CIT Monthly News and Events
September 2, 2008

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Upcoming events and workshops: September 2008

- Duke Digital Initiative: What’s In It For Me? (9/4/2008, 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM)
- Teaching IDEAS: TA Survival Skills (9/8/2008, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM)
- Teaching in Flexible Learning Spaces (9/8/2008, 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM)
- Lecture Busters (9/11/2008, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM)
- Wimba Voice: Fast, easy and built-in audio recording in Blackboard (9/12/2008, 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM)
- Tablet PC Discussion Group (9/16/2008, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM)
- Teaching With Webcams (9/16/2008, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)
- Faculty Toolbox: Your Shareable Web Space – Webfiles (9/17/2008, 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM OR 9/18/2008, 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM)
- Creating Short Videos of Your Computer Screen (9/18/2008, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM)
- Teaching IDEAS Flexible Learning Spaces at Duke: The Link (9/23/2008, 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM)
- Blackboard Advisory Group Meeting (9/23/2008, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM)
- Implementing Student Video Projects (9/25/2008, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM)
- Using Blackboard for Student Interaction: Blogs & Wikis (9/26/2008, 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM)
- Avoiding Death by Powerpoint (9/30/2008, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM)

To learn more or to register for any workshop, visit http://cit.duke.edu/events/calendar.do.

CIT Student Video Fellowships applications due Wednesday 9/3/2008

CIT is pleased to offer a new IT Faculty Fellows opportunity for 2008–2009, designed for Duke faculty and full-time instructors who intend to integrate student assignments using digital video into a Spring 2009 course, and who would like in-depth consulting with CIT staff and discussion
If you are considering using video in your classes in any of the following ways, consider applying for this Fellowship to get support, great ideas, and project consulting:

- reflections on group projects
- video journaling for service learning or community projects
- gathering interview footage as part of original research
- recording rehearsals or practice sessions
- original creative work in video format (skit, short film, public service announcement)
- video presentation of a course project

Selected participants will attend regular Fellows meetings, will complete individual and group assignments, and will contribute to an overall collaborative effort to document the best practices that emerge from the Fellows experience.

Learn more and complete the short application at [http://cit.duke.edu/help/grants/video_fellows.html](http://cit.duke.edu/help/grants/video_fellows.html).

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### $2 Million Participatory Learning Competition

The second HASTAC/MacArthur Digital Media and Learning Competition is now open! The focus is participatory learning.

According to the competition’s website: “Participatory Learning includes the many ways that learners (of any age) use new technologies to participate in virtual communities where they share ideas, comment upon one another’s projects, and plan, design, advance, implement, or simply discuss their goals and ideas together.”

Awards will be made in two categories:

- Innovation in Participatory Learning Awards support large-scale digital learning projects ($30,000–$250,000)
- Young Innovator Awards are targeted at 18–25 year olds ($5,000–$30,000)


Full information at: [http://www.dmlcompetition.net](http://www.dmlcompetition.net).

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### Learn how to make the most of the library’s resources with fall training sessions

Interested in learning more about the newest research databases and search strategies in your subject area? Consider attending one of Duke University Library’s Beyond the Stacks: Library Resources and Services for Instructors sessions, where you’ll be introduced to new library services and resources (print and electronic) and discover ways that you may use them to enhance your teaching and research. Events are led by subject specialists and open to all faculty members, graduate teaching assistants and librarians.

For more info or to register for subject-specific sessions, visit [http://library.duke.edu/services/instruction/beyondstacks.do](http://library.duke.edu/services/instruction/beyondstacks.do).

Duke Libraries can also help you organize your research and citations with training sessions in EndNote, a desktop citation management application that will help you organize research notes and format manuscripts, or RefWorks, a web-based research management tool that allows you to access and organize your citations from any computer and share your research with others.

Register for an EndNote class at [http://library.duke.edu/services/instruction/endnote.do](http://library.duke.edu/services/instruction/endnote.do).
Register for an EndNote class at http://library.duke.edu/services/instruction/endnote.do; check out the library’s RefWorks offerings at http://library.duke.edu/services/instruction/refworks.do.

And Duke’s librarians are always happy to develop course-specific instruction sessions on using the library’s general and special collections. Request a library workshop for your department or class at http://library.duke.edu/services/forms/instruction.html.

The Orwell Diaries

The Orwell Prize, which sponsors a British prize for political writing, is publishing George Orwell’s diaries as a blog, with each entry appearing on the site exactly seventy years after it was written. The entries will appear from August, 2008 through October 2012 and cover the pre-War and early World War II period.

Beyond reproducing the diaries, the site also uses tags on each entry to find related entries, includes background information and comments from users of the site. You can view the diaries at http://orwelldiaries.wordpress.com/.

Bb Tip: Get student feedback quickly!

Get student feedback quickly using the Blackboard survey tool. Create polls to find student interests and opinions, create evaluations of materials or teaching approaches that you try, and gauge student comprehension of course material when anonymity is important. Surveys do not have correct answers or point values and all information is anonymous. Check out the link above to learn how to create a survey, make your survey available for your students, and view your survey results.

To explore and discover additional Blackboard features, see the Blackboard support website. If you need a tutorial for the Blackboard survey tool, request an office visit and we will come to you.

Election year mapping and data visualizations

The Chronicle of Higher Education recently posted an article about the University of Richmond’s Voting America project, which features interactive animation and commentary dealing with US political data from 1840–2008.
While both an interesting tool for personal or reference use, Voting America’s interactive features mostly rely on nicely prepared video presentations of the data. Several other interactive data visualization tools and websites also provide new ways to make thinking about politics, history and the election season at least a bit more interesting and compelling.

For example, how about the visualization below, posted on the data visualization blog Eager Eyes, called “The Traveling Presidential Candidate Map” (much more detail and larger format PDFs available on the Eager Eyes site). This illustrates the shortest routes a candidate would need to travel to reach every zipcode.

Want more interactive elements? Here’s an example of a treemap from IBM’s Many Eyes visualization site:
What does this tell us? You’d be better off looking at the original, interactive graphic that trying to understand this picture…but in a nutshell, it illustrates and compares the links of both Obama’s and McCain’s YouTube videos. Sites like Many Eyes, and to a similar degree, Swivel, can be used rather easily to crunch datasets into visualizations in a short amount of time.

How about something simpler, but just as interesting? What about a ‘Wordle’ visualization of Michelle Obama’s speech from the Democratic National Convention? (HINT: click the visualization below – you can interact with it right within this blog post).

Michelle Obama speaks at Democratic National Convention, 8 25 20

![click to interact](image)

Speaking of Many Eyes, the team behind the visualization tools and website wrote an interesting blog post back in 2007 called Democratizing Visualization, which – while focused on new mapping visualizations, really sums up many of these new approaches:

“...the election maps got progressively more sophisticated as people tried to understand voting results. They also illustrated the fact that there are multiple ways of telling the same story. The maps became an essential part of a national debate on politics, a divided country, and what it means to represent complex data.”

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