

A short guide to digital storytelling

1. Introduction

This short guide introduces the concept of recording and sharing your stories online and some places you can start to do so. Of course, you can use the 'Moving Here' site to do this but you may wish to create a separate record for your own family, school or community project.

To learn how to create and upload stories to Moving Here visit:

www.movinghere.org.uk/help/it.htm#8

2. What is 'digital storytelling'?

Digital storytelling is the practice of using digital technologies to enhance the essential practice of storytelling. It is now easy to add to your stories using photographs, recorded sound, related documents, video footage and so on. Beyond this, using the internet, you can share stories with far more people, wherever they are in the world allowing everyone to access stories, personal histories and recollections.

For these reasons digital storytelling is becoming popular with community groups, museum, libraries, archives and schools, not least because stories can be brought to life more readily with multi-media content and by allowing many people to collaborate on shaping and presenting stories.

One of the best sources of information about digital storytelling and the use of multimedia tools can be found courtesy of the Digital Storytelling Initiative:

www.dsi.kqed.org

3. Telling and sharing stories on-line

The three easiest routes to getting stories on-line are:

- Community Archiving Sites
- Blogs
- Wikis

3.1 Community archiving sites

The following organisations/websites either provide a set of easy to use tools or offer services to help create and share stories which may involve several contributors and many supporting materials.

- www.communityarchives.org.uk - this is a site that provides tools for community groups to create their own on-line archive and storytelling web-sites.
- www.communitysites.co.uk - if you wish to create a more tailored site, this company can help you create a dedicated website for archiving and sharing your stories.
- www.commanet.org - Commanet is a charity that promotes and supports the development of community archives, offering advice on funding for community project and on how to set up and run a community archive group. It supplies 'Comma' software and provides training,



www.communityarchives.co.uk

support and web hosting for community archives.

- Digital Storytelling Education
<http://story.e2bn.net> - a digital storytelling site for schools for use by schools registered with the National Education Network.

3.2 Blogs

The term 'Blog' derives from the phrase 'web log' – and describes an on-line journal (or newsletter) that is frequently updated and intended for general public consumption. Blogging is the simplest way to create a website, if you are happy for your stories to appear as dated entries or 'posts' as if in a diary. You can upload photographs and video and audio clips very easily. You can have several editors of a blog and you can invite others to add their own posts and comments.

Two of the most popular and easy to use blog creation sites are:

- www.wordpress.com
- www.blogger.com

For schools and colleges www.edublogs.org makes a good choice.

www.lotsofbigideas.blogspot.com is a good example of a community blog, providing a place for refugees to post and share ideas and experiences.

3.3 Wikis

A wiki is a web page that many people can edit. You can think of it like an on-line white board, allowing contributors to add and edit content collectively. As such it's a very easy way for several people to collaborate when creating a digital story and is useful for histories or reminiscences that deal with groups.

Creating a wiki is easy. www.pbwiki.com is a good place to start.



Digital Storytelling Education



www.lotsofbigideas.blogspot.com