VOICETHREAD – WWW.VOICETHREAD.COM

The first source that I chose is called VoiceThread. VoiceThread is a great web-based tool to use for online collaboration. It's considered to be "full presence communication". You are able to upload images, documents, and videos. A number of formats are supported including PDFs word documents, excel spreadsheets. You can import pictures from Flikr, Facebook and the web. I feel this tool could be helpful in making asynchronous courses more dynamic and engaging. A free account is offered but there are paid subscriptions that offer more features.

Voicethread provides 5 different modes of commenting. This application allow for very interactive group discussions. You may comment using voice (phone or microphone), text, audio file, or video using a webcam. You can also share with others and playback or view their comments. Another nice thing about VoiceThread is you can doodle as you comment so people can see what you are talking about. Voicethread also provides Learning Management System (LMS) integration options. The LMS tool supported is Moodle. The creator and editors can use comment moderation to decide which comments are shared. It's optional to turn this on or off. The creator decides what viewers can do.

Voicethread could make for a very engaging classroom discussion. I would create a group for my class and invite the students to join. We could watch a video about whatever topic we're covering and have a discussion where everyone can comment using their mode of preference. Classes can listen and respond to podcasts or other audio files together. Art interpretation would also be a nice exercise. I like the idea of using Voicethread for student introductions at the beginning of the semester. Another way it's been used is to provide a course tour; an instructor could go through the syllabus and course assignments using this tool. I can even see this being used in place of a discussion board.

PREZI – WWW.PREZI.COM

The second tool that I felt would be a great addition to online education is called Prezi. Prezi isn't your typical presentation application. Prezi is web based. Instead of slides it uses a single canvas. You can place text, images, videos and other objects on the canvas. You can easily add YouTube videos to the canvas and you can also convert slides into a Prezi.

Prezi allows users to create non-linear presentations, allowing you to zoom in and out of the visual map. This is quite different from the linear approach we're used to seeing in many presentations. Once you add the content to the canvas you may create the path that you want the elements in Prezi to appear. You are given four ways to share your Prezi. You can send a view only link; share via social media, invite editors and present using a predefined path or without. There is also an application available called Prezi Meeting. Prezi Meeting allows multiple people to work on a presentation together without being in the same room.

A nice way to use Prezi Meeting in the classroom would be with group projects or presentations. Students can work together and create very dynamic presentations. Prezi would be great for online group assignments which can sometimes be difficult. Students can work together simultaneously on projects and see changes in real time.

EDUBLOGS – WWW.EDUBLOGS.ORG

Blogging has become very popular over the years and continues to be a tool that teachers are bringing into the classroom. Edublogs is a blogging platform for students, teachers and school districts. Blogs are a great tool to use in an online environment due to the fact that they can be viewed anytime, anyplace using an internet connection. Blogs would be a great addition to an asynchronous online environment. Blogs can be used in a wide variety of ways. Blogs are engaging, and encourages students to share their thoughts and opinions. A number of institutions use Edublogs. Edublogs only allows for educational related content and therefore it is not blocked by schools like some blogging sites may be. Also as compared to Blogger and Wordpress, Edublogs differ by the fact that it's only for education, it receives support from teachers, there are class blog management tools, and it has academic functionality. It's a safe and secure form of blogging that is child friendly.

Blogs allow people to express themselves, share experiences, critiques, and personal expertise. This provides a great sense of social presence. Another nice thing about blogs is the variety of media that you can add to the blog; images, videos, links, podcasts, music, slideshows and more. Edublogs are easy to use and fully customizable offering a number of themes. Blogs can be set to public or private.

Teachers can integrate blogs into the class in number ways. Edublogs can be used to create newsletters, facilitate discussions, or even to allow students to create a collaborative class publication. Teachers can share downloads and links with the class or post information about the course on the Edublog.

DELICIOUS – WWW.DELICIOUS.COM

The fourth source that I chose is a social bookmarking site. Wikipedia defines social bookmarking as "a method for Internet users to organize, store, manage and search for bookmarks of resources online." We've all been in classes were someone has shared a link and you maybe wrote it down somewhere and forgot where you placed it or you meant to come back to the message and just never got around to it. This is why I think the use of a social bookmarking site would be beneficial in an online environment. We are always on the internet finding many great sources of information that we would like to share with others. The site that I chose allows you to do this but there are many others to use as well. The name of the site is Delicious. Delicious allows users to create an account, which users can add bookmarks with different tags to help sort and organize them.

Students can collaborate and build a sense of community using social bookmarking. You can access delicious from any internet connection and therefore you can seemingly always have access to your bookmarks. You may import those from your personal favorites into your delicious account for easy access when you're away from your computer. In an online education environment I could see this tool being very useful. One possible use is just to do a random search for links people found useful on particular topics, this could help students find sources to help with projects or assignments or to gather information. You simply type a word into the search box with or without an account and you find many different resources that have been tagged with that word. This may be a great alternative to using a typical search engine. You can look up bookmarks by username also.

I could see this tool being used in an online course. Teachers can provide students with a link to their social bookmarking site where they can access resources chosen by the teacher with the different tags associated. The Career Services department maintains a page with their bookmarks to assist job seekers. Another use would be to create a class account and allow students to add links they find that may be of interest to others in the class. There can also be a general tag added like the course name so that it's easy to find if a search is done.

WIKISPACES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION- HTTP://WWW.WIKISPACES.COM/CONTENT/PRIVATE-LABEL/HIGHER-ED

The last resource that I want to discuss is Wikispaces. Wikispaces is a website that allows for the creation of wikis. Wikis are easy to use and they do not take much time to set up and get started. You may add different types of media, audio, video and images. Wikispaces has a number of options, some tailored to educators and higher education institutions.

Wikis can be used for teacher collaboration. Students can share links and information. Wikis encourage student-centered learning allowing students to contribute and participate in a collaborative work. Wikis can be used not only by students but also by different groups or

departments within a university or school. Wikis provide an opportunity for communication, collaboration and engagement. The use of a wiki can be a great addition to online education.

Some ways to integrate wikis into the classroom would be using a wiki to provide course information and details, having the students contribute to a wiki or build a new wiki on a particular topic or subject. Wikis can be used by departments to provide information about the program, post news and events, changes, job postings, and another of useful things for online students.