



# nmc highlights 2008

## Major Projects and Activities

- **The Horizon Project** continued with the release of the *2008 Horizon Report* in January 2008 (a collaboration with the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative), and the *Horizon Report: 2008 Australia – New Zealand Edition* that was released December 1. The *Horizon.K12* effort launched in December, with a target release date of March 10, 2009.
- **The Steve Project**, an IMLS-funded activity, launched in October 2008, and kicked off design efforts at a meeting in San Francisco in December 2008. The project will build on the work of an earlier effort to create easy-to-use social tagging software that will enable cross-institution searches.
- **The NMC Campus Project** has grown to be the largest educational project in any virtual setting, involving more than 90 islands and nearly 150 institutions who actively participate and have located their own projects on the NMC's Virtual Campus. The reach of the effort, however, is far broader, impacting literally hundreds of institutions in countries all over the world; more than 10,000 people have joined the discussion lists and groups related to the project. Detailed data reveal where participants come from, where they spend their time, how much time they spend, and much more. In the most recent 90 days, the average length of time spent by the 8633 visitors in their 34,112 visits to the NMC Campus Project was an amazing 84 minutes. The Project continues to be completely self-sustaining due to the efforts of the NMC Virtual Worlds team.
- **NMC Virtual Worlds**, NMC's development and services unit, supports the NMC Campus Project and continued to expand its financially and programmatically 2008. An new focus on open content and enhanced learning centered around two large scale activities. For the first, an entire "island" was created as a repository for open content for NCM members, and in the second instance, launched the NMC Virtual Learning Prize, which was awarded to eight faculty members in the US, New Zealand, and Europe to develop open learning content for Second Life. 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.
- **Open Virtual Worlds**, a two-year collaboration with Sun Microsystems launched in April, and is aimed at making it easier to learn, work, and exchange ideas in virtual space. The project will extend Sun Microsystems' open source Project Darkstar and Project Wonderland virtual world platforms.
- **The Pachyderm Project** now fully open source, has a new version, Pachyderm 2.1, that is now in beta and is expected to be released in mid-2009. NMC continues its involvement in the project with seats on the Pachyderm Council, and provides Pachyderm hosting, training, and community support to NMC members.
- **NMC Initiatives**. 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.

## Major NMC Events

- **2009 NMC Directors Meeting** (February 11-12, 2009; Austin, Texas)
- **Connect@NMC: The Craft of Common Craft** (Dec 15, 2008, in Adobe Connect)
- **Program for the Future: 40th Anniversary of Doug Engelbart's 'Mother of All Demos'** (Co-Sponsor with the Doug Engelbart Institute and SRI, Dec 8-Dec 9 2008; San Jose California)

- **Connect@NMC: Cloud Collaboration on Acrobat.com** (Nov 19, 2008 in Adobe Connect)
- **Rock the Academy: Radical Teaching, Unbounded Learning. An NMC Symposium.** (November 4-6; Second Life and online with Adobe Connect)
- **2008 Pachyderm Conference** (September 22-24; San Antonio, Texas)
- **2008 NMC Summer Conference**, hosted by Princeton University (June 11-14; Princeton, New Jersey)
- **Symposium on Mashups** (April 1-3; Second Life and online with Adobe Connect)
- **2008 NMC Directors Meeting** (March 12-13; Austin, Texas)

*The NMC hosts a wide range of meetings and activities, including many project and other private meetings not listed here. For complete detail on all the NMC's recent public events see <http://www.nmc.org/cal/recent>*

## Grants & Funded Projects

- **A three-year \$955,000 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** was received in 2008 to create the Steve in Action Project. The NMC will work with partner institutions that include the Denver Museum of Art, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Minnesota Digital Library, the Rubin Museum of Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the University of California at Los Angeles School of Education and Information Studies, and the Walker Art Center.
- **A 4-year, \$1,696,000 grant from the Edward and Betty Marcus Foundation** that was initially awarded in November 2005 for two years, was refunded and will continue thru 2009. The grants will provide continuing support for the New Media Literacy & Learning Initiative and the Pachyderm Project. Of this total, over one million dollars will flow to participating members.
- **A \$146,500 grant from Apple Computer, Inc.** funded the *University of the Future* project, a study of university CIOs, academics, business leaders and other experts that paired the NMC with the *Economist Business Intelligence Unit*. The research combined both quantitative and qualitative techniques to illuminate what universities will look like over the next three to five years and to identify institutions that are adopting state-of-the-art practices. This white paper was published by the *Economist*, and released in November 2008.
- **A \$50,000 grant from Microsoft, Inc.** funded the first edition of the Horizon Report: 2008 K12 Edition.

*A variety of smaller grants funded surveys, focus groups, and other activities also took place in 2008, but amounts less than \$50,000 were not included here.*

## Monographs and Reports

- **2008 NMC Summer Conference Proceedings.** The 2008 NMC Conference Proceedings features ten papers including case studies; a tutorial; introductions to current topics such as storytelling, digital media, and fair use; descriptions of special services, tools, and information technology support programs developed at member schools; and discussions of new media and pedagogy. The topics were ones nominated by attendees at the 2008 NMC Summer Conference held in June at Princeton University.
- **2008 Horizon Report Australia-New Zealand Edition.** The first in a new series of regional and sector-based Horizon Reports, the 2008 Australia-New Zealand Edition examines emerging technologies as they appear in and affect higher education in Australia and New Zealand in particular.

- **2008 NMC Educators in Second Life Survey.** Sent out to members of the NMC, our in-world educational community, and the Second Life Educators Listserv (SLED) in May 2008, this survey represents the interests, activities, and demographics of more than 350 educators. Overall, the results reflect the highly social interaction of Second Life and how educators have formed and contribute to a vibrant community in this virtual world space.
- **Future of Higher Education: How Technology Will Shape Learning.** On October 20, 2008, the NMC announced the release of a white paper produced in conjunction with the Economist Magazine and in collaboration with Apple, Inc. This paper reports the results of a study of nearly 300 CIOs and technology leaders inside and outside of education.
- **Into the Breach: How Creative Philanthropy Can Reverse the Eroding Landscape of Arts** This paper, produced as part of the NMC's Digital Education Project for Texas Art Museums, documents the sad state in which arts education finds itself; shines a light of hope on that picture; and makes recommendations that arts-focused institutions and their donor communities can use to help make a difference in keeping a love for the arts alive across the state.
- **2008 Horizon Report.** The annual Horizon Report describes the continuing work of the NMC's Horizon Project, a research-oriented effort that seeks to identify and describe emerging technologies likely to have considerable impact on teaching, learning, and creative expression within higher education. Thanks to the contributions of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, the 2008 Horizon Report is also available in Spanish and Catalan.

*Only official NMC publications are listed here. Many other project-related reports are not listed here. These include reporting required by grant agencies, project team reports, and other materials*

## NMC Website

- **Significant enhancements to the NMC main and members web.** These include the completion of the online conference proposal submission/review system, and a new, completely electronic registration system. In addition, the web site now enables sophisticated tracking of member interactions with NMC. For example, individual user profiles now record all conferences attended, proposals accepted, and content posted to the site. NMC Directors have been given tools to track how members access NMC programs and services, and to manage their member benefits. Also part of this effort are custom project web sites, for projects that need their own identity, such as those developed for the Steve Project, the NMC Conversations series, Pachyderm Services, and the NMC Campus Project.
- **CommentPress format for publishing online papers.** This partnership with the *Institute for the Future of the Book*, part of the NMC's New Scholarship Initiative, allows us to publish NMC works in a social networking format that allows each paragraph to be annotated by visitors to the site. Examples added in 2008 include the *2008 and 2009 Horizon Reports*, the *Co-Evolution of Technology, Media and Collective Action* keynote by Howard Rheingold captured in December 2007, and *Mr. Pixel Goes to Washington*, Larry Johnson's April 2008 testimony to the US Congress, among others.

*The NMC has become known for its innovative use of the web, and a great many smaller features and improvements added in 2008 are not listed here. Enhancements in 2008 to the capabilities and services available through the NMC's extensive web resources were many and continue on almost a daily basis.*