantal :)

[9:09] Yan: Sorry, different time zone

[9:10] Yan: and lot od backyard work

[9:10] KT.: I don't mean at this time... oh, I see

[9:10] KT.: Then, can I have a copiable version now, please??

[9:10] Yan: Please contact me anytime

[9:10] KT.: or that works too!

[9:11] Yan: wait,
[9:11] Jes: I'm off, bye all
[9:11] KT.: Have a great one Jes
[9:11] Greg: bye Jes
[9:12] Jes: You too KT ☺
[9:12] Yan: Please check the gift box I gave you later
[9:12] Jes: See you Greg, Yan ☺ And thank you again
[9:12] Yan: > KT.
[9:12] Greg: enjoy Jes
[9:12] Greg: KT, check the drop box also
[9:12] Greg: there are several documents there
[9:13] KT.: What's the link again?
[9:13] Greg: I am looking
[9:13] KT.: Still no copy
[9:13] Yan: and give me pdf of your presentation, Greg.
[9:14] KT.: OK, let's do what. If I need a copiable one, I'll contact you, would it be okay with you?
[9:14] Greg: I think Yan can give that to you
[9:14] Yan: I'll make transcription.
[9:14] KT.: Dae wished he could attend today
[9:14] Yan: I already give you KT
[9:15] Yan: gave*
[9:15] Yan: please check your inventory
[9:15] Greg: good,
[9:15] Greg: the drop box will be where we keep documents
[9:16] Yan: I sent again
[9:16] KT.: Ah, nice. But what's the link?
[9:16] KT.: Ohh
[9:16] KT.: The hub system itself does not have to be copiable?
[9:17] Yan: Greg, What's the URL of your materials?
[9:17] Yan: Flame type B is better
[9:17] Greg:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BnU_AqTRi8ZX6ETnm_6BHdB8rBxbbu74rvnvvQLJjHE/edit?usp=sharing
[9:17] Greg: That is the link I have is google docs, not a drop box, sorry
[9:18] Yan: Thanks
[9:18] KT.: Still has documents! Thanks Greg!
[9:19] KT.: ... I shouldn't have done it, huh?
[9:19] Greg: I captured the chat log Yan
[9:19] Greg: so we have it
[9:19] Yan: Me too.

[9:19] Greg: great
[9:20] Yan: Then time to sleep
[9:20] Greg: Yes
[9:20] Greg: :)
[9:20] Yan: Good night
[9:20] Greg: Good night Yan
[9:20] Yan: Byebye
[9:20] Greg: Thanks for organizing this
[9:20] KT.: Good night Yan!
[9:20] Yan: Byebye, have a nice day!