

Multimedia Open Archives for Educational Digital Libraries

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The Maryland Electronic Learning Community (www.learn.umd.edu) has a repository of multimedia resources that is the foundation for an electronic learning community. As a library, it has more than 3000 catalogued resources including more than 1700 two-three minute video clips. As a community resource, it is the focus of teacher discussions on technology and developing multimedia lesson plans. Teachers and students have shown a particular interest in content with local relevance. For instance, the recent OpSail visit of the tall sailing ships (www.opsail2000.org) to Baltimore was filmed and incorporated by the teachers into the digital library and into their lesson plans. We are currently building interface tools that better support community interaction via the digital library. For instance, we are developing a content-recommendation system to help teachers find suitable materials based on whether other, similar, teachers have used those materials.

We are also expanding the number of teachers served by the digital library and we are working to develop a more flexible open archives architecture for coordinating content from a variety of multimedia providers. In the current system, most of the video has been provided by Discovery Communications. In the new architecture, we would like to provide a coordinated index for a federation of servers from content providers such as National Geographic and the Library of Congress.

A Korean-American Digital Library could provide rich multimedia resources to Korean classrooms. Moreover, the model of using the library to enrich teacher experience with technology could be also be adopted. I have spoken with Dr. In-Sook Cho of Hansung University and with students of Dr. Young-man Ko of Sungkyunkway University – they feel that digital libraries provide an excellent opportunity to improve the quality and variety of learning materials in Korean schools.

Bob Allen is a Professor of Practice in the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland at College Park. Before moving to Maryland, he was a Senior Scientist in the Information Science Research Group at Bellcore. He received a PhD in Experimental Psychology from UCSD and joined Bell Laboratories in 1978. He was Editor in Chief of the *ACM Transaction on Information Systems* for 10 years, the General Chair of the 1995 ACM Multimedia Conference and the Program Chair of the 1997 ACM Digital Libraries conference. He has published technical papers on many areas of information technology including user and mental models and user interfaces for digital libraries and video servers.