

SIG Annotated Links

Professional Development



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**SIG Annotated Links – Professional Development
Technology for Realtors in the 21st Century
By Tamara Lindemann**

Web Site	Site Description	Project Topic Contribution
http://ins.mlxchange.com/	<p>This site is password protected and only available to members of the Greater Lansing Association of Realtors.</p> <p>This is where all homes listed on the MLS system are stored. It features residential, commercial, and vacant land that is for sale in the Greater Lansing area. It is a query based system that allows specific search criteria to be entered to minimize search results.</p>	<p>In the Tools section of this system, there is a developed site that allows Realtors to create their own web page. It features pre-made templates and excerpts of information that can be added to the page on various topics related to real estate.</p>
https://www.transactiondesk.com/inet5_bin/hsrun.hse/INSTANETFORMS/INSTANETFORMS/INSTANETFORMS.htm?start=HS_GLAR_Login	<p>This site is password protected and only available to members of the Greater Lansing Association of Realtors.</p> <p>This site is a central online repository for all Greater Lansing Board of Realtor standardized forms.</p>	<p>Using this site allows agents to fill out the forms and store them online. Benefits of using this are: centralized online data storage, accessible by the broker, less paper, can be emailed vs. faxed, reduces errors and time efficient.</p>
http://www.facebook.com/	<p>This is a social networking site that connects people with friends and family in on online environment. It features real time posting of comments and allows posting of photos and videos to keep in touch with friends and family.</p>	<p>Realtors can use Facebook to expand their marketing presence and Sphere of Influence, letting people know they are in the real estate business.</p>
http://www.linkedin.com/	<p>This is a social networking site that connects people with friends, family and professional contacts. It helps strengthens and extends your existing network of trusted contacts. Over 40 million professionals use LinkedIn to exchange information, ideas.</p>	<p>Realtors can use LinkedIn to expand their marketing presence and Sphere of Influence, letting people know they are in the real estate business</p>
http://www.mirealtors.com	<p>The Michigan Association of Realtors (MAR) site is a fantastic resource for Realtors regarding anything real estate related. MAR is Michigan's largest professional real estate trade association. Their mission is to be "the recognized public policy and legal advocate for private property rights and for the real estate industry, and the recognized statewide resource (clearinghouse) for professional development, knowledge exchange, and business service."</p>	<p>Realtors can use this site to see the most updated information regarding laws, policies, and recent news related to real estate. Visiting and reviewing this site on a regular basis will help Realtors stay up to date on recent changes, etc and assist them to be able to better educate their clients.</p>

SIG Annotated Links – Professional Development
Blogging in the Classroom
By Melanie Hosbach

Resource	Description	Application for Project
YouTube-“ Blogs in Plain English” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NN2I1pWXjXI	Short (3 min.) video explaining what a blog is and why they are useful.	This video is shown at the beginning of my “Blogging in the Classroom” workshop to introduce the basics of blogging in a simple, easy to understand manner. Most people learn well with visual presentations, so I thought showing something like this as an introduction would be well received.
YouTube-“Why Let Our Students Blog” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=whm3pxqkvB8	Another short (3 min) video showing how blogs can be useful in a classroom setting.	This video is shown a little later than the “Blogs in Plain English” as another visual representation of information. It slowly goes through all the reasons for using blogs in the classroom, such as “for engagement, for reflection, for motivation, etc.”
Web 2.0 Tutorial http://web2tutorial.wikispaces.com/	A Web 2.0 tutorial for educators done as a wiki to explain and give examples of various Web 2.0 technologies such as blogs, wikis, social networking, RSS feeds, etc.	Not only did I use this source for information on information and examples of classroom blogs, I will give this site to my colleagues so they can learn more about other Web 2.0 technologies in addition to blogs.
Classroom 2.0 http://www.classroom20.com/	“Classroom 2.0” is a social networking site for educators to introduce and explain various Web 2.0 technologies.	Another resource to give to my colleagues for their quest to learn more about Web 2.0.
“Teachers First: Blog Basics for the Classroom” http://www.teachersfirst.com/content/blog/blogbasics.cfm	Just as the title says, this site introduces the basics of blogging and how it can be useful in the classroom.	I used this site for gathering data to present to my colleagues. It explains what a blog is, how to use a blog, and gives multiple examples of how to use a classroom blog. I especially liked the idea of using blogs for posting on Current Events.

<p><u>Connecting to the Net Generation: What Higher Education Professionals Need to Know about Today's Students.</u> By Dr. Reynol Junco, NCC, LPC and Dr. Jeanna Mastrodicasa</p>	<p>Book that focuses on the issues found in a survey of college students about the use of technology in their lives.</p>	<p>I like the facts and statistics (such as “Ninety-seven percent own a computer, 94 percent own a cell phone, and 56 percent own an mp3 player”) and use them in my presentation of why it is important to integrate Web 2.0 technologies in our classrooms. Even though the book and survey focused on college students, I still believe it is applicable to high school students as well.</p>
<p>Economist.com: “The Net Generation- The Kids are Alright” http://www.economist.com/books/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12591038</p>	<p>Article explaining characteristics of the “Net Generation”</p>	<p>I used this story as further justification of the importance of utilizing technology in with today’s students.</p>
<p>Glencoe McGraw-Hill’s “Teaching Today: Teaching Tips, Lesson Plans, & More” http://teachingtoday.glencoe.com/howtoarticles/blog-basics</p>	<p>This textbook publisher’s site for teachers includes various tips and strategies for all different subject areas and grade levels. This article specifically explains the basics of blogging and how to use blogs in the classroom.</p>	<p>Our school uses many of Glencoe’s products and I enjoy the “extras” they provide to help teachers. This site in particular helped me understand and break down information dealing with classroom blogging.</p>
<p>Blogs on Educational Blogging http://supportblogging.com/Links+to+School+Bloggers</p>	<p>Site that lists many different examples of classroom blogs, student blogs, teacher blogs, etc.</p>	<p>Another resource for teachers to find examples of how to use blogs in their own classrooms.</p>
<p><u>Educating the Net Generation</u> Edited by Diana G. Oblinger and JamesL. Oblinger http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/pub7101d.pdf</p>	<p>Book that discusses characteristics of the “Net Generation” and how to use technology as a learning tool.</p>	<p>I liked the way this book explains not only why technology is important for today’s learners, but also what challenges stand in the way of utilizing technology. For example, it discusses the issues of funding and access and skills necessary for understanding technology.</p>

JD Smith

Charter School Board Training

Internet Research and Resources

July 25, 2009

INTERNET RESEARCH

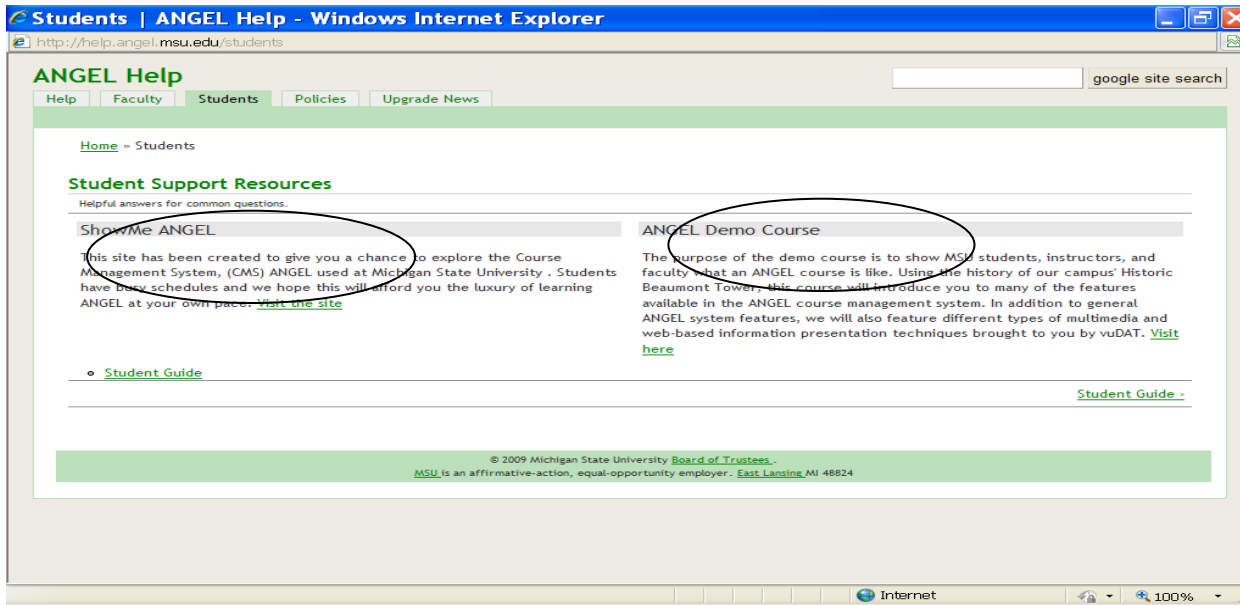
Michigan State University Angel training <https://train.msu.edu/>

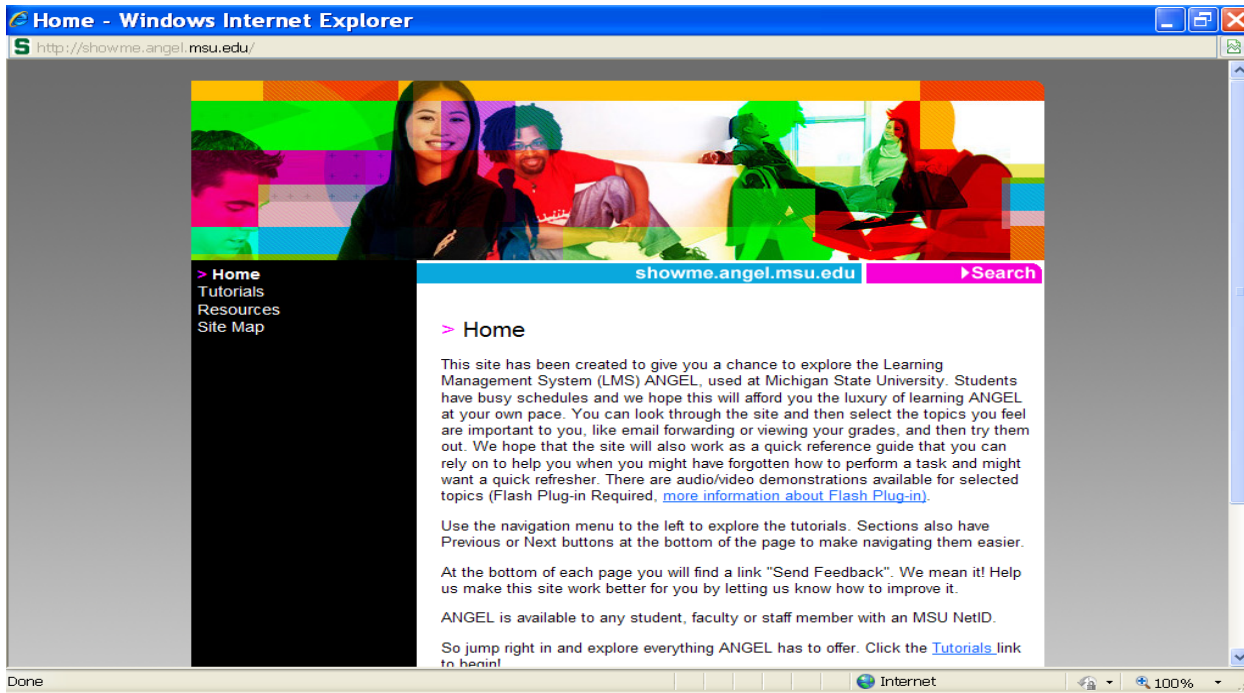
The screenshot displays the Michigan State University Libraries, Computing & Technology Training Program (LCTTP) website. The page has a green and white color scheme. At the top, the text 'Libraries, Computing & Technology Training Program' is displayed in green, followed by the large black letters 'LCTTP'. Below this, there are two underlined links: 'Certificate Program' and 'ANGEL Training', both of which are circled in black. A navigation menu below these links includes 'About LCTTP', 'Class Information', 'Faculty Services', 'Enrollment', and 'What's New!'. The main content area features a large image of a man and a woman sitting at a computer workstation, with a building in the background. At the bottom of the page, the tagline 'Linking Current Technology To People' is visible, along with the Michigan State University logo.

Angel training and support: Michigan State University provides extensive Angel support for university faculty and students. A critical element of the support structure is the Libraries, Computing & Technology Training Program help desk - telephone number (800-500-1554). Equally important from a learning perspective are the online Angel training and certificate program underlined in the screenshot shown above. One click on "Angel training" reveals a faculty preparation curriculum that includes seven scheduled training classes, i.e., Angel introduction; content and communication; advanced features; grade book; groups; assessments; and What's new in Angel 7.4?

MSU Angel training and support for students: <https://angel.msu.edu/default.asp>

As shown in the following two screenshots Michigan State University also provides Angel “online help” resources and support for students. In addition to the “Show me ANGEL” student training the university also provides the “ANGEL demo course” that introduces the student to, “many of the features available in the intro course management system.”



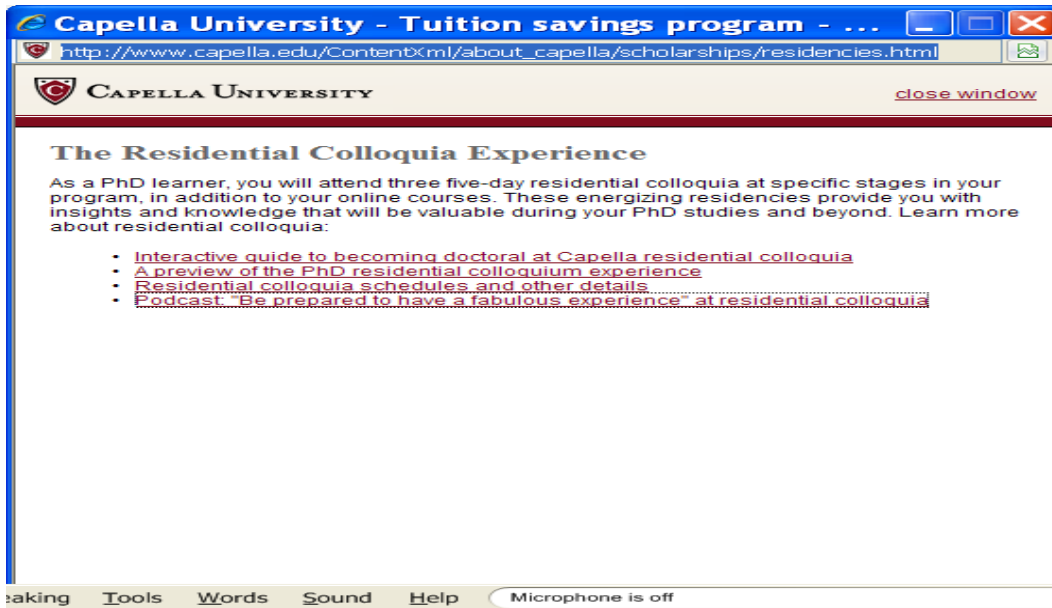


Capella University PHD Colloquia 2008 - Making the most of your doctoral colloquium

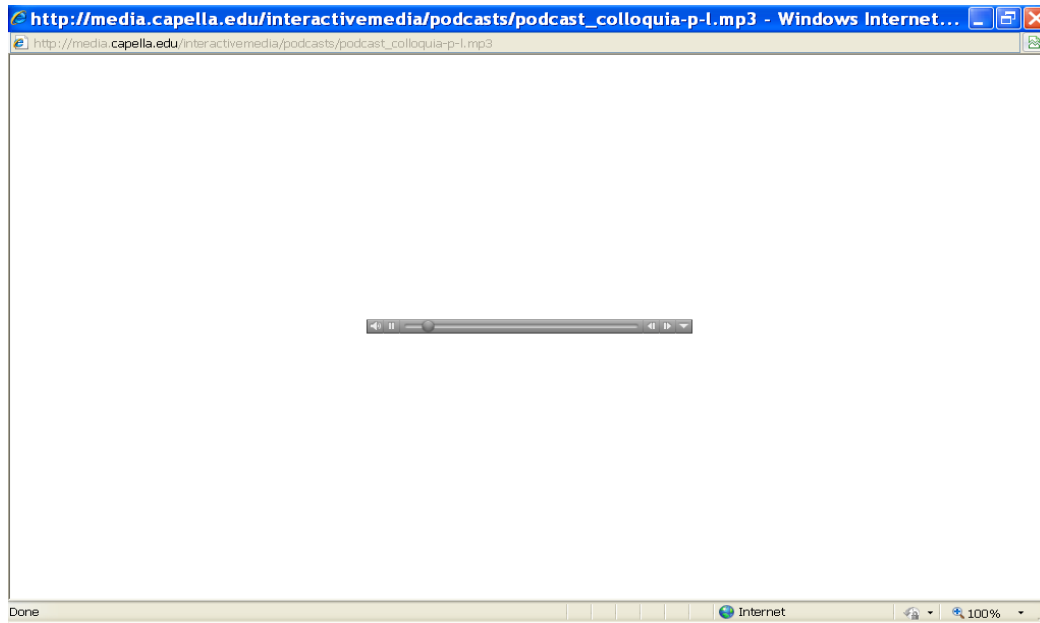
http://www.capella.edu/inc/pdf/colloquia_brochure_phd.pdf

http://www.capella.edu/ContentXml/about_capella/scholarships/residencies.html

Colloquia teaching and learning experience: Capella University is an online university that offers undergraduate, masters and doctorate level degrees. Capella Ph.D. and doctoral students are required to attend three separate five-day colloquia (teaching and learning retreats) where they meet face-to-face with faculty, cohort members and students from the United States and around the world. The intent of the colloquium experience is to, "support acquisition of academic skills sets and competencies... through academic learning activities, self-assessment, learning support... community building and relationships." My charter school board training will emulate the Capella University training by integrating virtual online instruction with face-to-face colloquia as key elements of the training. As shown below, the Capella University website features a PDF brochure and a 10 minute podcast highlighting the student benefits and value of the colloquia experience.



Click the following internet link to hear the Capella colloquia **“podcast”**
http://media.capella.edu/interactivemedia/podcasts/podcast_colloquia-P-L.mp3



Center on Educational Governance (2008). *Developing training programs for charter school governing board members*. National Resource Center on Charter School Finance & Governance. Retrieved July 21, 2009 from http://www.charterresource.org/promising_results.cfm?category=28

Charter school board best-practices: In *Developing Training Programs for Charter School Governing Board Members*, the National Resource Center on Charter School Finance and Governance notes that, "...anecdotal evidence suggests that malfunctioning charter school boards are common, reflecting a lack of board experience and a tendency to manage rather than govern." This report on "promising practices in charter school finance and governance" discusses projects underway in four states (Nevada, Idaho, Minnesota, and Utah) to train, "high-quality governing boards... enabling charter schools to focus on supporting students according to their mission."

Colorado Charter School Institute, Colorado Department of Education Schools Of Choice Unit, & Colorado League of Charter Schools (2007). Charter school governing board training handbook. Retrieved July 21, 2009 from http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdechart/download/bd_trng_hbk_051007.pdf

Charter school board training handbook: The authors of the *Charter School Governing Board Training Handbook* believe that, “it is in the best interest of students that schools ... start off right and continue to improve—rather than fail. Charter school boards can make that happen.” To address the issue of school board training the, “Colorado Charter School Institute, Colorado Department of Education and the Colorado League of Charter Schools recognized the need to provide new and current board members with a comprehensive handbook.” Published in 2007, the 41 page handbook, “provides indispensable training in legal, financial, educational, and relational aspects of charter schooling...for all aspiring, new, and seasoned board members.”

Michigan Association of Charter School Boards (MACSB)

<http://www.macsb.org/TrainingIndex.php>

Charter school board onsite training classes: The Michigan Association of Charter School Boards (MACSB) offers a menu of on-site charter school board training courses. The collection of courses is called “Board-Based Training.” Titles of eleven classes listed on the MACSB website are:

- New board member orientation
- Introduction to leadership governance
- The charter board member code
- ESP contracting: issues and options
- School management choices: finding the best fit
- Setting performance expectations for your school
- Managing your board’s internal operation
- Making meetings better
- Board-management relations
- The Open Meetings Act...and beyond
- Budgeting the smart way

Charter school boards interested in MACSB on-site training at their board meeting location can “choose items from the menu” and then select the, “date, time and place for training.” Class length ranges from one to three hours. There is a fee charged for each class.

Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) [http://www.charterschools.org/olc/
http://www.charterschools.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9&Itemid=13](http://www.charterschools.org/olc/http://www.charterschools.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9&Itemid=13)
<http://www.charterschooldissemination.org/>

Charter school dissemination grants: Developing and implementing this school board training project will require an as yet undetermined amount of project funding. The Michigan Association of Public School Academies (MAPSA) website contains information I will need to help me apply for a dissemination grant to fund this charter school board training project. The MAPSA website states, "Dissemination grants are provided for under the Charter Schools Program (CSP). The CSP was originally authorized in 1994 under Title X, Part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. State Education Agencies may use CSP funds to award subgrants to charter schools in the State. Dissemination grants are awarded to charter schools to support activities that help open new public schools or share the lessons learned by charter schools with other public schools."

Michigan Department of Education (MDE)
<http://www.Michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5235---,00.html>

Michigan charter school data: The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) website provides historical information, data and multiple statistics on all charter schools in the state of Michigan. The site also contains information regarding education grants that may be applicable to this project.

National Alliance for Public Charter Schools – Charter School Dashboard
www.publiccharters.org/dashboard

National charter school data: Each year, beginning in 2005, the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools has published a "Dashboard" of statistical indicators regarding the, "growth and quality of public charter schools." As of June 2009 the website has been updated to reflect dashboard indicators for school year 2007-2008. Information and data on charter schools, students, performance and policy can be viewed by clicking on each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

National School Boards Association (NSBA) <http://www.nsba.org/MainMenu/ConferencesTraining.aspx>

National charter school conventions and events: The National School Boards Association website notes that the association “provides several opportunities for professional development through its annual events, publications, and other services. The annual events provide training opportunities for school board members and members of their district staff, focusing on five key areas: leadership, advocacy, technology, urban school issues, and school law.”

- [NSBA's Annual Conference & Exposition](#)
The premier national conference for school board members and district administrators.
- [Council of School Attorneys Seminars](#)
COSA hosts two annual seminars that cover the most timely topics in school law and more.
- [Council of Urban Boards of Education Meetings](#)
CUBE hosts several conferences and issues forums throughout the year that focus on topics of interest to urban educators and school leaders.
- [Education Technology Site Visits](#)
The NSBA’s Education Technology Programs has been hosting site visits to districts across the country for more than twenty years.
- [Federal Relations Network Conference](#)
NSBA’s annual advocacy event
- [Council of School Boards Association Communicators Conference](#)
The COSBAC holds an annual professional development conference each year in July.
- [NSBA Bookstore](#)
Visit NSBA's Online Bookstore for resources to aid in your professional development.
- [Calendar of Upcoming Events](#)
Calendar of NSBA and State Associations' meetings, conferences, and events.
- [NSBA's T+L Conference](#)
The 2009 T+L (Technology + Leadership) Conference will be held October 28-30 in Seattle, Wash.

T+L Conference Home - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.nsba.org/tl/

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- Professional Development
- Leadership for Innovation
- 1:1 – Next Steps



Join the Conversation

US Charter Schools

http://www.uscharterschools.org/pub/uscs_docs/o/index.htm

<http://www.uscharterschools.org/governance/>

<http://www.uscharterschools.org/governance/contents.htm>

Charter school board training guidebook: The homepage of the US Charter Schools website notes that, “Charter schools are nonsectarian public schools of choice that operate with freedom from many of the regulations that apply to traditional public schools. The "charter" establishing each such school is a performance contract detailing the school's mission, program, goals, students served, methods of assessment, and ways to measure success. Charter schools are accountable to their sponsor-- usually a state or local school board-- to produce positive academic results and adhere to the charter contract. The basic concept of charter schools is that they exercise increased autonomy in return for this accountability. They are accountable for both academic results and fiscal practices to several groups: the sponsor that grants them, the parents who choose them, and the public that funds them.” In recognition of the enormous challenge facing new and established charter school boards this website contains a 350 page document entitled *Creating an Effective Charter School Governing Board Guidebook*. Titles of the 13 chapters in the guidebook are:

1. Building the foundation for an effective charter school governing board
2. Identification and recruitment of board directors
3. Orientation and training of Board of Directors
4. Board decision making and meetings
5. The board role in strategic thinking and planning
6. Legal and financial responsibilities of charter school boards
7. Board staff relations
8. Building strong parent and community relations
9. Board director motivation and accountability
10. The board at work: effective committees
11. Board role in fund-raising
12. Board self-assessment
13. Resources for board building

This guidebook may be a useful resource during the development of charter school board training materials.

RESOURCES

Carver, J. (2006). Boards that make a difference: A design for leadership in nonprofit and public organizations. 3rd edition. San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass.

First published in 1997, the third edition of John Carver's book discusses a model for effective board leadership that is applicable to both non-profit and for-profit organizations. The curriculum I will develop for K-12 charter school board training will likely include many of the critical elements of non-profit board governance espoused by Carver: "values, vision, empowerment of both the board and staff, and strategic ability to lead leaders." After 25 years of research and consulting with school boards around the world, John Carver has established himself as expert on board training and development.

Carpenter, B. L. (2008). The seven outs: Strategic planning made easy for charter schools. The National Charter Schools Institute. Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Creating a charter school strategic plan, selecting achievement measurements, and tracking the school's progress towards achieving strategic goals is central to the notion of charter school Board governance. Brian Carpenter provides an easy to understand, step-by-step approach that could be used as a teaching tool to help train charter school board members in the "art and science" of strategic planning. Carpenter received his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Capella University in September, 2008.

What I learned from this assignment?

Lessons learned from performing the search:

First, without a clearly defined project it would have been very difficult for me to narrow my search activities on the Internet. Second, my personal experience as a charter school board member help me recognize Internet research that could make a positive contribution to my project objective of developing online charter school board member training. Third, searching for research material on the Internet is time consuming because you have to read the material when you find it in order to determine how it might contribute to your project. And fourth, I was pleasantly surprised to find that it appears that my idea for providing charter school board training using Angel or Blackboard has not been implemented across an entire state like I am suggesting in my project.

Search “engines” used:

- Google
- Internet explorer
- Website links to other websites
- Bibliography and reference lists included in research articles and books

Search strategies:

My primary search strategy was to search using the following selected keywords: charter schools; school boards; school Board governance; and charter school board training. Using these keywords I was able to uncover a large number of research articles to pick and choose from.

What helped or hindered my search:

Two things that helped my search was (1) narrowing my focus down to charter school board training and (2) harvesting research leads from bibliography and reference list of research articles and books related to school boards, school board governance and charter school leadership training.

The primary hindrance during my search was that each new Internet research piece I uncovered stimulated my thinking and added another layer of complexity to my project. This caused me to expand my search for additional research material in order to support the new idea. After “getting off into the weeds” several times, I decided to reset and refocus my efforts on finding research material directly related to my original project description.

How would I search next time?

Next time I will not take the time to stop and read each piece of material I find as I conduct my search for project related Internet research materials. A better way is to quickly scan each piece I might find on the Internet; make a decision if it’s worth further reading; copy the piece to “my documents;” or put it into “favorites” and then continue my search. For example I was so excited to find the 41 page *Charter School Governing Board Training Handbook* published by the Colorado Charter School Institute that I took the time to read the entire document. The document was a good read but I won’t make that mistake again. The Internet research lesson I learned was to, “scan it - file it for later reading - or continue my search.”

In addition to not reading each piece of research I uncover I would also broaden my search to include a review of electronic journal articles available on the Michigan State University library website.