

Power to the People – K-12 Tools Development for The AMICO Library™

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What is AMICO?

- ◆ Independent, non-profit consortium of institutions with collections of art
- ◆ To date 32+ members in the U.S. and Canada
- ◆ Creates The AMICO Library™ through annual member contributions of digital documentation of their collections
- ◆ Over a million university students have access to The AMICO Library in the U.S., U.K., and Canada
- ◆ Mission: enable educational use of museum multimedia

AMICO's Next Frontier – The K-12 Audience

- ◆ WHY?
 - K-12 audience a traditional educational focus for museums
 - AMICO organized as an extension of member museum's educational mission
- ◆ THE ISSUE:
How to reach the K-12 audience?

Dipping Toes in the K-12 Waters

- ◆ Initial delivery of The AMICO Library has been at university-level
 - Because best prepared to receive and subscribe to such a resource
- ◆ Now running a K-12 Testbed Project with nine school nationwide to assess school needs
 - Nov. 2000 through the 2002 school year

New Needs in K-12 World

- ◆ Teacher Needs
 - Greater expectation that content and lessons are jointly packaged
 - More explicit curricular guidelines and learning objectives to adhere to
 - Tracking of multiple variables
 - ◆ different students
 - ◆ different assignments
 - ◆ different due dates

New Needs in K-12 World

- ◆ Student Needs
 - greater structure in assignments
 - feedback from preparatory reviews
 - basic tools such as spelling, grammar, outlining, etc.
- ◆ Shared Needs
 - Familiar metaphors like browser and desktop applications vs. those of library search systems

Creating Tools to Meet K-12 Needs

- ◆ AMICO Library to serve as a trial resource for a new e-learning toolset
- ◆ Development by i4i, Inc., XML tools company
- ◆ Toolset will address the AMICO data as an example, but could also address any other licensed resource in addition or combination
- ◆ Toolset will be released in beta form with The AMICO Library for schools in the fall of 2001

Creating Tools to Meet K-12 Needs

- ◆ Features of the Toolset to include:
 - conforming to Instructional Materials Systems (IMS) standards
 - linking to lesson plans and related assignments, tests, exercises, etc. to any database of curricular requirements at a state, district or school level
 - integrating with existing browsers and desktop applications that are part of the MS Office suite (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc.)

Tools at Teacher Fingertips

- ◆ With the i4i/AMICO e-learning tools, users will be able to:
 - view The AMICO Library as a series of folders on their desktop, opening geographical areas, with periods and styles and finding many hundreds of works organized by object type

MORE Possibilities ...

- ◆ Users will be able to:
 - author their own lesson plans incorporating individual works, pre-determined folders, or new folders of their own making
 - write assignments, quizzes, and tests which interact with students and content, providing feedback and instructions and are linked to curriculum objectives

MORE Possibilities ...

- ◆ Users will be able to:
 - make assignments to individual students or groups, and receive their pre-graded multiple-choice tests and pre-grammar checked essays in return
 - report on individual students and their exposure to curriculum objectives on an on-going basis

Do the Tools Meet the Needs?

- ◆ Tools to provide needed:
 - Packaging
 - Standards adherence
 - Control and flexibility

...all in a known environment
- ◆ AMICO plans to
 - Use Testbed teachers to assess the toolset
 - Work with distributors of schools materials worldwide

On the Right Track?

- ◆ Comment from Testbed participant on how to improve content in The AMICO Library
 - “Some teachers -- especially in younger grades, might find it helpful if the content could be viewed in clusters according to culture and date, rather than beginning from scratch, searching the whole library.”

The Collaborative Future

- ◆ Using the toolset
 - **teachers** from around the world can begin to collaborate on developing lesson plans or simply share ideas with each other
 - **students** from different classrooms worldwide could work simultaneously on the same projects
 - **arts educators in museums and resource teachers in schools** can be developing model assignments, testing learning objectives and exploring new modes of teaching