



WebQuests Training in Schools 2007

Sponsored by Microsoft

The aim of this course is to introduce ICT literate teachers to a simple project structure for implementing ICT-integrated projects in the classroom, namely the WebQuest.

As Dinaledi schools had tended to show the most promise during ICT Skills for Teachers training, these schools were offered WebQuest training through this project to help teachers from these schools take the next steps towards implementing ICT integration. The second intention of this project was to train more trainers and to include provincial officials wherever possible in order to help make the training model more sustainable. A total of 291 teachers received WebQuest training through this project in 2007.

The following WebQuest training took place in 2007:

Province	Schools	Training Dates	No of Educators
KwaZulu Natal	Hlamvana High School	17-18 February	11
KwaZulu Natal	Ikusaselihle High School	5-6 May	11
KwaZulu Natal	Bergville Centre	24-25 Feb	20
Eastern Cape	Stirling Primary School	12-13 April	9
Eastern Cape	Amazizi High School	12-13 May	11
Eastern Cape	Icala Community School	12-13 May	5
Limpopo	Flora Park Comphrehensive	9,10 & 17	11
Limpopo	Hluvuka High	18-19 May	11
Limpopo	M E Makgato Secondary School	11-12 May	13
Limpopo	Mahumani High	18-19 May	14
Limpopo	Matsambu High	4-5 May	9
Limpopo	Ngwanala High School	18-19 May	12
Limpopo	Ripambetha	25-26 May	11
Limpopo	Sehlaku Secondary School	11-12 May	40
Limpopo	St Mark High School	20-21 July	13
Limpopo	Bakamoso Secondary School	18-19 July	23
Limpopo	Mack Semeka Secondary School	11-12 July	19
Limpopo	Marumofase Secondary School	18-19 July	13

The course has been well received by some teachers – especially where they have good internet connectivity and are confident computer users:

“I found this an inspirational way to go about lesson planning using the web. A pity there wasn’t more time to use, adapt and plan more WebQuests to test and fine tune the method for our immediate use.”

“A most enjoyable project and I can’t wait to see what my darlings do with it.”

“A new world opened up to me! WebQuest can be used a lot in the Foundation Phase. I am looking forward to apply and share my knowledge. Time was not really enough to really get your teeth into WebQuest.”

In other cases, however, poor connectivity and a lack of ICT skills has hampered the success of the course:

“A very interesting session despite the fact that we couldn’t use the internet as our computers are not connected but our facilitator did as best he could with what he had. Smaller groups worked well. Thank you for your patience.”

“For me this was a learning curve as I have had very little contact with the internet or teaching using the web before this course. Maybe I would have learnt more if I had been shown more on how to use the web etc. than actually doing exercises which was extremely time consuming.”

This project has also been a learning curve for SchoolNet. We have realised that training should be over three days, that good connectivity is essential and that principals and teachers need to know from the start that this course is specifically for very computer literate teachers. Going forward, we will endeavour to offer three days of training to clusters of teachers drawn from different schools if there are not enough teachers with adequate skills at one school.



Training of Additional WebQuest Trainers in the Western Cape

Khanya had previously sponsored the training of numerous WebQuest trainers in the Western Cape. However, as this course is growing in popularity there were insufficient trainers. As the Western Cape Department of Education had committed its own budget towards the training of teachers in the WebQuest programme it was decided to use some Microsoft funding to train additional trainers in this province. In September 2007, 11 potential trainers received instruction at Square Hill Primary School in the Western Cape.

The participants enjoyed the course and participated fully, however some participants were more competent than others. As a result of this the master trainer used a number of exercises and manipulations to ensure that participants would mix and share feedback with one another. Everyone seemed to struggle with Front Page and the master trainer recommended that all trainers use Word templates when conducting training, unless participants are very familiar with Front Page as otherwise too much time is lost. At the end of the session, eight of the trainees were awarded the status of “WebQuest Trainer”.

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