Dialogue Between Nations: Journey To The Summit
A Virtual Field Trip

The Participation of Indigenous Peoples
in the Organization of American States

Author
Natalie Drache
Dragonfly Blue Productions, Canada

Dialogue Between Nations/Dialogo Entre Naciones Web Site
http://www.dialoguebetweennations.com

Virtual Educa 2002
June 12-14, Valencia, Spain

IV: The design of online educational and training materials

Summary

Dialogue Between Nations/Dialogo Entre Naciones (DBN) is an interactive virtual learning environment delivering special programming online designed to complement post-secondary and post-graduate studies in International Law, as well as introducing international human rights processes to the future leadership constituency within Indigenous nations. Institutions and community organizations may request pre-designed templates, which will be developed by the DBN team along with subject experts, or collaborate in customized modules that meet their specific goals. Interest in producing virtual field trips is a recently new concept for the team.

DBN, in its pilot phase over the past three years, has successfully tested the vision, communication and learning objectives of its unique web site, produced by private sector project manager, Natalie Drache, in collaboration with two key members of the team: Cheryl Smith, independent web designer, and Loc Dao of RandomLink InterActive: http://www.randomlink.com/

Drache’s production company, Dragonfly Blue Productions, provides the audio and video content for streaming on the Internet as well as other multimedia resources. RandomLink InterActive hosts the web site and provides additional technical support. Based in Vancouver, British Columbia, the team members work independently from separate locations, communicating primarily via email.
Design

Subject content, in English and Spanish, is organized into seven main topics that are accessed from the main menu on the splash/home page, designed as a double mosaic graphic. Special event programming links are added to the Home page, to coincide with international conferences or current affairs, such as the UN World Conference Against Racism or the launch of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

There are two other components to the site: DBN, Digital Broadcast Network handles acquisitions, offers special events via net casting and is currently developing a video on demand archive.

An Open Learning Community, in the early stages of development, will focus on access for all and capacity building, with a long term objective of presenting content created in rural tele-centres by communities, in Indigenous languages such as Cree, Quechua, Aymara, Kuna and Mapuche. Adult learners will interact primarily through digital audio programming with links to community radio initiatives in remote locations. The Open Learning Community will provide resources for facilitators and instructors. It will also coordinate a DBN Mentors in Electronic Residence Program.
Journey To The Summit: A Virtual Field Trip

Journey To The Summit is being created as an independent series of learning modules within DBN, in the format of a virtual field trip, reflecting a multi-tiered process of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas towards establishing mechanisms to guarantee their rights, control over their territories and resources, as well as improving their status and economic situation within the framework of the Organization of American States, the Summit of the Americas process, and multilateral agreements. The field trip, using primarily image driven navigation, focuses on Hemispheric Alliances: the traditional relationships amongst Indigenous Peoples themselves, and between their nations and the member states of the Americas.

Rationale

The Organization of American States has called for the implementation of a highly transparent process of dialogue between member States and Indigenous Peoples, in its current negotiations on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Two recent Special Sessions (2001-2002), organized by the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS of the Working Group to prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples have taken place in the Hall of the Americas, in the headquarters of the OAS in Washington, D.C.

It is to be noted that the Secretary General of the OAS, Dr. Cesar Gaviria, in his opening speech in the Inaugural Session of the Working Group in 2001 stated:

“La democracia y el bienestar de nuestros países deben construirse sobre el diálogo, el consenso, la inclusión y la dignidad de nuestros pueblos.”

Resources for the Instructional Design of the Field Trip

The concept of an electronic field trip or excursion, offers exciting possibilities in the field of tele-learning.

The resources listed below will be organized into a database and are in various stages of editorial review and post-production. Excerpts can be found on the DBN web site, and some examples have been included in this paper from the Spanish language content currently online.
Content acquisitions and recordings for the virtual field trip design and archival resources were gathered over a period of four months in early 2001 at the following conferences and meetings:

Hemispheric Caucus of Representatives of Indigenous Populations
Guatemala City, January 24-26, 2001
Organized by the Government of the Republic of Guatemala and the Indigenous Council of Central America (CICA)

- Broadcast audio tapes of Plenary and Closing Panels
- Audio guide tracks for transcriptions and translation of a dynamic working group
- Interviews in English, Spanish and some original Indigenous languages
- Spanish language Dialogue for text based analysis between an OAS legal expert and a coordinator of a Central American Indigenous non-governmental organization
- Spanish language Guide track recording of a working group session on specific articles of the Draft Declaration, for text based analysis
- Declaration produced by Conclave participants
- Photos of participants
- Links to OAS Documents
- Links to Indigenous non-governmental organizations
Indigenous Peoples’ Summit of the Americas
Ottawa, Canada, March 28-31, 2001
Organized by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

- Broadcast audio tapes of opening and closing events/panels, as well as working group sessions
- Documentation online and hard copy in Spanish and English versions
- Photos of participants
- Declaration of the Indigenous Peoples’ Summit of the Americas, presented within the context of the civil society consultative process, to the Heads of States and Inter-American and multinational agencies at the Third Summit of the Americas
Special Meeting of the Working Group
to Prepare the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
OAS, Washington, D.C. April 2-6, 2001

- Pilot segment: DBN Web based content online with interactive form for visitor postings of Comments
- Broadcast video tapes of Special Session of the Working Group on the Draft American Declaration (20 hours), for selection of excerpts and topics
- Draft Declaration and other relevant documentation, such as a Comparative version of the Draft Declaration is available in both Spanish and English on the OAS web site
- Documentation of the 2001 Working Group Session in English and Spanish available on the OAS web site
- Position papers and interventions available on the web sites of Indigenous organizations
- Recent acquisitions in video and audio of the 2002 Special Session of the Working Group
- Links to the OAS Multimedia Unit video on demand programming 2002
### Third Summit of the Americas
Quebec City, Canada, April 20-22, 2001

- Broadcast video archive of official speeches and events; DBN web based content, including DBN archived webcast from the International Broadcast Centre transmitted during the Third Summit of Americas and from a second site, the Morris J. Wosk Simon Fraser University Centre for Dialogue in Vancouver, with invited guests who provided commentary on the Summit agenda
- Links to the Official web site of the Third Summit of the Americas, with relevant documentation on the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action, the Connectivity Agenda for the Americas, press releases, speeches, etc.
- Links to Indigenous organizations online providing summaries and analysis of the Summit process
Introductory examples of selected content from the above mentioned resources can be viewed online by clicking on either the DIALOGUE DECLARATION / DECLARACION DIALOGO graphic or THIRD SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS / LA TERCERA CUMBRE DE LAS AMERICAS 2001 graphic on the Dialogue Between Nations Homepage http://www.dialoguebetweennations.com

Alternative routes:

Declaration Intro Page
http://www.dialoguebetweennations.com/OASdeclaration/dintro.html

The Summit of the Americas
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fecha</th>
<th>Tercera Cumbre de las Americas</th>
<th>Media</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 de abril, 2001</td>
<td>Oscar González les da la bienvenida a la Tercera Cumbre de las Americas y la Segunda Cumbre de los Pueblos de America en Quebec, Canada, desde donde estaremos presentando algunos de los hechos mas relevantes, así como algunas opiniones, entrevistas y comentarios. Todo ello desde la perspectiva de los temas e intereses de los pueblos indígenas.</td>
<td>Haga clic aquí  duración: 1m20s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 de abril, 2001</td>
<td>Inauguración de la Tercera Cumbre de las Americas</td>
<td>Haga clic aquí  duración: 2m58s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 de abril, 2001</td>
<td>En la reunión de sociedad civil con ministros en la Cumbre de las Américas, se escucharon voces alternativas como la de Mathew Coon Come, Jefe Nacional de la Asamblea de las Primeras Naciones.</td>
<td>Haga clic aquí  duración: 3m45s</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Technology/Skills required for participation in Virtual Field Trip Activities:**

In order to participate in interactive and collaborative learning activities, adult learners need access to a computer workstation, printer, email account, Internet access, Real Player and Windows Media programs. In some cases, they may wish to receive audiovisual material on VHS cassettes for independent viewing.

They need to be able to demonstrate proficiency in basic computer skills, such as word processing, Internet research, downloading of Adobe pdf files.
Methodology: Networked Distributed Learning

DBN archive and data base information will be made available to instructors/facilitators from participating institution(s) for the creation of short term individual modules or a four-module field trip template hosted by DBN, to complement existing curricula or special events addressing topic(s), goals, activities (individual and collaborative), technology choices and outcomes.
The client/institution may contract members of the DBN team on a consulting basis in order to meet their objectives. We will begin to create an evaluation of existing materials available for the design of a standard virtual field trip, taking into consideration several options: password-entry to the DBN website as field trip host; or download field trip onto the client/institution web site to be managed by the client; or pre-packaged content available on a CD Rom disk; or develop a memo of understanding and production guidelines for the creation of a customized program/field trip potentially jointly seeking resources for a new program/product (long term approach).

Technology Choices:

In-house and client-based decisions on appropriateness of technology to support learning objectives are being selected from a rapidly evolving mix of software products, such as email and list-serv communication, messaging systems for the individual posting of Comments (view our Join The Global Dialogue approach on our Web site), threaded or unthreaded discussion/bulletin board(s) and forums (view our work-in-progress with the University of Chicago's Model UN ChoMUN V in our Permanent Forum section), simulation(s), IRC-style chats, satellite video conferencing for interactivity between participants in institutional settings with a view to supporting synchronous and asynchronous activities during the field trip. As a content provider, our current philosophy is to create content that can easily be transferable/interface with the existing learning management program for networked learning, such as WebCT, of the client institution or community.

Meeting our Objectives

As cited in our rationale above, I refer again to the opening statement of OAS Secretary General, Dr. Cesar Gaviria in the 2001 session of the Working Group on the Draft American Declaration:

"Democracy and the well-being of our countries must be constructed on dialogue, consensus, the inclusion of and the dignity of our communities."

I personally welcome your feedback on any of the approaches to field trip activities supporting these objectives, outlined as follows:
Dialogue/Diálogo

Field Trip to the OAS Working Group(s) on the Draft American Declaration

Asynchronous activity designed for small groups: Role Play

Look at video excerpts from the Working Group online using Real Player and Windows Media.

Read text transcriptions and translations provided online in Word documents or pdf files; create a dialogue on topics addressed in the video excerpts within small collaborative groups, taking positions of heads of delegations and Indigenous representatives; threaded discussions.

Synchronous activity designed for small groups: Role Play

Examine the way relationships are established by contrasting the styles of debate taking place in both informal and formal sessions; using software such as ICONSnet, developed by the University of Maryland, to participate in one informal session and one formal session.

Mentor/peer learning

Respond to an issue viewed in a pre-recorded online audio or video clip presented by guest/expert/mentor through the use of electronic conferencing with guest mentor present for one week: development of advocacy, caucus and lobbying skills
**Consensus/Consenso**

**Field Trip Guided by a Guest Expert on a Case Study or Document**

Instructor to review background information on guest expert(s) and availability through a DBN database, or select pre-recorded tapes of experts (speeches, dialogues, commentaries). DBN project team to arrange contract of the expert for a short or long term activity. Guest expert/mentor to facilitate negotiation process and strategy using a case study pertinent to the documentation and research available, from the DBN archive or from external sources, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights website, or presented by an Indigenous leader, from a community-linked base.

Training in conflict management:

**Activity**

Participants to research topic presented by guest expert on the Internet, with some URLs identified as key resources, publish summaries of findings and identify additional URLs for a common database.

Group discussions using forum format online to contribute perspectives, to analyze and to vote.

---

**Inclusion/Inclusión**

**Field Trip based upon Resources such as the Third Summit of the Americas**

Provide analysis with online guests, and/or viewing of pre-recorded excerpts from experts, presenting multiple perspectives/strategies.

Looking at cases of exclusion at local, regional, national and international levels and examining the obstacles, whether political, cultural, social or economic, such as globalisation, affecting Indigenous Peoples, which limit their self-determination and decision-making roles in their interaction with the society around them. Refer to the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action and other relevant hemispheric documents and agreements.
Dignity/Dignidad

A Field Trip Simulation of a Talking Circle:

Integrating traditional peace-making skills from Traditional Elders and Indigenous leaders into global politics and legal systems

Technical support team would provide services and infrastructure to include traditional Elders, who may not have any computer skills in a networked learning exchange on healing, restorative and repatriation processes aimed at building respect, inter-personal dynamics, self-realization skills in diplomacy.

The facilitator might develop a series of exercises comparing traditional forms of decision-making with internationally accepted procedures and rules of law. An example of a topic might be the approach suggested by Ingrid Washinawatok, a highly respected Indigenous expert in the international arena, from the Menominee nation in the USA, murdered in Columbia several years ago, whose vision in our DBN section on Time Immemorial and the UN Permanent Forum can be located at:

English Version:
http://www.dialoguebetweennations.com/timeimmemorial/english/vision.asp

Spanish Version:
http://www.dialoguebetweennations.com/timeimmemorial/spanish/tispanishvision.asp

Conclusion: Connectivity

In conclusion, I would like to draw your attention to the focus on Connectivity in the Americas as addressed by the Canadian government in relation to the Third Summit of the Americas, with a quote from the Americas Canada web site, which has particular relevance for the aspirations of the 80 million Indigenous Peoples living in the Americas:

In preparation for the Summit of the Americas, the Government of Canada circulated a discussion paper entitled, The Community of the Americas: Vital Connections. This paper reflected that a networking revolution is unfolding in the world and our region is entering a new economy - one defined by vastly enhanced capacity to access knowledge and improved flows of information.

A knowledge-based economy presents the hemisphere with a unique situation; the development of new information and communication technologies (ICT) can widen the gap between the “haves” and the “have nots” in the region, while at the same time, ICT development has the potential to bridge these very divides.
Greater access to ICT alone will not reduce economic and social inequities and support for a Connectivity Agenda does not imply the abandonment of more fundamental development objectives such as health and education. We must ensure, however, that the benefits of new technologies are more broadly shared or we risk denying those on the margins of our communities the opportunity to be brought into the economic, political and social mainstream.

APPENDIX

Technical Specifications: RandomLink InterActive

Platform(s): Microsoft Windows 2000 Server running Microsoft IIS 5.0 web server, RealServer 8.5
Server info : PIII 866 Dual Processor Intel Server with 512Megs ram
Software/equipment :
   RealProducer 8.5
   Adobe Premiere 6.0
   Media Cleaner Pro 5
   Adobe Photoshop
   Macromedia Dreamweaver

Hosting Services:

Custom Package with the following information:
   1 gigabyte of hard disk space
   10 gigabytes of traffic monthly
   Microsoft Active Server Pages
   ODBC/OLE DB Data Connection for Access Database
   50 streams of RealAudio/Video 8.5
   50 E-Mail POP Accounts
   WebMail
   Web based Email Control interface (for each user)
   24/7 Server Monitoring
   Guaranteed 99.9% uptime
   Multiple OC3, OC45, Fiber Redundant Backbone Connections to Internet through Group Telecom
   FrontPage 2002 Access
   Unlimited FTP
   Detailed Account User Statistics

Web Design Tools: Cheryl Smith

Oas Draft Declaration, Third Summit of the Americas, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Microsoft Front Page 2002
   Adobe Photoshop
   Adobe Image Ready
   Adobe Image Styler
   Snitz Forum software

15
BIBLIOGRAPHY


MANDEL, Scott M., (1999) Virtual Field Trips in the Cyberage, A Content Mapping Approach, Skylight Professional Development


Organisation of American States
http://www.oas.org/

AmericasCanada.org
http://www.americascanada.org/politics/connectivity/vitalconnections-e.asp#vital
Politics and Democracy
The Cyber Hemisphere
Connectivity in the Summit of the Americas

ICONSnet
The University of Maryland

AUTHOR

Natalie Drache
Producer
Dialogue Between Nations/DialogoEntre Naciones
Dragonfly Blue Productions
P.O. Box 51521
911 Park Royal South
West Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V7T 2K9

Email: Natalie@dialoguebetweennations.com
Dialogue Between Nations
http://www.dialoguebetweennations.com
Volver al índice temas