

Harvesting the Web for Effective and Engaging Instructional Materials

Pre Conference Workshop, May 6, 2009



Lead by Jean Kent

Workshop Website: <http://harvest-the-web.blogspot.com/>

Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

Workshop Overview

This hands-on workshop is designed for busy faculty who don't have time to develop multimedia instructional materials but still want to incorporate them into their teaching. The workshop will be divided into six parts with time to explore and practice what's been covered.

By the end of the workshop, faculty will have identified at least two or three multimedia instructional materials to use in their teaching and be able to share them using PowerPoint or Angel Learning.

- I. Introduction with a brief overview of the research findings that say students learn better with pictures and words. See workshop web site for links.
- II. Finding videos using YouTube, YouTube EDU, and TED.
- III. Finding podcasts using iTunes, Podcast Alley, and NPR Podcast Directory.
- IV. Finding learning objects from Wisc-Online and MERLOT.
- V. Using PowerPoint to share instructional materials
- VI. Using Angel Learning to share instructional materials

Account Information

YouTube

User Name:

Password:

Wisc-Online

User Name:

Password:

MERLOT

User Name:

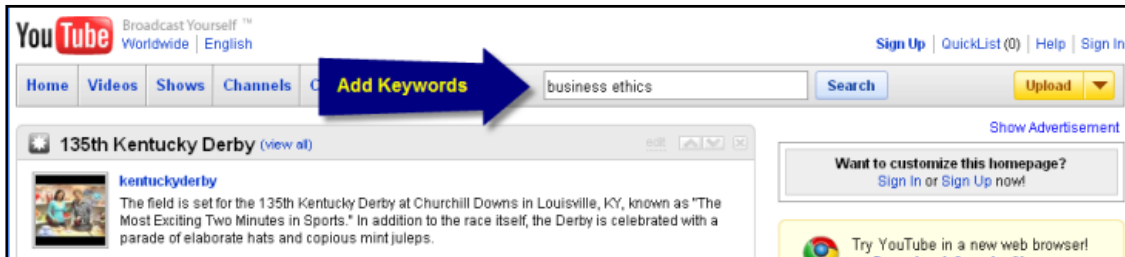
Password:

Finding Videos

YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/>)

Every minute, 10 hours of video are uploaded to YouTube. So, there's tons of content but the challenge is finding relevant, appropriate, and good videos for teaching. Here are some tips:

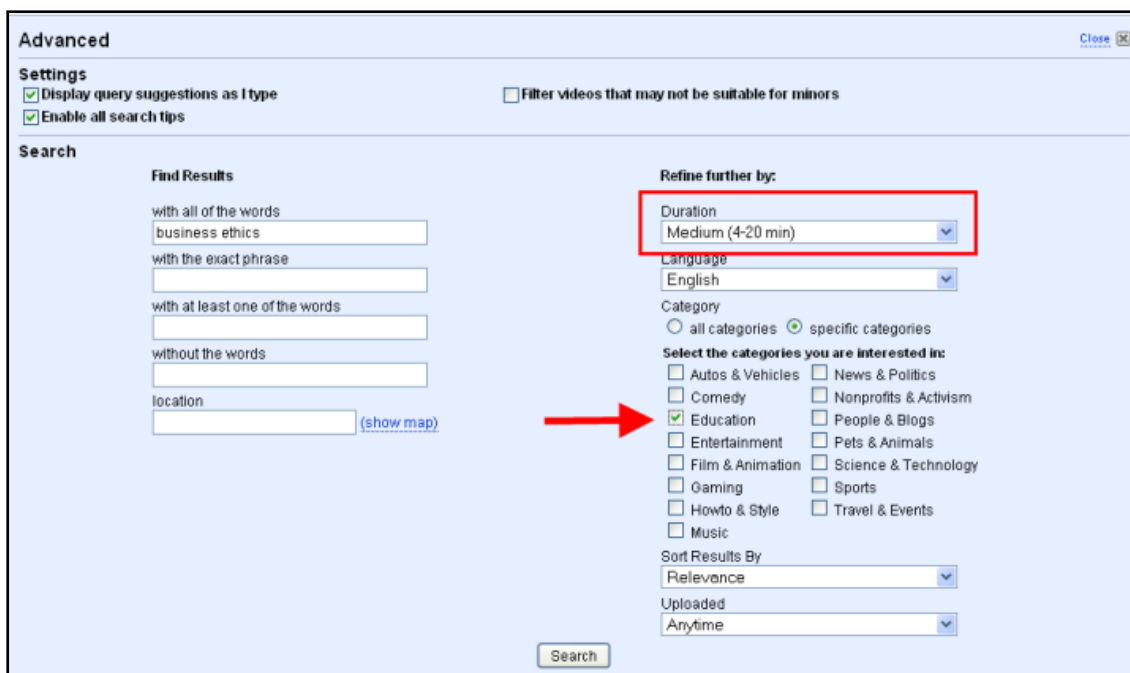
1. Add keywords to the search box then click the **Search** button. See the figure below:



2. You might be lucky with this simple search but most of the time you'll want to use the **Advanced** search feature to improve your results. Click on the **Advanced Options** link as shown in the figure below:

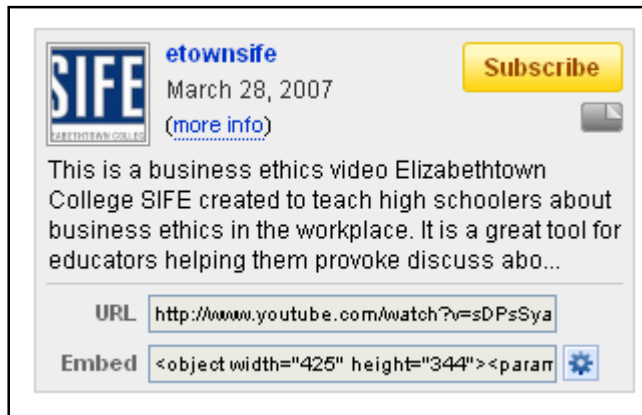


3. When the Advanced Search window opens you can change your key words or phrases, select an appropriate duration (Medium), and identify specific categories that make sense for your search. See the figure below:



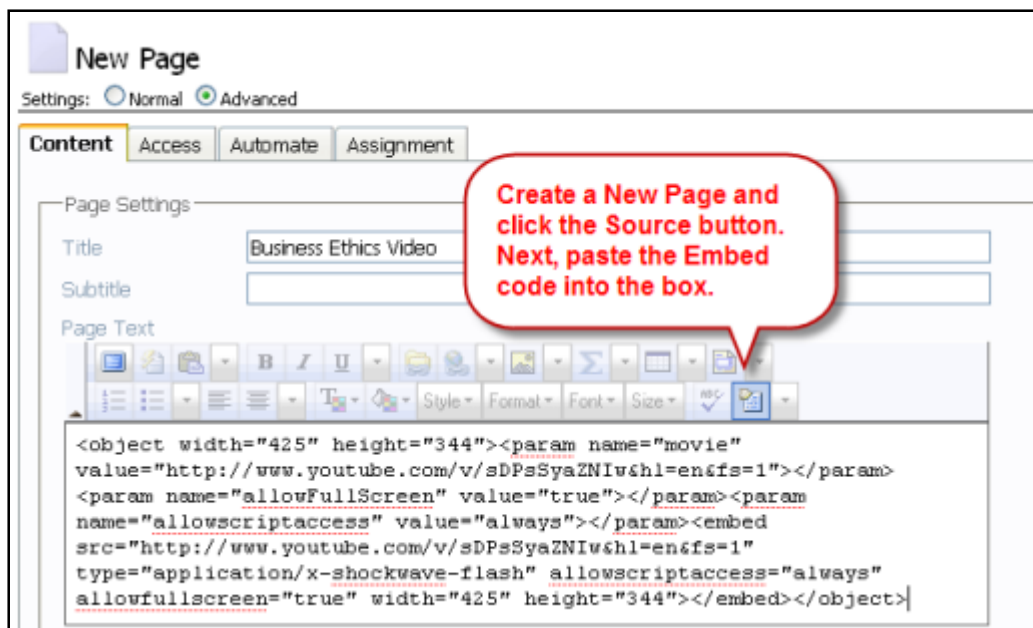
Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

4. Before using a video with your students, preview it entirely.
5. YouTube gives you a few options for sharing videos with your students. You can create links to them using the URL or embed them in a web page, a blog post, or a lesson in Angel Learning with the supplied Embed code. See the figure below.



To make a **link** to the video, copy the URL by clicking once in the URL box. Then copy it to the clipboard (Ctrl C or Cmd C on a Mac). Now you can create the link.

To **embed** the video, click once in the Embed box to copy the code to the clipboard. The code must be pasted as source into a web page or as shown below into a new page in Angel Learning.



You students will see the opening frame of the video with a Play button when you've saved the new page. See the figure on the next page.

Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials



If you sign up for a YouTube account, you can create “**playlists**” which you can share with your students. Here is an example of a playlist I created for my Intro to Web Authoring students.

A screenshot of a YouTube playlist page titled "Internet and Web Authoring". At the top, there are buttons for "Edit Playlist Info" and "Delete Playlist". Below that is a "Recommend videos based on this playlist" button. The main area contains a list of videos with columns for Position, Title, Time, Date Added, Views, and Rating. The videos listed are:

Position	Title	Time	Date Added	Views	Rating
1	ethan zuckerman history of the internet	6:51	Dec 08, 2006	29,479	★★★★★
2	2004 Millennium Technology Prize Winner Tim Berners-Lee	6:39	Feb 06, 2008	1,668	★★★★★
3	Tim Berners Lee 3m24s	3:24	Aug 20, 2007	370	★★★★★
4	Rules for XHTML	8:41	Sep 30, 2007	3,423	★★★★★

YouTube EDU (<http://www.youtube.com/edu>)

Over 100 colleges and universities are placing lectures and other content into YouTube EDU. Many of the videos available are standard lectures (i.e., “talking heads”) and they are longer

Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

than I like to use. However, an expert or highly skilled lecturer might be appropriate for your students so you may want to do some searching in this special area of YouTube, too.

Please note that several institutions include student created projects in this area which could inspire you to give a YouTube assignment to your classes.

TED Ideas worth spreading (<http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks>)

A screenshot of the TED website showing a talk by Amy Smith. The page title is "Talks Amy Smith: Simple designs that could save millions of children's lives". It indicates the talk was filmed in February 2006 and posted in August 2006. The video player shows a woman speaking, with a red callout bubble that says "Click the 'Share' button for the URL and embed code". The video player controls show a duration of 00:30 and a timestamp of 15:06. Below the player are social sharing options for Facebook, Digg, and others, along with an "Email to a friend" button.

TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design and this web site provides access to almost 450 talks conducted at its annual conference. The talks are about 20 minutes long and cover a wide range of topics. They are engaging and thought provoking.

You can search by theme (e.g., technology, business, culture, science, etc.), by speaker or by the talks themselves. Once you've located a talk, you can create a link to it or copy some HTML code to embed it in a web page, a blog post, or a lesson in Angel Learning. You can also include it in a PowerPoint presentation using the URL.

The talks can be watched on a computer, video iPod, iPhone, or other mobile device that supports video. They can also be listened to.

Again, I encourage you to view the entire talk before using it with your students.

Finding Audio and Video Podcasts

Podcasts are audio or video files that can be downloaded to a computer or mobile device and played as often as desired, anytime and anywhere. Foreign language, ESL, music, and other disciplines that are audio based can be greatly enhanced with audio podcasts. Students who are auditory learners or have dyslexia also benefit from content delivered this way.

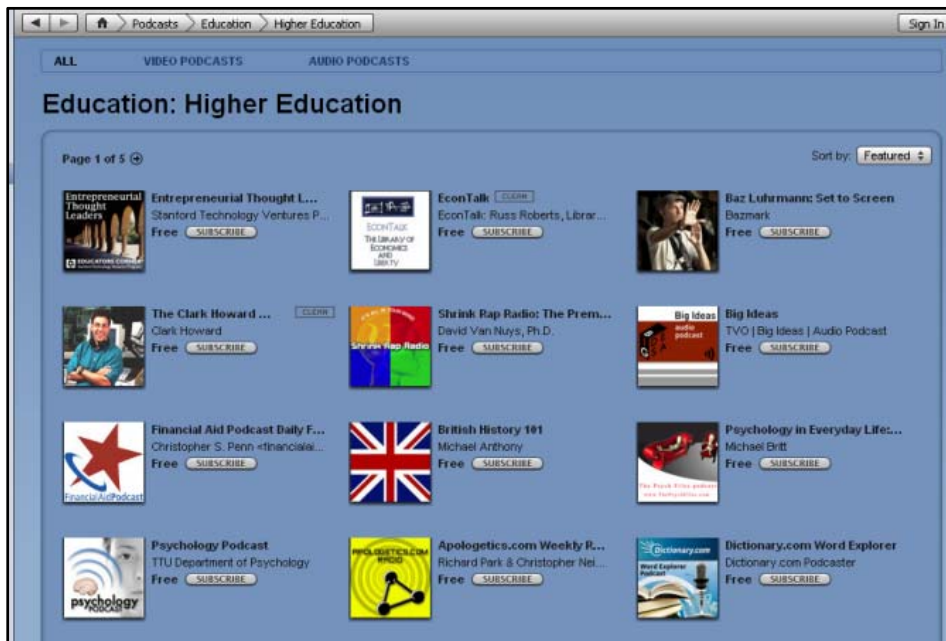
Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

Finding podcasts is quite easy as there are several good podcasting directories. My favorite is iTunes but we weren't able to install iTunes software on these computers. I'll provide some screen snapshots from iTunes for those who want to use iTunes to find podcasts for their classes.

When you open iTunes, you are automatically taken to the iTunes Store. Click on the link for **Podcasts**. See figure below.



Next, the Podcast directory opens and you can click on the **Education** category which is further divided into **Educational Technology, Higher Education, K-12, Language Courses, and Training**. Click on **Higher Education** for a list of podcasts geared towards Higher Education. See the figure below:



Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

There are over 100 podcasts listed in the Higher Education section. Click on an image thumbnail to get more information about a podcast. You can listen to episodes to see if they're relevant to your course and often there is a web site for the podcast that you can link to. See the figure below:



The screenshot shows the iTunes interface for the podcast "Psychology in Everyday Life: The Psych Files" by Michael Britt. The page includes a thumbnail image of a person on a red sofa, a "SUBSCRIBE" button, and a list of episodes. A red arrow points to a "WEBSITE" link, and a red speech bubble points to an episode in the list.

Click to visit the website

Double click to play an episode

Name	Time	Artist	Release Date	Description	Price
Episode 68: Mnemonic Device for ...	18:36	Michael Britt	8/24/2008	Memorize Erik Erikson's Eight Stages of Psychosocial ...	
Episode 67: The Olympic Silver Metal...	18:31	Michael Britt	8/13/2008	Psychologists say that winning the silver medal - co...	
Episode 66: What to do about Mom? ...	23:21	Michael Britt	8/11/2008	Do nursing homes and assisted living facilities have t...	

If you click the **Subscribe** button to the right of the thumbnail image, you'll automatically get all the new episodes every time you open iTunes. Students who have iPods or iPhones will be able to subscribe to podcasts listed on iTunes and new episodes will be downloaded when they sync their devices.

There are a few other directories you can use to find good podcasts and I'll include two of them in the workshop:

Podcast Alley (<http://podcastalley.com/index.php>) which includes a list by genre and also keyword search. **Education** is listed as a genre and almost 2000 podcasts are listed in this section. Here are the steps for searching by keyword.

1. Enter a keyword in the Search for a Podcast box and click the **Go** button. I've entered **American literature** as my keyword and 200 podcasts match my search. See the figure on the next page.

Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials



2. **Audio Literature Odyssey** is the 12th podcast in list. When I click on the link, I have an option to **See Details** and this allows me to see descriptions of several recent episodes. I can listen to a recent episode, download an episode or visit the website which has additional information about the podcast. See the figure below.



Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

3. If you want to share this podcast with your students, you can make a link to the podcast web site. From the [Audio Literature Odyssey](#) web site, podcasts can be listened to by clicking on the play button shown to the right.



NPR Podcast Directory (<http://www.npr.org/podcasts>)

Many of the over 600 podcasts from National Public Radio could be used with your students. Podcasts can be searched by topic or title or provider at the NPR Podcast Directory.

1. From the **by Topic** section, I've selected **POLITICS** and a list of all the NPR podcasts on politics is displayed. See the figure below.

<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS	Provider
KQED Capital Notes	KQED
Capitol News	KSMU
PRI: Capitol News Connection - Power Breakfast	PRI
WFIU: Congressional Moments	WFIU
NPR: It's All Politics	NPR
Jack's Take	WUOM
Nebraska Campaign Connection '08	KUCV
Oklahoma State Capitol Reports	KOSU
Outside the Horseshoe Podcast	WCBU
NPR: Political Rewind	NPR
WAMU: The Politics Hour	WAMU
KUSP's Sacramento Report	KUSP
Talking Politics	KBIA
KUSP's Washington Report	KUSP
Your Call	KALW

2. I've decided to investigate the podcast called "**WFIU: Congressional Moments**" and click on its link. A short description of the podcast appears along with an option to download the latest episode and/or to subscribe to it. The podcast has a web site I can visit, too. See the figure on the next page.

Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials



Politics
WFIU: Congressional Moments Podcast
[WFIU]

Each episode explores a specific way in which the work of Congress has made a difference in people's lives - from food safety and health research to the interstate highway system. [Visit this podcast's Web site](#)

Updates: Mondays at 9 a.m. ET
Duration: approx 2 minutes

Subscribe | [need help?](#)
Subscribe directly using your preferred podcasting tool:

Or, copy and paste this URL into a podcasting tool:



Download Latest Episode | [need help?](#)
Download the latest episode to your computer or preferred device:



3. To share this podcast with your students, you can provide them with the link to this page or to the podcast web site, if it has one.

Finding Learning Objects

Wisc-Online – Online learning objects repository (<http://www.wisc-online.com>)

Wisc-Online currently contains almost 2500 learning objects which are free to link to. The web site defines learning objects as web-based, self contained, small chunks of learning. You must create a (free) account in order to access the learning objects.

1. On the left side of the screen there are eight major categories of learning objects. When you click on one of them, several subcategories are displayed. In this example, I clicked on **Business** and then **Business Law** which has 3 objects. See the figure on the next page.

Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

Welcome, **Jean**
[Sign Out, My Account]

Home | My Favorite Objects | Learning Objects

Wisc-Online
Wisconsin Online Resource Center

Search Learning Objects: Business

ABE/ESL	Accounting	[16 Objects]	Business Law	[3 Objects]
Business	Business Technology	[3 Objects]	Entrepreneurship	[5 Objects]
General Education	Human Resource Management	[8 Objects]	Information Technology	[38 Objects]
Health	Leadership Development	[7 Objects]	Managing for Quality	[8 Objects]
Service	Marketing	[0 Objects]	Organizational Development	[2 Objects]
Technical	Paralegal	[1 Object]	Personal Skills for Supervisors	[2 Objects]
Professional Development				

2. Click on the link to see the objects associated with it. Each object has a title, author, technician, description and **View Object** button. Some objects have been rated and some have reviews, too. See the figure below:

Jurisdiction Challenge [Add to "My Favorite Objects"](#)

Author: Jody Cooper - Blackhawk Technical College
Technician: Dean Lodes **Date:** 7/25/2007

Description: Learners test their knowledge of jurisdiction issues by matching case scenarios to the correct court. The cases involve the following courts: Circuit, Small Claims, Probate, District, Bankruptcy, State Appellate Court, Wisconsin Supreme Court, and U.S. Supreme Courthouse.

FREE Link: http://www.wisc-online.com/objects/index_tj.asp?objID=BLW207

★★★★★ (6 votes) 776 Hits

3. The example above includes a free link. But, even if the one you want doesn't, you should be able to get a link to the object. Here's how. Click on the **View Object** button. The object will open in a new browser window. In the bottom right corner of the screen, you'll find some links and one of them is labeled "**Copy the link.**" Click on this link.
4. A new, small browser window will open with a copy of the link. Use your mouse to highlight the link and copy it to the clipboard. Now it can be pasted into a PowerPoint slide, a web page or a blog, or a lesson in Angel Learning. See the figure below.

Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials



The screenshot shows the Wisc-Online logo at the top left, with the text "Wisc-Online Wisconsin Online Resource Center". Below the logo is a green header with the text "Copy the link". The main content area is light gray and contains the text "Below is the link to this learning object." followed by "Highlight the link below and copy it." and a text box containing the URL "http://www.wisc-online.com/objects/index_tj.asp?objID=VE".

MERLOT: Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching (<http://www.merlot.org>)

MERLOT has over 20,500 free learning materials organized by broad subject area. In addition to the materials themselves, MERLOT includes links to assignments that can be used, experts listed in a “Virtual Speakers Bureau,” and links to colleagues in your discipline.

1. You can search by keyword and also take advantage of an advanced search option. The advanced search allows you to enter keywords, a subject category, material type (e.g., simulation, animation, tutorial, drill and practice, etc.) an audience (e.g., College – Lower Division, College – General Ed, etc.) and several other variables.
2. You can also browse the collection by drilling down from the board categories to more narrow ones. To view the learning objects on mechanical engineering, I selected **Science and Technology** → **Engineering** → **Mechanical Engineering** with 98 objects See figure below.




The screenshot shows the MERLOT website interface. At the top, it says "Browse Path: All > Science and Technology > Engineering". Below this is a list of engineering sub-categories with the number of objects in parentheses: Aerospace and Aeronautical Engineering (47), Agricultural and Biological Engineering (4), Biomedical Engineering (4), Chemical Engineering (36), Civil Engineering (89), Computer Engineering (65), Electrical Engineering (189), Engineering Science (5), Environmental Engineering (19), General (64), Geological Engineering (4), Industrial and Systems (43), Manufacturing Engineering (15), Materials Science and Engineering (17), Mechanical Engineering (98), Mining Engineering (1), Nuclear Engineering (3), Ocean Engineering (1), and Petroleum Engineering (4). A red arrow points to "Mechanical Engineering (98)". To the right, there is a search box and a list of results. The first result is "MecMovies" by Timothy Philpot, a tutorial added May 08, 2005, and modified Apr 02, 2009. The second result is "Thermal Power Plant Micro Module" by J. D. Bugg, a simulation added Nov 08, 2004, and modified Jul 17, 2008. The third result is "Internal Combustion Engine" by Allan Kirkpatrick.

Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

- Now you can browse through the list of materials till you find one that you might want to use with your students. Click on the title link to get more information about the learning object. **Video Demonstrations of Physical Principles** looks interesting because it has online video clips illustrating various physics and engineering principles. See the figures below:


Material Detail

Video Demonstrations of Physical Principles



Material Type: [Lecture/Presentation](#)


Technical Format: HTML/Text

Location: [Go to Material](#) 

Date Added: July 09, 2003

Date Modified: February 28, 2008

[\(Report Broken Link\)](#)

Author: [David Alciatore](#) 

Submitter: [David Alciatore](#)

Description:
Online video clips illustrating various physics and engineering principles. Topics include dynamics, mechanisms, mechatronics and measurement systems, pool and billiards, solid mechanics, and vibration and sound.


Note: A red callout bubble points to the 'Go to Material' link with the text: "Click on 'Go to Material' to view it."

Video Demonstrations

video.demos.colostate.edu

Below are links to different categories of online narrated video clips that illustrate various engineering and physics principles and devices.

NOTE: The video clips are Windows Media files. They are **best viewed using Internet Explorer** and the Windows Media Player. Click on the icon below if you wish to download the latest free player.



Dr. Dave's Hall of Fame:

[high voltage disconnect switch](#), [inverted pendulum control](#), [internal combustion \(IC\) engine 4-stroke cycle](#), computer hard-drive [components](#) and [track seeking](#) (also in [super-slow motion](#)), [BeerBot - secure liquid dispensing system](#), [servomotor PID control](#), [dc motor components](#), [guitar harmonics and chords](#), [piano harmonics and spectra](#), [vibration isolation platform experiment](#), [bowling pin sweep and set mechanisms](#), [bowling pin distributor mechanisms](#), [billiards jump shot](#), [billiards 90° rule](#), [billiards 30° rule](#), [billiards English effects](#)

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Billiards and Pool• Control Systems• Dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mechatronics and Measurement Systems	
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Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

4. Once again, to share this with your students, copy the URL and use it to create a link on a PowerPoint slide, on a web page, or a lesson page in Angel Learning.
5. Please note there are many ways to search through MERLOT. You can use key word searches and also limit by type of material. For example a search on **earthquakes** with **simulation** as the type of material turns up three items. One is an interactive simulation that allows students to learn the principles behind the determination of the epicenter and Richter magnitude of earthquakes. See figure below:



As of Monday, May 4, 2009, MERLOT has a [YouTube Channel](#).

Suggestions for Sharing Instructional Materials with Your Students

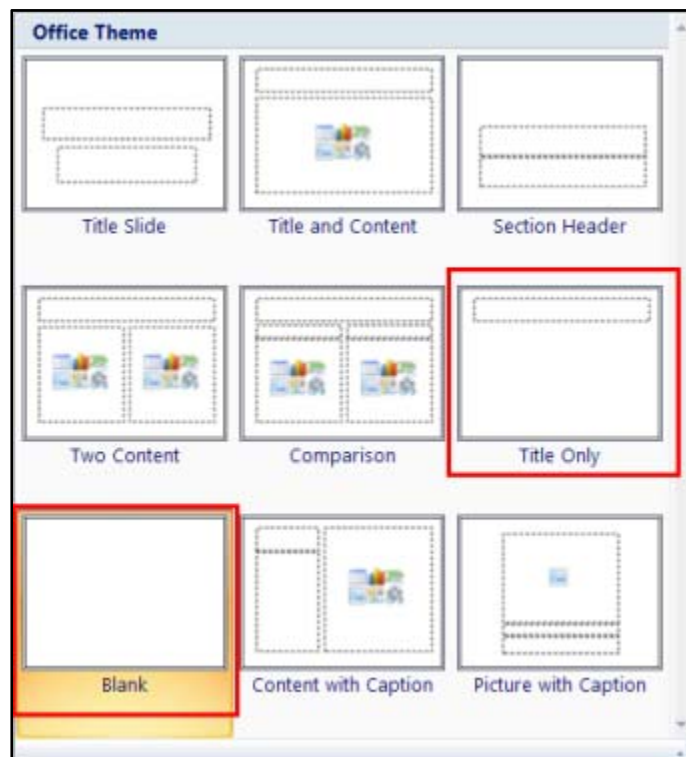
There are several options for incorporating these newly found materials into your classes.

- ✓ Use Angel Learning (or Blackboard or WebCT).
- ✓ Use a web page or site created with Dreamweaver, FrontPage, ExpressionWeb, etc.
- ✓ Use a blog like Blogger (<http://www.blogger.com>) or WordPress (<http://www.wordpress.com>). I've successfully used Blogger blogs for many classes and workshops, including this one!
- ✓ Use a wiki like WetPaint (<http://www.wetpaint.com>) or PBWiki (<http://pbwiki.com/>) or Wikispaces (<http://www.wikispaces.com/>).
- ✓ Use PowerPoint.
- ✓ Use Word and save your document as a web page.

Using PowerPoint

It's easy to create text links in PowerPoint but a more interesting way of linking to videos and learning object is creating a screen snapshot image and using that as your link. Here's how.

1. Create a slide using a layout that will work with a screen snapshot image. For example, use **Title Only** or **Blank**. See the figure below.

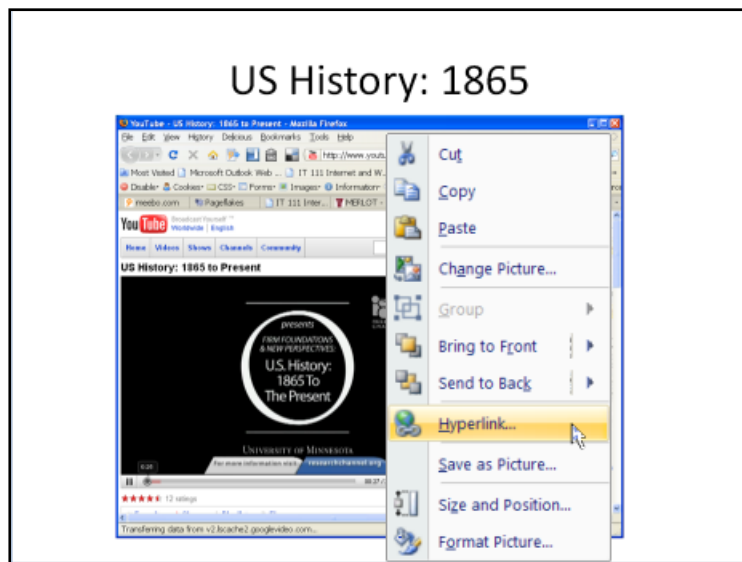


Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

2. Locate the web page that has content you want to link to. Resize your browser window – **make it smaller** – so the screen snapshot won't be too big for your slide. Hold the **Alt** key while you tap the **PrtSc** (Print Screen) key. This copies an image of the window to the clipboard.
3. Return to PowerPoint and press **Ctrl + V** (or **Cmd + V** on a Mac) to paste the screen snapshot into the slide. You might have to adjust the image if it's too big. Use a corner to make the adjustment so the image keeps its aspect ratio and doesn't look distorted. See the figure below.



4. Return to your web browser and highlight the URL for the page. Press **Ctrl + C** (or **Cmd + C** on a Mac) to copy it to the clipboard.
5. Go back to PowerPoint. Right click on the image and select **Hyperlink...** from the menu. See the figure below.

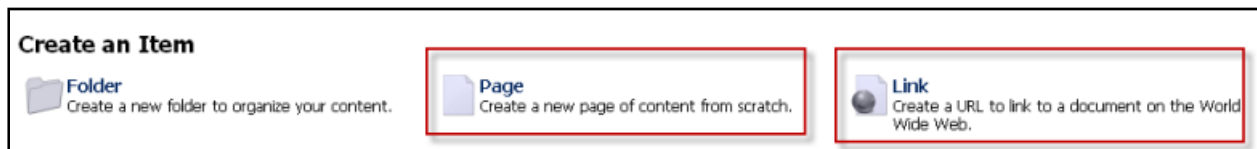


Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

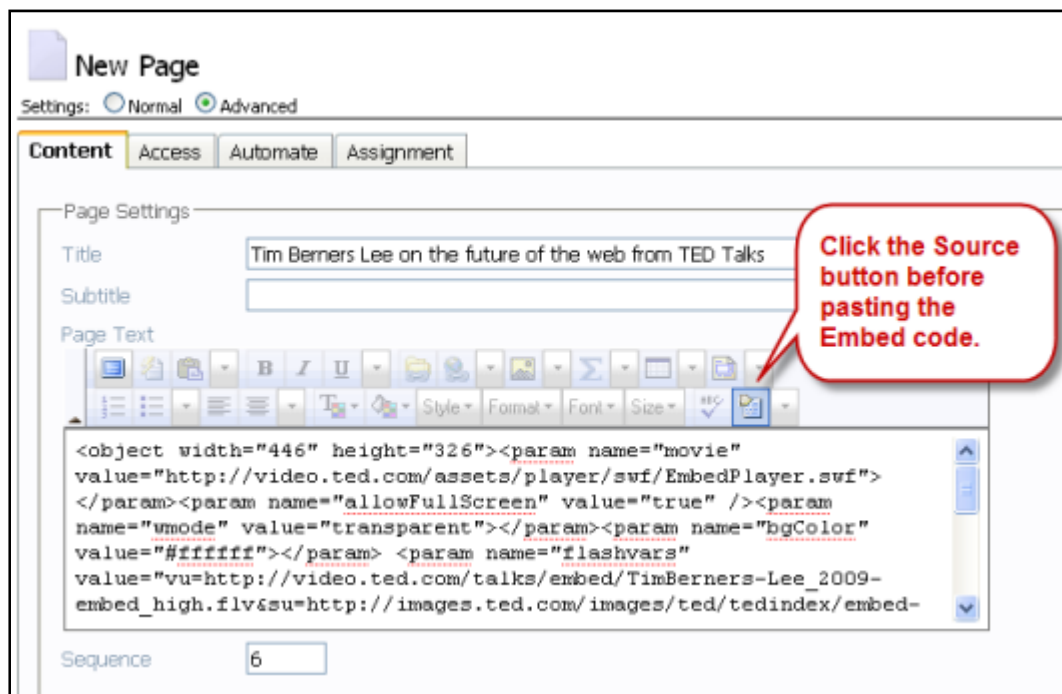
6. In the **Insert Hyperlink** dialog box, paste (**Ctrl + V**) the URL into the **Address** box. Then click **OK**.
7. When you give your lecture, click on the image and the page will open in the web browser.

Using Angel Learning

1. Login to your Angel Learning account and select the course you want to add content to. Click on the **Lessons Tab**.
2. Click on the **Add Content** link and select an appropriate item for the material you want to add. I suspect you'll add a **Page** or a **Link**. See the figure below.

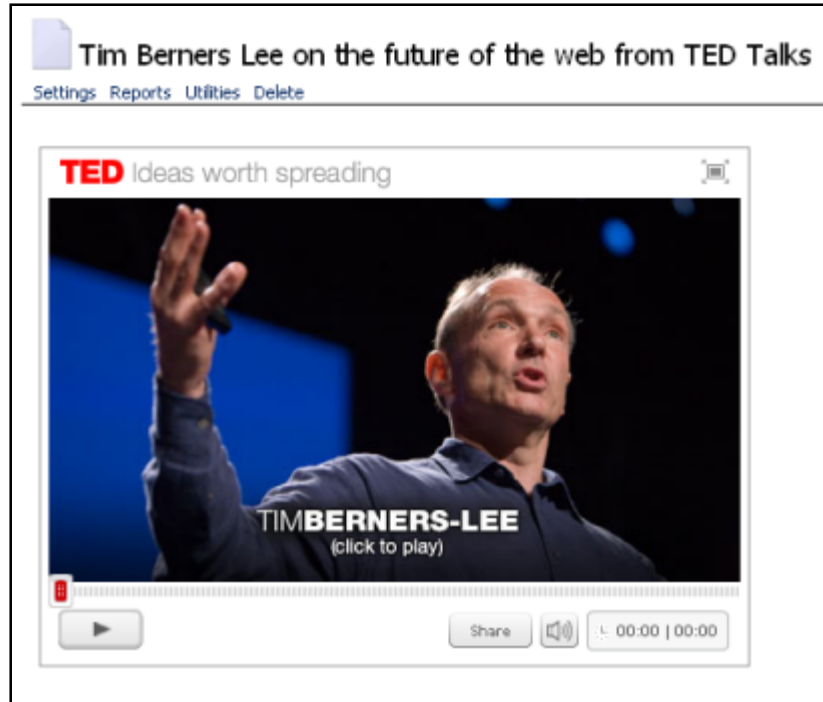


3. To **Embed a video** from YouTube or TED, first copy the Embed code to the clipboard. Next create a new page. Add a title then click the **Source** button from the Page Text Menu. Now paste the Embed code into the text box. See the figure below.



Your students will be able to view the video from your Angel Learning classroom. See the figure on the next page.

Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials



4. To add a link to a resource (video, podcast, learning object, etc.) first copy the link to the clipboard. Then select the **Link** item from the **Add Content** options. Add a title and a description, then paste the link into the Link URL box. See the figure below.

A screenshot of a "New Link" form. The form has tabs for "Content", "Access", "Automate", and "Assignment". Under "Page Settings", there are fields for "Title" (containing "Tricky Communication Situations and How to Help Solve them."), "Subtitle", and "Page Text" (containing "This is a short animated and interactive tutorial on solving communication problems."). Below the text is a "Sequence" field with the value "7". Under "Link Settings", there is a "Link Target" dropdown set to "Same Window" and a "no banner" checkbox. The "Link URL" field contains "http://www.wisc-online.com/objects/index_tj.asp?objID=OIC3602" and has a "Browse" button. There are also "Browse" buttons for "Icon URL" and "Help URL". A red speech bubble with the text "Paste the link here." points to the "Link URL" field.

Harvesting the Web for Instructional Materials

5. Click the **Save** button. Here is what your students will see.



I am new to Angel Learning and these techniques are ones that I've used and know they work. If you want to do something fancier with Angel, please contact the Angel expert on your campus.