

# Connected Library

## Power Up Your Stories Through Digital Storytelling

**L**ibrarians have long played an important role in the sharing and teaching of traditional storytelling. The practice of telling a story with a particular point of view to an audience is a powerful and emotional teaching and learning experience. Digital storytelling offers storytellers a multimedia platform for sharing their stories. Media such as images, text, narration, video, and/or music can be used to create stories and provide another dimension to the stories being told. Visit these sites to get started on your digital storytelling journey.

### STARTING THE DIGITAL STORYTELLING JOURNEY



#### DigiTales: The Art of Telling Digital Stories

This is a great site to begin your journey into digital storytelling. DigiTales shares ideas, resources and inspiration with anyone ready to discover the possibilities of merging the art of storytelling with the use of digital tools. This site has everything - links to articles in the resources section, a wiki to support each project, the steps to story making, tips for being copyright savvy, and dozens of sample stories.

<http://www.digitales.us/>

#### The Memory Project and Digital Archives

A project of the Dominion Institute and supported by the Department of Canadian Heritage, the digital archives of The Memory project hold over 90 years of military oral history including stories from World War One to the conflict in Afghanistan. Each Veteran Profile consists of a number of artifacts provided by the participant, an audio clip of the veteran sharing their story, and a print version of the interview.

<http://www.thememoryproject.com>

#### Six Word Memoirs by Teens by SMITHTeens

Legend has it that Hemingway was challenged to write a novel in just six words. SMITH Magazine has taken this legend and challenged contributors to create personal narratives using the Six Word Memoirs format. SMITHTeens is a project of SMITH Magazine and was founded as a place for teenagers (ages 13-19) to share their personal narratives through the Six Word Memoir. This website provides examples of Six Word Memoirs submitted by teens as well as an opportunity to comment, share and publish personal memoirs to the site.

<http://www.smithteens.com/>

## TOOLS FOR CREATING DIGITAL STORYTELLING

In addition to software such as PhotoStory and iMovie, there are a number of alternative resources that can be used.

### Voice Thread

A VoiceThread is a collaborative, multimedia slide show that holds a wide range of images, documents and videos in the cloud. You can share your VoiceThread with other groups and the audience can leave comments in a variety of formats (text, audio, video). Although there is a cost to VoiceThread, teachers can sign up for an educator account that hosts the VoiceThreads on an educational network for students and teachers K-12.

<http://voicethread.com>

### Storybird

Storybird is a collaborative storytelling site. The storytellers start with some text or images and then begin creating their stories online. The illustrations are provided by real artists and the storytellers can select the images that best suit their stories, or be inspired by the art work to begin writing their stories. Teachers have the ability to sign up for free teacher accounts where they can manage students without emails, create assignments and build libraries. The books can be embedded or printed. There are also opportunities for both teachers and classmates to provide feedback.

<http://storybird.com/>

### Toontastic

For those of you using iPads, Toontastic is just one app that guides young children through the story writing process (selecting characters, a setting, determining a conflict, a challenge, a climax and a resolution). Children animate their stories and record their personal narration of the story. Background music can also be included. Finally, stories can be shared online via ToonTube giving students a global audience for their work

<http://launchpadtoys.com/toontastic/>

### Digital Storytelling Toronto

Facilitated by two community organizations, this blog shares digital stories as a tool to raise awareness for social issues, while teaching people how to share their stories as a strategy for personal and community transformation. Examples include Regent Park Revitalization Stories, Aboriginal Girls in Sports, and various immigrant experiences.

<http://storycentre.wordpress.com/>

### The Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling

From the University of Houston, this site provides a description of the purpose of digital storytelling in the classroom, provides examples of stories in different curriculum areas, as well as guidelines for getting started, using particular software, and tips when working with technology.

<http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/index.html>

### Streetside Stories' Tech Tales

Streetside Stories is a San Francisco Bay Area nonprofit organization that teaches storytelling through writing, the arts, and technology. Building on the traditional method of storytelling, Tech Tales is a project involving middle school students writing personal stories and then transforming them into short films.

<http://www.streetside.org/stories/digital-stories.htm>

### Center for Digital Storytelling

This California-based Center for Digital Storytelling is dedicated to the art of digital storytelling and has been in existence for 15 years. The site includes case studies of projects from across the United States and Canada as well as links to a number of digital stories and resources from around the world.

<http://www.storycenter.org/education>