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<http://chapters.iceberg.org/rice/>

Special points of interest:

- **ICE Conference information**
- **RICE information**
- **Lots of Google information on search engines**
- **ePals**

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What's New at Google for Educators

The newest features include Custom Search Engine and Google Notebook.

Custom Search Engine (http://www.google.com/educators/p_cse.html) allows you to create a customized search engine that searches only across sites that you specify and displays results that you know will be right for you or your students. With Google Custom Search Engine, you can:

Create a CSE at any time and Google will give you a landing page with a unique URL. You also have the option of applying your own site's [look and feel](#).

Invite friends and colleagues to [collaborate and contribute](#) to your search engine, enhancing its usefulness to your community.

Provide your own [search refinements](#) within results pages so it's easier for your users to find the information they're looking for.

[Easily add more sites](#) to your search engine's index as you surf the web.

New! You can [create a CSE on the fly](#) simply by cutting and pasting a few lines of code into your website's HTML. Your new automatically generated CSE will let people search the websites you've linked to, as well as the sites they link to. For instance, if you've created a directory, a blog roll, or a list of online resources, your CSE will enable your users to search across these sites and the sites they reference.

Google Notebook (http://www.google.com/educators/p_notebook.html) provides a place to browse, clip, and organize information in a single online location that's accessible from any computer. With Google Notebook, you'll be able to:

save clippings from sites around the web so you can access them later

annotate your clippings by adding your own thoughts or comments

organize clippings into different notebooks or in sections within a single notebook

search the full text of your own notebooks and any public notebooks

invite specific collaborators to contribute to your notebook -- just click on the "sharing options" link in the top right-hand corner of your Google Notebook and enter the email addresses of the people you'd like to share it with

share the information in your notebook with everyone -- once inside "sharing options," select "publish this notebook" to make your Notebook public

Google Tools for Communication

Google has provided a number of free resources to facilitate communicating in the classroom:

Blogger (http://www.google.com/educators/p_blogger.html) makes it easy for teachers and students to share work, class notes, and pictures online. Access controls allow educators to create private blogs for their classes only. With Blogger you can update parents about their children's progress and keep them posted on upcoming events; publish a class or school newsletter; share photos and student work; post course documents, projects and results; and easily assign collaborative group projects online with an easy way to track students' progress. To see a sample page, use this address: (http://www.blogger.com/tour_start.g)

Google Calendar provides an easy way to create a custom calendar. You can create separate calendars for each class, with assignments, due dates, holidays, and other school-wide events. Groups with more than one leader can designate multiple "owners" with the ability to update the calendar.

Google Docs & Spreadsheets (http://www.google.com/educators/p_docs_spreadsheets.html) is an easy-to-use online word processor and spreadsheet editor that enables you and your students to create, store and share documents and spreadsheets instantly and securely and collaborate online in real time. If you know how to use any word processing or spreadsheet editing program, you can easily use Google Docs & Spreadsheets, and you can even upload older documents and spreadsheets instead of creating new ones. There's no software to download, and all your work is stored safely online and can be accessed from any computer. Simple guidelines to help you get started are found here: <http://www.google.com/google-d-s/tour1.html>

Google Groups (http://www.google.com/educators/p_groups.html) you can set up your very own place to communicate and collaborate, safely and securely, with others online. You can use Google Groups to post important information such as student or parent contact information, host online discussions, and manage and archive multiple mailing lists. We designed Google Groups to be simple to set up and easy to use, so you can get started using it to share information with students and parents in a hurry. You can set up your group to be published for all to see, or you set it as a private group and share only with those of your choosing. And because you can customize Google Groups pages, you can make your group feel like a true home on the web.

Google Page Creator will allow you to easily create a Web site. Pages can be customized using a variety of styles, fonts, and background colors, and you can add images and links to other Web pages. No download is needed and the pages are hosted for free. Google Page Creator is a Google Labs project, and is still in an early testing phase. If you're interested in taking it for a test drive, login with your G-mail account to begin making pages.

Picasa (<http://picasa.google.com/>) is a free software download that enables you and your students to find, edit, and share all the pictures on you PCs. It also offers the Web Albums feature, which enables you to easily upload photos from you computer to the Web for sharing with others. To learn more about Picasa and how to manage it use this address: <http://picasa.google.com/support/>

Google SketchUp (http://www.google.com/educators/p_sketchup.html) is modeling software that allows designers (alone or in teams) to explore complex ideas in 3D. SketchUp is a great tool for easily teaching kids to construct 3D models of buildings, trees, cars, and the like. You can use it as a stand-alone tool, or in conjunction with Google Earth and the 3D Warehouse. To learn more about SketchUp use this address: <http://www.sketchup.com/?id=1585>

Google Apps Education Edition (http://www.google.com/educators/p_apps.html) allows a tech administrator to provide email, sharable online calendars, instant messaging tools and even a dedicated Web site to faculty, students and staff for free. No hardware or software is needed since everything is on-line browser-based. The applications included are: Gmail, Google Talk, Google Calendar, Google Docs & Spreadsheets, and Google Page Creator.



"Google has a number of free resources to facilitate communicating in the classroom. Some of these resources include but are not limited to spreadsheets, websites, email, calendars and many more"

OPENXTRA Console			
23.7 C	TEMPERATURE	1	1
44.5 H	HUMIDITY	1	2
24.9 C	TEMPERATURE	2	4



“ IL-TCE
Conference will be
held
Feb 26 - Feb 29
at Pheasant Run
Resort, St. Charles,
IL”



Mark your Calendar for IL-TCE 2008: Learning without Boundaries

Registration Type	Fees
Tuesday Pre-Conference Workshop (February 26)	\$150
Wednesday Pre-Conference Workshop (February 27)	\$150
General Conference Day, Thursday, Feb 28, (No 1/2 day Workshop)	\$110
General Conference Day Friday, Feb 29, (No 1/2 day Workshop)	\$110
General Conference Day Thursday, Feb 28 with 1/2 day Workshop	\$150
General Conference Day Friday, Feb 29 with 1/2 day Workshop	\$150

Note: If registering for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, \$70 will be subtracted from your conference fee total!

IL-TCE 08 Online Registration will open November 1, 2007!

Google Notebooks for your Classroom (cont. from pg 6)

⇒ **Google Notebook** (http://www.google.com/educators/p_notebook.html) provides a place to browse, clip, and organize information in a single online location that's accessible from any computer. With Google Notebook, you'll be able to:

- save clippings from sites around the web so you can access them later
- annotate your clippings by adding your own thoughts or comments
- organize clippings into different notebooks or in sections within a single notebook
- search the full text of your own notebooks and any public notebooks
- invite specific collaborators to contribute to your notebook -- just click on the "sharing options" link in the top right-hand corner of your Google Notebook and enter the email addresses of the people you'd like to share it with
- share the information in your notebook with everyone -- once inside "sharing options," select "publish this notebook" to make your Notebook public

Google Search Tools for Educators

Six specialized search engines provide specialized focus which can help produce the desired search result more quickly.

- ⇒ **Book Search** (http://www.google.com/educators/p_booksearch.html) allows searching the full text of Google's index of books to find pages that include your search terms. Google's book index includes popular titles, old and out-of-print texts, and public domain volumes. The book index will include reviews, locations where the book can be purchased or checked out of a library, and some times the entire book will be online. Reference pages include descriptive paragraphs, sample pages, table of contents, reviews, and quotations.
- ⇒ **Google Earth** (<http://earth.google.com/>) provides satellite imagery, maps, terrain and 3D buildings to put the world's geographic information at your fingertips. This 3D modeling allows users to grab, spin, and zoom various locations. Different versions offer specialized tools for measuring, drawing, saving, printing, and GPS device support. By downloading a free tools for Windows (<http://www.sgrillo.net/googleearth/>), users can create paths and shapes, charts and graphs inside Google Earth, and change colors.
- ⇒ **Google Maps** (<http://maps.google.com/maps>) is an easy-to-use on-line service for navigating maps information. It enables you and your students to look up and study addresses anywhere in the U.S. and in many other countries, get point-to-point directions plotted on an interactive street map, and view satellite imagery. You can also study Yellow Pages listings with reviews, business information and coupons.
- ⇒ **Google News** (<http://news.google.com/>) gathers news from all over the world. You can browse headlines from your favorite newspapers and magazines, all on a single page, or you can delve more deeply into the topics that interest you most, by searching thousands of news sources at once. Google News also allows you to search archived news, putting more than 200 years of content at your fingertips—so you can find primary sources more easily, and see what real-time observers had to say about the issues and events that would become part of the fabric of history.
- ⇒ **iGoogle** (http://www.google.com/educators/p_php.html) offers a way to create a personalized Web page. Google content can be added easily using check boxes. To use iGoogle you must register your e-mail account or you can create a G-mail account. To see a sample iGoogle page use this link: <http://www.google.com/ig?source=esph>
- ⇒ **Google Search** (http://www.google.com/educators/p_websearch.html) is the classic Google Search engine. The above link offers a page full of guidelines.



“Six search engines available on Google:

- ⇒ *Book Search*
- ⇒ *Google Earth*
- ⇒ *Google Maps*
- ⇒ *Google News*
- ⇒ *iGoogle*
- ⇒ *Google Search”*



Web [Images](#) [Video](#) [News](#)
[Maps](#) [Gmail](#) [Blog](#) [Search](#)
[Blogger](#) [Books](#) [Calendar](#)
[Documents](#) [Finance](#)
[Groups](#) [Labs](#) [Orkut](#)
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Read All About It!

ePals Makes Award-Winning School-Safe Tools Free to Extend Global Community Reach to More Teachers and Students

READ THE PRESS RELEASE



"ePals fulfills an important need for school systems across the country-most of which, through wired for Internet access, lack the resources to purchase the online tools and curricula necessary to enable effective Internet-based learning for all of their students."

ePALS TO OFFER SCHOOLS FREE ACCESS TO ITS PREMIERE ONLINE EDUCATION TOOLS AND LITERACY CURRICULA

HERNDON, VIRGINIA, September 10, 2007 — ePals, Inc., the leading Internet learning community, today announced the availability of its award-winning, policy-managed SchoolMail™, SchoolBlog™ and online literacy curricula services free of charge to educators and school systems globally.

ePals, a pioneer in online education, offers K-12 students and teachers around the world a safe environment for building and exchanging knowledge, using protected email and blog tools, evidence-based curricula and authentic, collaborative learning experiences. ePals is making its premiere subscription-based connectivity tools and curricula available at no cost to educators and school systems in order to meet intense school district demand for digital literacy tools and curricula, address district constraints and accelerate the growth of ePals' global Internet learning community.

More than 325,000 educators and students in 126,000 classrooms in 200 countries and territories currently participate in ePals' Internet learning community. With the successful conclusion of several recent agreements with municipalities and school districts, the ePals global learning community is now accessible to more than eight million students around the world. Agreements have been signed recently in San Antonio and Brownsville, TX; Aurora, CO; Newark, NJ; Jersey City, NJ, Cherokee, GA; Kansas City, KS; and New Brunswick, Canada.

"ePals fulfills an important need for school systems across the country - most of which, though wired for Internet access, lack the resources to purchase the online tools and curricula necessary to enable effective Internet-based learning for all of their students," said Ed Fish, President and CEO of ePals. "Our goal is to build a global online learning community that provides educators and parents with a safe, proven and cost-effective way to channel students' enthusiasm for the Internet into authentic educational experiences."

"By providing ePals' award-winning connectivity and literacy tools free to schools, more students will have the chance to enhance their 21st Century literacy skills, including critical thinking, global awareness, creativity with media tools and a facility for Internet navigation," said Tim DiScipio, ePals co-founder and Chief Marketing Officer. "With ePals available at no cost, the money schools have budgeted for email services can now be used for more value-added IT priorities."

RICE INFORMATION

Rock Island Area Computing Educators (<http://chapters.iceberg.org/rice>) meets 4 times a year, in a workshop setting to share, learn, and support each other in new technology experiences. Membership is open to anyone who works in the area of education or who is a pre-service student. A membership form is included in this newsletter. There is no membership fee to the local chapter. You only

need to be a member of the state organization, Illinois Computing Educators (<http://www.iceberg.org>).

Atomic Learning subscription is one of the benefits of being a RICE member. This is a great utility that will help teach you the basics of using any software. Another benefit is a free subscription to Star Online. For more information on how to use STAR-Online modules, please view the Site Tours on the home page (www.star-online.org). If

you have any questions, please feel free to contact the STAR-Online staff at 309.298.2444.

Anyone is welcome to attend a meeting without belonging to learn more about us. As always, CPDUs are available!

2007-2008 meeting dates

Wed. Nov 7, 2007

Thurs. Jan. 31, 2008

Wed. April 16, 2008



RICE Information



“Google Teacher Community lets you share ideas about innovation in education, ask questions about where to find teaching resources, tell your colleagues about curricula you’ve created that have worked really well.”

Create a Custom Search Engine

Google Notebooks for your Classroom

Google provides a large number of free resources available for use in education. They can be accessed at the Google for Educators Web page (<http://www.google.com/educators/index.html>). The links here will connect you to Tools for your classroom, Classroom activities, Classroom posters, and the Teacher Community.

- ⇒ **Classroom Activities** (<http://www.google.com/educators/activities.html>) offers lesson ideas by grade level. Handouts from the presenters at the 2006 NECC Conference in Atlanta are also linked.
- ⇒ **Classroom Posters** (<http://www.google.com/educators/posters.html>) provides six downloadable posters on Search topics in two sizes (8.5"x11" and 17"x22"). There is also a Google Quiz poster with an Answer poster. All posters are .pdf files.
- ⇒ **Google Teacher Community** offers a Google for Educators Discussion Group (<http://groups.google.com/group/google-for-educators?lnk=gschg>). We encourage you to use this space to start discussions with fellow teachers. Talk about anything you'd like. Share ideas about innovation in education; ask questions about where to find teaching resources; tell your colleagues about curricula you've created that have worked really well.
- ⇒ **Infinite Thinking Machine** is a Google sponsored blog designed to help teachers and students thrive in the 21st century. Through an active blog, an Internet TV show, and other media resources, the ITM shares a "bazillion practical ideas" for turning the infinite universe of information into knowledge.
- ⇒ **Create a Permeable Classroom** is a blog site for sharing updates about changes in Google Tools. Google added presentations to their web-based office suite, which already had word processor and spreadsheet components. Also, a wide variety of services now allow users to create their own streaming video "channel" using just a webcam and an Internet connection. These tools make it easier than ever to give your students an authentic audience for their work - and to bring their peers or content area experts into the classroom. This post is the first of two. This week I'll share about Google Docs presentations and next week, in part II, I'll share several services that allow you to create your own streaming video shows.

The newest features include Custom Search Engine and Google Notebook.

- ⇒ **Custom Search Engine** (http://www.google.com/educators/p_cse.html) allows you to create a customized search engine that searches only across sites that you specify and displays results that you know will be right for you or your students. With Google Custom Search Engine, you can:
 - Create a CSE at any time and Google will give you a landing page with a unique URL. You also have the option of applying your own site's [look and feel](#).
 - Invite friends and colleagues to [collaborate and contribute](#) to your search engine, enhancing its usefulness to your community.
 - Provide your own [search refinements](#) within results pages so it's easier for your users to find the information they're looking for.
 - [Easily add more sites](#) to your search engine's index as you surf the web.
 - **New!** You can [create a CSE on the fly](#) simply by cutting and pasting a few lines of code into your website's HTML. Your new automatically generated CSE will let people search the web-sites you've linked to, as well as the sites they link to. For instance, if you've created a directory, a blog roll, or a list of online resources, your CSE will enable your users to search across these sites and the sites they reference.

Continued on page 3

Inexpensive Technology Opportunities!

#7897 Take a Virtual Vacation with Google Earth

Google Earth puts a planet's worth of imagery and other geographic information right on your desktop. With Google Earth you are now able to take your students on virtual field trips. You can show them exotic locales like Maui and Paris, as well as other points of interest. You can even find local restaurants, hospitals, and schools. Google Earth combines satellite imagery, maps, and the power of Google Search to put the world's geographic information at your fingertips. With Google Earth you can fly from space to your neighborhood--just type in an address and zoom right in, search for schools, parks, restaurants, and hotels. Get driving directions, tilt and rotate the view to see 3D terrain and buildings, save and share your searches and favorites and even add your own annotations.

Date(s): Tue, Nov 27, 2007
Times: 4 :00 PM - 7 :00 PM
Location: ROE Moline
Presenter(s) Tom & Katy Slininger
Audience: All Educators PreK-12
Cost: \$40
CPDUs: 3
Registration Deadline: 11/20/2007

#7942 Collaborative Internet Projects

Collaborative Internet Projects and Project Based Learning-make your classroom come alive and your curriculum become meaningful with projects that reach out to others across the world or even just across town. Discover the power of collaboration and interaction with peers around the world on student learning.

Date(s): Thu, Dec 6, 2007
Times: 4 :30 PM - 6 :30 PM
Location: ROE Moline
Presenter(s) Ginger Long
Audience: All Educators and Support Staff
Cost: \$40
CPDUs: 2
Registration Deadline: 11/29/2007

#8071 What Can Word Do For You?

Learn how to make a work processing program suit your needs. Do you want to send out a class newsletter, create a form letter to send home, show student writings with pictures? These are some of the things a word processor can do. We will experiment with changing default settings to make the program suit your needs.

Date(s): Tue, Jan 29, 2008
Times: 4 :30 PM - 6 :00 PM
Location: Prairie Tech Learning Center,
Presenter(s) Carolyn Anderson
Audience: PreK-5th
Cost: \$15
CPDUs: 1.5
Registration Deadline: 1/22/2008



“To register for these technology opportunities

go to www.riroe.com

Click on “online registration” fill out the form and be sure to click on the “submit” button at the bottom.”

Don't forget to Mark your calendars for another 2007 - 2008 RICE meetings!

Nov 7 - 4:30—6:30 PM @ ROE Atkinson

Jan 31, 2008 - 4 - 6 PM @ TBA

April 16, 2008 - 4 - 6 PM @ ROE Moline

Come Join us!

Take the RICE survey at:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=WjLtcTEVpzVvnuwdA0q0bQ_3d_3d

