Using Multimedia Maps to Engage Students in Online Learning

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Easy to create, share & access maps
Multimedia maps can foster exploration. A mapping and blogging learning object based on Google Maps and Drupal, a MapBlog.

- to engage online students in collaborative exercises where they develop critical thinking, problem solving and research skills, better communication and a stronger grasp of concepts.

We have used this tool for a variety of pedagogical purposes in our courses. We demonstrate the use of four categories:

- external content
- student-created content
- static content
- thematic.
Using Interactive Maps as a Simulation

http://www.esc.edu/learningobjects/darwin/plymouth_map.html

“The inclusion of so many details and the timeline layout allowed me to better picture what Darwin observed and experienced. That is to say, the various written portrayals of his surroundings brought his journey to life, so to speak.”
Dynamic Map Interface for Student Collaboration
“MapBlog”

Google Maps with a Drupal platform to support blogging capabilities.
MapBlog: Categories

• 29 Courses: cultural studies, science, language, health services, philosophy, history mathematics, social sciences.

• External Content MapBlog
  – Simply provided a space for students to geotag resources available online.
  – We did not have the ability to directly add and publish content created by students.
  – Global Climate Change: identify an environmental issue potentially caused by climate change, find an online resource describing the issue and add a marker near an identified site.
Static-Content Map Blog

No access to edit and/or add any material to the map.
Student-Created MapBlog

An electronic journal.
Thematic MapBlogs

Layers offer a visual tool for illustrating relationships.

Students can easily activate the layers or hide them as well as post.
• MapBlogs shift emphasis away from a memorizing facts.

• Employing multimedia maps creates a sense of holism and collaboration that encourages learning in a global setting.

• We have identified four main classes or categories of MapBlog based on the pedagogical intent: external content; student-created content; static content; and, thematic.

• Based on informal course feedback, MapBlogs are particularly useful to engage students in problem-solving activities, critical thinking and scientific inquiry where student-created content is required.
Thank you!

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Book Chapter:

Open MapBlogs:  
[http://links.esc.edu/maps/spanish](http://links.esc.edu/maps/spanish)  
[http://link.esc.edu/maps/french](http://link.esc.edu/maps/french)  
[http://link.esc.edu/maps/dance](http://link.esc.edu/maps/dance)  
[http://commons.esc.edu/cdlchinese](http://commons.esc.edu/cdlchinese)  
[http://commons.esc.edu/italianmap/roma/](http://commons.esc.edu/italianmap/roma/)

We want to hear from you, if you use the open MapBlogs for educational purposes. Please email Audi.