

Research Bytes:
A Preliminary Study of
Project I-cast

<http://www.i-cast.org/>

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Hearing the Call

- 2006 EDUCAUSE Technology Conference
 - iPod technology has been adopted faster and more widely than any other technology in human history
- Steven Levy author of *The Perfect Thing*:
 - “I think we’re going to remember the iPod not only as something that was incredibly cool to have, and we became part of a tribe of people who kind of silently acknowledged each other as we saw those white earbuds across the subway or at the gym, but it will be something that marked this era of choice and portability” (*Macworld*, 2007, p. 31).

The Power of Podcasting

- King and Gura *Podcasting for Teachers* (2007):

“Whether you are adults, teachers, or general public involved in podcasting or students using it for class projects . . . There is a profound experience of hearing the result of what [your] work broadcast globally” (p. x)

57 Channels and Nothing On

- What sort of material is worth podcasting?
 - Writers interviews
 - Performances
 - Project I-cast
 - Archive of audio interviews
 - Performances
 - Student generated “programs”

Linking Writing and Technology

- Christina Haas Writing Technology (1996)
 - “Writing is made material through the use of technologies, and writing is technological in the sense and to the extent that it is material. Human beings have used and continue to use technologies (e.g., sticks on sand, pen and ink on parchment, #2 pencil on legal pad, cursor on monitor) to bring language to material life.” (p. 3).
- How about mp3 on ipod? What is writing in age of widespread digital audio?

Plugging In

- Problem 1: Learning curve
 - Recording and podcasting software
 - Web hosting software
 - Student training
 - Solution: Collaboration (Ken and Eric)
- Problem 2: Costly endeavor
 - Lack of university material
 - Pricy audio equipment
 - Student access
 - Solution 2: Grant funding (IUP's ACPAC)

Making the Demo

- Trial run: Spring 2007
 - English 830: Teaching Writing
 - Graduate students
 - Groups required to interview professional writers

Good Vibrations

- Collaborative research question development
- In-class practice interview
- Audio material raised new issues related to course content beyond readings

Static

- Collaboration is always tricky
- Lack of equipment
- Lack of diversity in interview subjects
- Recordings but no mashings

Tech/ Pedagogy Balance

- Technology Projects suck up time
- Helping students master technologies is difficult
- Struggle for technological literacy

Birds Just Gotta Sing

- Mark Warschauer (2002):
 - “In today’s world, ... information is coded not only in a plurality of media, but also in a plurality of dialects and languages. A pedagogy of multiliteracies is needed to address both these forms of plurality, encouraging reading, writing and communication in diverse media, genres, dialects and languages” (p. 72).

Professional Writer Interview Clips

- <http://www.english.iup.edu/special/projects/i-cast/>

Alternate Take

- Oral Literature
 - ENGL 338
 - Undergraduate students
 - Recording live performances
 - Remixing and producing “programs”

Lit Podcasts

- What is distinctive about Literary Podcasts and Why Would I Listen?
 - Students and teachers can enjoy listening to authors' readings or interviews, they can experience the interpretations given through the spoken word,
 - Rich adaptations recontextualize the meaning of the print text.

Production

- Or, Literary podcasts and why should students make them?
 - Gives students the opportunity to think about and explore spoken word performance, using free and accessible software(recall the era of Elocution and Oral Recitation)

Literary Audio Podcasts

- <http://www.i-cast.org/>

Digital Journeys

- King and Gura:
 - “As you explored podcasting for educational purposes you will undoubtedly discover some new academic possibilities, but you will also find some new possibilities for you as a person. . . . Find your voice, discover your new interests, and explore your different abilities through [the podcast] medium” (p. xi)

Tune in Next Time

- Project I-cast
 - Great start for teaching and research
 - <http://i-cast.org/>
- Tune in for this another other projects
 - Digital Humanities Center (DHC)
 - <http://iupdhc.org/>

Come Join the Band

- Interested in I-cast and the DHC?
- Teaching with podcasts yourself?
- Want to collaborate with us? If so, call your DJ's:
 - sherwood@iup.edu
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Thanks Go Out to All Our Listeners

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