

# Creating Teacher Made Materials – Can It Be Done Using Technology?

Dr. Diana L. Williams  
Arkansas State University  
United States  
[dwilliam@astate.edu](mailto:dwilliam@astate.edu)

Dr. Tonja Fillippino  
Arkansas State University  
United States  
[tfillippino@astate.edu](mailto:tfillippino@astate.edu)

**Abstract:** Everyone knows that education is one of the lowest paid professions. However, teachers are required to have materials for students and not all school districts can afford to buy materials for their students and/or teachers to use. This is where technology can come into play, by allowing teachers to generate their own materials specific for individual student needs. Whether is it using software programs like, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, or Hyperstudio or using the Internet to obtain materials for free. This session will include ways to use the aforementioned software plus many others ways to create teacher made material using technology.

## Introduction

When it comes to what pre-service teachers should know, there are so many assumptions that instructors make that are inaccurate. Some assume that if pre-service teachers know how to use the technology, that they can use it effectively in their classroom environment. Some assume that if pre-service teachers know technology they will automatically know how to use it effectively. Still others think that pre-service teachers will automatically use technology to create their teacher made materials required by most instructors. Somehow instructors assume that this all magically comes together, but it does not.

Another aspect to this increasingly difficult saga is that some of the individuals that teach pre-service teachers do not know how to construct effective technological materials either, yet they expect their students to create these materials with no guidance from them. This falls back to the technology instructors to make sure that their students are gaining all the knowledge they can. However, not all teacher education programs have educational technology personnel.

Most educational material is created for the larger states such as California, New York, and Texas. With state benchmarks becoming more prevalent school districts are no longer able to buy from textbook manufactures due to the fact that the most of the material does not cover the state standards. This is creating a problem for teachers who now have to come up with their own materials to teach their children. Using certain types of technologies helps teachers create their own materials.

With increasing efforts being made on No Child Left Behind, teachers need to have materials that meet individual student needs. Not all school district can afford to do buy these, so teachers need to be able to create them. Not all teachers are secure in the abilities to create home-made materials or have the money to buy materials and this is where technology comes into play.

## Materials

There are many technologies that have been available for a long time that if used properly and effectively can enhance a lesson and make the lesson more influential. Technologies such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft FrontPage, Kid Pix, and HyperStudio can not only help teachers enhance their lessons and make learning more effective, they can create their own educational materials that help meet the needs of their individual students. This includes the basic instructional design principles that go along with creating those materials.

This poster session will focus on the various technologies that pre-service teachers need to learn to use effectively. The session will include various activities for each technology as well as tips on how to make them effective. Student generated materials will be available for viewing. These projects will range from creating newsletters using Microsoft Word to spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel that can be used with any age child, to creating individual WebPages using Microsoft FrontPage to teacher created educational software using HyperStudio to teacher and student generated slideshows using Microsoft PowerPoint and Kid Pix. This poster session will give participants ideas as well as resources which are applicable for professors teaching pre-service teachers, pre-service teachers as well as classroom teachers.