Tech Solutions for *All* Students: Universal Design for Learning, Part 2
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In the August 2009 Technology article for CAT~net, I shared my interest in reaching every student in our classrooms through the philosophy and practice of Universal Design for Learning (UDL). In this continuation of that article, I want to share some resources that I have found that support UDL practice in our classrooms.

These resources (some free, some not) support UDL designed lesson plans, each with a brief explanation of what they are and do, and how they fit into the UDL framework.

1. http://www.cast.org/. This is the main website for The Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST). Here you will find links to the philosophy of Universal Design for Learning. As well, they have a number of products (most are free) that have been developed to showcase UDL.

2. http://udlselfcheck.cast.org/. Explore UDL using your choice of tutorials that explain how UDL works. Stack up your lesson plans with UDL objectives. Find other UDL resources.

3. http://bookbuilder.cast.org/. Explore and *make* your own interactive (with video, sound, speech) on-line books. Use *your* classroom, teach *your* students to publish and share these books with each other!

4. http://lessonbuilder.cast.org/. Build UDL-based lesson plans with lots of scaffolded support.

5. http://udleditions.cast.org/. Explore full-text books that have been enhanced for all students by the use of digital media.

6. http://cst.cast.org/cst/auth-login. This site allows your students to have on-line reading strategy support.

7. http://www.setbc.org/. This site, under the umbrella of BC's Ministry of Education, provides accessibility resources for students with all types of exceptional learning needs. There are MANY free resources here, including a library of accessible books (and information on how to create your own) at http://www.setbc.org/setbc/accessiblebooks/default.html; UDL-compliant lesson plans at: http://www.setbc.org/bcudl/; and MS Word pictures for communication: http://www.setbc.org/pictureset/.

8. http://www.arc-bc.org/. A new initiative of SET-BC, this is a free repository of many full-version electronic textbooks and novels that support BC curriculum, *designed for students who cannot access regular print curricula, due either to physical, visual or cognitive barriers*. On-line training around copyright issues MUST happen before a school is permitted to access this resource. This library is currently available only to schools in BC (including Adventist schools). BC Adventist schools can go directly to the ARC-BC website

to sign up as an Independent School or they can contact the BC Office of Education for more information.

9. http://www.2learn.ca/. This Alberta-based free site has all kinds of electronic resources for elementary, junior and senior high students, parents and teachers. It is well worth exploring.

10. http://www.2learn.ca/vantage/vantage.html. Part of the "2Learn" website above, this is a monthly newsletter with timely/seasonal teaching tips and media links. Past newsletters also are searchable for specific topics. I subscribe and am always pleased with the websites linked each month. All the websites they list are levelled by age focus (elementary, junior/high school) and curriculum area (language arts, math, science, socials, and monthly focus). As well, the newsletter pulls together websites you can use in teaching any current events, specializing in Canadian and world events.

11. ***Website access/DVD enhanced teacher's editions***. Most new textbooks come with DVDs and/or website access. Most of these enhancements, especially the website access, provide the extra support needed to help make the print textbook universally accessible.

12. ***Electronic versions of print textbooks***. Most new textbooks can be obtained not only in print version but also in electronic text version. Copyright laws in Canada limit the free (non-commercial) use of e-text to people with the inability to access print-based materials (due to either physical, visual or cognitive reasons) and teachers who teach these students (meaning you could use reader software to teach to an entire class using e-text IF you have a student who qualifies in your classroom). However, commercial versions of e-text are available for ***all*** students if a school wishes to move that direction. A number of public schools in BC have piloted UDL and have embedded electronic text into entire class curricula.

13. http://www.readplease.com/. Free and commercial (upgraded) versions of reader software. This software makes any electronic document accessible. This does not have nearly the bells and whistles of some of the commercial software, but the basic version is ***free*** and accessible to schools and students at home.

14. http://www.kurzweiledu.com/. A commercial software site, Kurzweil's reading/writing software (available as stand-alone or network based) give students access to any e-text…PDF, RTF, DOC, websites, and reads it to the student. There are embedded dictionaries and a thesaurus available. Students can also use the program to extract study notes directly from what they are reading online; as well, this program supports outlining and writing. A library of many public-domain full-text books comes with the purchase of Kurzweil licenses. Adventist schools in BC can get a generous price break on this software through SET-BC. For further information, go to the SET-BC website listed above or contact the BC Office of Education.

15. http://www.texthelp.com/page.asp. Another commercial software site, this product similar to Kurzweil's reading/writing software.

16. http://www.tomsnyder.com/. This commercial software site offers many full-text novel titles that have built-in reading supports for all students. It's worth exploring their samples.

17. http://www.donjohnston.com/. This commercial product and software site includes Don Johnson's numerous technology solutions for helping students read and write with scaffolded support. Adventist schools in BC can get a price break on software through SET-BC.

18. http://www.raz-kids.com/. This commercial subscription site is a companion site to Reading A-Z with electronic versions of most of their print collection.

19. http://discoveryeducation.com/. This site, parts of which are free and parts which are commercial, has many multi-media tools to embed in your teaching.

20. http://karismath.com/home/. This site contains downloadable commercial lesson plans with media support. This is the only site I have seen that is dedicated to UDL methods for teaching math. Not all their products are currently available, although they are planning to have all of them on-line and fully available by December 2009. The Learning Assistance Teachers' Association (LATA) is planning live training for Karismath in the Lower Mainland of BC in the fall of 2009. For more information about that training, see this website: http://bctf.ca/lata/conference/events.htm. It would be wise to check back on this website in December to see if their training and professional development resources provide the necessary support for their product.

If you are interested in using Universal Design for Learning principles in your classroom, these sites will give you ideas on how to use the important tool of technology to open the curriculum to every student in your classroom.