Artifact #1

Descriptors: Design, Development, Presentation software

Title: Safely Trekking the Net

Course: ITED 7299: Internship in Library Media

Date: February 24, 2006

Rationale:
One of the projects I chose to complete as part of my Internship was to do a presentation on parent resources to the Westside Elementary School Council. Since the Coffee County School System had recently purchased a subscription to the online educational search portal netTrekker, I chose to introduce this safe Internet search alternative. Utilizing the domains of *design* and *development*, I designed and created a PowerPoint slide show to use as my presentation to the school council. Even though the domains of *design* and *development* were both prominently used, I chose to list *design* as the primary descriptor because I focused heavily on the *design* aspect of the project.

I had to use the subdomains of *learner characteristics* and *instructional strategies* to determine what material needed to be included in my presentation. The school council is made up of parents, teachers, and community members. Each of these groups of people would be interested in learning different things about netTrekker, so I chose to do a simple overview of the entire site so that the presentation would be applicable to all the members of the council. The PowerPoint presentation included general information about what netTrekker actually is and how sites are chosen for netTrekker as well as instructions covering how to create a login for the site. The presentation then went through the various aspects of the portal, the types of searches that can be done, and the ways the program can help in instructional differentiation.

Utilizing the *message design* subdomain, I chose to use screenshots of the assorted screens that would be encountered when using netTrekker. I used drawing tools to add arrows and other indicators to draw the viewer's attention to certain sections of the slide. Text fonts and background colors were chosen for maximum readability, and additional graphics, when used, were chosen to go along with the theme of a hike or trek. I also added speaker notes using the Notes View in PowerPoint to ensure that I covered all the material as I made the presentation.

When I met with the school council, I used a Promethean board and projector connected to a media center computer. The group was very receptive to the presentation and seemed to be impressed by the capabilities that the program had for improving student achievement. The school's media specialist requested that I email a copy of the PowerPoint file to all the school's teachers so that the teachers could see the potential of the program.

I chose to include this particular project in my portfolio because I thought that the design of the presentation was very engaging and well designed. The screenshots were an effective way of showing the council the possibilities of the program in a shorter amount of time than it would have taken to demonstrate the program using the program itself. The message design was effective for the presentation method with the fonts and colors complimenting the fonts and color scheme of the actual program.

I enjoyed learning about netTrekker and preparing the presentation for the school council. I have always considered myself a creative person, so I especially enjoy the design portion of any project. I enjoy planning color schemes and presentation themes. One of my goals as a media specialist is to work closely with my teachers to help them find methods to improve their students' performance. I hope to achieve this goal through the creation and presentation of similar demonstrations. I look forward to being in a media center so that I can work with teachers and help them find ways to help their students be successful.