Developing a National SMETE Digital Library At SMETE.ORG

Brandon Muramatsu

SMETE.ORG Project Director

mura@smete.org

Abstract

The emergence of the World Wide Web in the early 1990's as a viable means for national and international sharing and re-use of education materials fundamentally changed our view of the way education and learning can be delivered. Internet-mediated learning environments provide mechanisms for the learner to be *anyone, anywhere, at anytime*. But while educators are developing an enormous quantity of materials for use through the Web, potential users face a daunting challenge when it comes to locating them, evaluating their quality and using them effectively. Understanding and overcoming this challenge is crucial if we are to fully exploit the opportunity to improve learning that these new resources have created

The SMETE.ORG Alliance was formed in response to the National SMETE Digital Library program at the National Science Foundation. This *digital learning community* will provide seamless access to tightly federated collections and services to support learning and teaching in science, mathematics, engineering and technology education (SMETE). It will serve a community of learners and instructors across the full range of SMETE disciplines and serve users from K-12 to undergraduates to life-long learners.

This short talk will address the following questions:
- What is the National SMETE Digital Library Program?
- What is the smete.org Alliance and what is it doing to develop a NSDL?

About SMETE.ORG

SMETE.ORG is an e-learning partnership that offers a comprehensive collection of science, mathematics, engineering and technology (SMET) education content and services to learners, educators, and academic policy-makers in K–12 and higher education. SMETE.ORG was formed through funding by the National Science Foundation and partnerships with professional educational organizations, academic institutions and commercial e-learning companies. The partnership's Web site, www.smete.org, serves as the integrative organization and distribution mechanism for pedagogical material through its federation of SMET digital libraries. Providing direct access and delivery of instructional resources, SMETE.ORG promotes educational reform though participatory communities of learners. The partnership maintains its headquarters at the University of California, Berkeley.

About the Speaker:

Brandon Muramatsu is the Project Director for the SMETE.ORG and NEEDS educational digital libraries at the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Muramatsu is a lecturer in multimedia at UC Berkeley and directs the Berkeley Instructional Technology Studio, where he consults with faculty and graduate students on the use of technology to enhance learning. Recently, Mr. Muramatsu helped launch the University of California Teaching and Learning with Technology Center, a center without walls showcasing the innovative instructional materials developed at the University of California. He has been recognized locally as well as professionally for his contributions; he received a UC Berkeley Distinguished Service Award in 1998 and was named the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Region IX and one of the ASME Old Guard Young Engineers of the Year for 1999. Mr. Muramatsu earned a B.S. (1993) and M.S. (1995) in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He also earned a Management of Technology Certificate from the Haas School of Business and College of Engineering at U.C. Berkeley.

3115 Etcheverry Hall | Berkeley, CA 94720-1750 | TEL: +1.510.643.1817 | FAX: +1.510.643.1822 | info@smete.org | www.smete.org

Funded by the National Science Foundation