



ALRC TECH TIPS

DECEMBER 2005

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 7

Welcome to December's ALRC Tech Tips. We hope you find these brief ideas worth saving. Please feel free to contact us with any tech ideas you would like to share with other programs. This is your forum.

Adult Learning Resource Center

1855 Mt. Prospect Rd.
Des Plaines, IL 60018
Sue Barauski, Director
sbarauski@thecenterweb.org

Phone
847-803-3535

Fax
847-803-3231

E-mail
Judith Diamond
jdiamond@thecenterweb.org
Barb Sabaj
bsabaj@thecenterweb.org

We're on the Web!
www.thecenterweb.org

Peruse and Use

Some educational sites have created and posted collections of small, interactive applets. Usually, some type of plug-in is required, most often Shockwave Flash or Java. Some of these applets, of course, are more valuable than others. We would like to invite you to visit the sites below and choose a few to share with your students. Then send a note to either Judith at jdiamond@thecenterweb.org or Barb at bsabaj@thecenterweb.org so we can share your favorites with other teachers.



Wisconsin Online Learning Objects

These objects are similar to small PowerPoint presentations designed especially for ABE/GED. Higher level categories are also available. Most present one idea with examples using sound, pictures, and movement. After registration, users can either study objects already written or create their own. The objects are excellent for student self-study.

<http://www.wisc-online.com/>

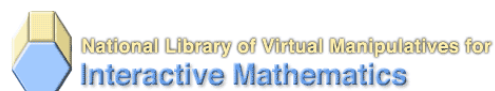


British Council Learn English Central

These little Java games ask ESL students to drag pictures or words to the correct place or check a correct answer. There are three sections: one for word games, one for grammar games and an interactive game featuring British tube stations especially for users from the United Kingdom. The games focus, practice, and test grammar and vocabulary.

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish-central-games-homepage.htm>

Nat'l Library of Virtual Manipulatives for Interactive Mathematics



The applets on this site are organized into Number & Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement and Data Analysis & Probability. Many are tools that can be used by the teacher for a variety of problem-solving activities. Teachers will find themselves lured into playing just as much as their students.

<http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/vlibrary.html>

Online Classes

- Online professional development classes with Horizon Wimba technology. For information go to: www.thecenterweb.org/alrc/wimba.html
- GED Illinois Online Professional Development Classes. For information go to: www.coe.ilstu.edu/calendar

This Month's Feature: Plug-ins

What is a plug-in?

A plug-in is a program that works with the web browser to add functionality. These functions may be audio, video, multimedia programs, documents; in short, lots of sensory and interactive components that make the World Wide Web (WWW) an interesting place to visit.

Which plug-ins are needed?

Usually you would get plug-ins on an as needed basis. If you come across a page that seems to be really on target for your needs and it requires a plug-in then that is sufficient to consider downloading and installing it. If you find yourself coming across many web sites that use a certain kind of plug-in, this is an indication that it would be beneficial to you to get it. There are some plug-ins that are "must haves" because they are very commonly used on the WWW. These are as follows.



Adobe Acrobat: Allows you to view, print, and download publications in their original format, complete with pictures and graphs, regardless of the program in which they were created. Web publishing has a long way to go before it can provide consistency in design and layout. Many publications are being provided in the Acrobat format and it is well worth the effort to download this plug-in to take advantage of that.

www.adobe.com



Real Player: This plug-in will access the higher quality audio and video which "streams" to your desktop computer. Unlike other video and audio that needs to download fully to your desktop before you can begin to view or listen to it, Real Player begins the moment you access the files.

<http://www.real.com/player/>



Quicktime: This plug-in will also provide access to audio and video. These files however must download to your hard drive completely before you can begin to listen or view them. Still this type of file is commonly used on the Internet and is an essential plug-in to have, especially for viewing audio and video on news sites.

<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/trailers/index.html>

Shockwave/Flash: Shockwave provides some great interactivity for users of the Internet. Provided by Macromedia, one of the most prominent makers of development tools, this plug-in provides access to some dynamic programming on the net.

<http://www.macromedia.com/shockwave/download/>



Java A browser plug-in that provides the link to the Java Virtual Machine (JVM) that is installed in the computer. The plug-in control panel lets the user select which JVM to use. This allows animation and certain graphics to appear properly on your screen.

<http://java.com/en/>

All of the "plug-ins" can be downloaded from one place **CNET**: www.download.com