



nmc highlights 2007

Major Events

- 2007 NMC Symposium on the Evolution of Communication (December 4 – 5 in Second Life).
- 2007 NMC Fall Regional Conference, hosted by Tulane University (November 7-9; New Orleans, Louisiana).
- 2007 Pachyderm Conference (September 25 - 27; Dallas, Texas).
- 2007 Symposium on Creativity in Second Life (August 12 - 18 in Second Life).
- 2007 NMC Summer Conference, hosted by Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis (June 6-9; Indianapolis, Indiana).
- 2007 NMC Online Conference on the Convergence of Web Culture and Video (March 21 -22; via the Internet).
- 2007 NMC Directors Meeting (March 7-8; Denver, Colorado).

Major Projects and Activities

- NMC launched a new suite of services this year, *NMC Virtual Worlds*, to help learning-focused organizations explore the potential of virtual spaces for education. NMC Virtual Worlds offers services from sim rentals to full-scale design and building in Second Life, providing a place for members to explore virtual spaces, to conduct research, or to hold classes.
- The Pachyderm Project has become fully open source, and the software is available for download in SourceForge. NMC continues its involvement in the project with seats on the Pachyderm Council, and continues to provide Pachyderm hosting, training, and community support to NMC members.
- The Horizon Project continued with the release of the *2007 Horizon Report* in January 2007 in collaboration with the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (ELI). At the same time, the NMC launched a concerted, international effort to describe a research agenda based on the six practices and technologies featured in the 2007 edition.
- The NMC's ongoing projects and activities in the Emerging Technologies, Dynamic Knowledge, New Collaborations, and New Media Literacy & Learning Initiatives continue to involve dozens of NMC member institutions.

Grants & Funded Projects

- A 2-year, \$921,000 grant from the Edward and Betty Marcus Foundation that was received in November 2005 continued thru 2006/7, and the project was refunded with an additional \$775,000 in May 2007. The grants will provide continuing support for the New Media Literacy & Learning Initiative and the Pachyderm Project. Of these totals, nearly one million dollars will flow to participating members.
- A \$575,000 grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation ran through May 2007. This grant explored the intersection of digital media and learning from the perspectives of experts, visionaries, and thought leaders chosen from across the globe. At the end of the grant, six volumes were published, each with a unifying theme that addressed a critical aspect of this emerging field of study. Of this total, \$375,000 was distributed to participating authors and editors.
- A variety of smaller grants funded surveys, focus groups, and other activities.

Monographs and Reports

- The *2007 Horizon Report*, sponsored by ELI, was published in January 2007. The report had preorders of nearly 20,000 printed copies, and has been downloaded more than 17,000 times as well.
- A visual summary of the 2007 Directors Meeting captured the discussions from the March 2007 Directors Meeting, with topics such as new scholarship, *2007 Horizon Report*, NMC Web 2.0 and a business meeting. Download the summary at www.nmc.org/keyword/2007-directors-meeting.
- Distribution of *Social Networking, the "Third Place," and the Evolution of Communication*, a white paper that discusses the premise that technology not only mediates interactions, but is actually changing the nature of communication itself. This white paper marks the first in a series of topical papers associated with the NMC's Series of Virtual Symposia (formerly the Series of Online Conferences), which are designed to explore emerging topics in education and technology using social computing technologies to bring people together online in a way that offers many of the same affordances of a face-to-face conference. <http://www.nmc.org/pdf/Evolution-of-Communication.pdf>
- During the 2007 Summer Conference, attendees were asked to nominate sessions of special merit. Those presenters were invited to contribute to the first ever, *2007 Proceedings*, which features sixteen papers on topics from virtual worlds and gaming to streaming media technologies, digital storytelling, and more. These media-rich papers were presented in PDF format to take advantage of the images, video, and links that they include. <http://www.nmc.org/pdf/NMC-2007-Proceedings.pdf>

Website Expansions and Enhancements

- In early 2007, a completely revamped NMC "web 2.0-ified" website was released, featuring enhanced tools for members as well as a wide range of online community tools. Among the new features is a comprehensive, searchable library of presentations, videos, publications, and reports, exclusively for members. Newly developed tools allow NMC members to directly add new content to share their own work and to contribute to collaboratively authored resource sites.
- The NMC has added a state-of-the-art content delivery network to its technical infrastructure, allowing far more efficient transmission of streaming video and audio content.
- The NMC Virtual Worlds website was developed and includes complete information on virtual worlds services, as well as Second Life news and blogs. Visit virtualworlds.nmc.org/
- A new blog, the *NMC Campus Observer*, publishes continuously updated information and news about the NMC's virtual campus in Second Life.
- Several wikis have been developed, including the Horizon Report workspace, used to develop the annual report; the NMC Campus Guide, filled with information on the NMC Campus; and a space for NMC Directors to brainstorm their ideas about NMC membership and services. New custom code developed for the MediaWiki software allows the display of dynamic content from RSS feeds.

Upcoming Events

- 2008 NMC Directors Meeting, scheduled for March 12 - 13, in Austin, Texas.
- 2008 NMC Virtual Symposia (dates pending).
- 2008 NMC Summer Conference, hosted by Princeton University in Princeton, New Jersey, scheduled for June 11 - 14.
- 2008 NMC Fall Virtual Symposia (dates pending).