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nmc highlights 2009

Major Projects and Activities

- **The Horizon Project** continued with the release of the *2009 Horizon Report* in January 2009 (in collaboration with the *EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative*), and the *Horizon Report: 2009 Australia – New Zealand Edition* that was released in September, 2009. The *Horizon.K12* effort launched in December, 2008 with a release date of March 10, 2009. The *Horizon Report: 2009 Economic Development Edition* was released in October, 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, and met again in Portland in November 2009. The project continues and will build on the work of an earlier effort to create easy-to-use social tagging software that will enable cross-institution searches.
- **The Edward and Betty Marcus Digital Education Project for Texas Art Museums** is a systemic effort to increase the capacity of museums across Texas to use new media to tell compelling stories about art and their collections. The project has introduced Texas museum professionals to all forms of digital media and provided considerable training in the software and concepts of digital storytelling. The project, now in its fourth year, continues to work with Texas museums to help them learn to tell media-rich stories related to their collections and exhibitions on the Internet or in the museum. The learnings from this project inform the national and international efforts of many organizations in the museum sector committed to similar goals and outcomes.
- **The NMC Campus Project** has grown to be the largest educational project in any virtual setting, involving nearly 100 islands and some 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 12,000 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 8,633 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 it financially and programmatically in 2009. 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**, now fully open source, has a new version, Pachyderm 2.1, that is in beta. NMC continues its involvement in the project with seats on the Pachyderm Council.

Major NMC Events

- **NMC Series of Virtual Symposia: Symposium for the Future;** October 27–29, 2009 (Hakone)
- **2009 NMC Summer Conference,** hosted by California State University, Monterey Bay; June 9-13, 2009 (Monterey Bay, California)
- **NMC Series of Virtual Symposia: New Media & Learning;** March 24-26, 2009 (Second Life)
- **2009 NMC Directors Meeting;** February 11-12, 2009 (Austin, Texas)
- Presented the series of monthly **Connect@NMC** online seminars.
- Presented the series of monthly **Adobe Monday** online seminars.

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

Grants and Funded Projects

- **A three-year \$955,000 grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)** was awarded in 2008 to create the Steve in Action Project. The NMC is working 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 two-year \$760,320 grant from the Edward and Betty Marcus Foundation** was awarded in October 2009 to establish the Edward and Betty Marcus Institute for Digital Education in the Arts (MIDEA). The mission of the Institute is to serve the needs of museum professionals in Texas and elsewhere with research into emerging trends and technologies, focused training, and resources related to the applications of technology to arts interpretation and education.
- **A one-year \$81,960 grant from the National Geographic Society** was awarded to fund program consulting and curriculum development for the National Geographic Education Programs.
- **A \$50,000 grant from the Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) Program's Multimedia and Entertainment Initiative** funded the Horizon Report: *2009 Economic Development Edition*. EWD is a division of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.
- **A \$50,000 grant from Microsoft** to support the Horizon Project's K12 Edition.

A variety of smaller grants funded surveys, focus groups, and other activities also took place in 2009, but amounts less than \$50,000 were not included here.

Monographs and Reports

- **2009 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. In 2009, the report was also available in Catalan, Chinese, German, Japanese, and Spanish.
- **2009 Horizon Report K-12 Edition.** The first ever *Horizon Report* for the K12 sector describes the continuing work of the NMC's Horizon Project, a research-oriented effort that seeks to identify and describe emerging technologies that will likely have a significant impact on K-12 education.
- **2009 Horizon Report Australia-New Zealand Edition.** This is the second in the series to focus on the impact of emerging technologies on post-secondary education in Australia and New Zealand.
- **2009 Horizon Report: Economic Development Edition.** *The Horizon Report: 2009 Economic Development Edition* explores the landscape of emerging technologies as it pertains to small to medium-sized businesses.
- **Challenge-Based Learning: An Approach for Our Time.** In the largest study to date of the practice anywhere, new findings from the New Media Consortium confirm that challenge-based learning is extremely effective with 9th grade students, including those most at risk of dropping out. The report followed six schools across the US as they implemented the practice in high school classes.
- **Marcus Collection Catalogue.** As a result of participation in the Edward and Betty Marcus Digital Education Project for Texas Art Museums, museum educators, curators, and directors have successfully integrated digital media into their education and outreach activities in ways that extend their efforts to a wider audience. A community of digital storytellers has grown up across the state that can help to sustain the momentum of the work. Furthermore, this collection of high-quality materials has been created that can be used to address important needs related to visual arts education.
- **2008 NMC Summer Conference Proceedings.** The *2008 NMC Summer 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 at Princeton University. The *2009 Summer Conference Proceedings* will be released in early 2010.

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 website 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 Liaisons 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 websites, 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 2008-09 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 2009 are not listed here. Enhancements in 2009 to the capabilities and services available through the NMC's extensive web resources were many and continue on almost a daily basis.

