

Bekti Sawiji

The Islamic University of Malang (UNISMA)-

### **ABSTRACTS**

Digital storytelling is the telling of stories using computer-based tools to tell stories. It combines the art of telling stories with a variety of multimedia, including graphics, audio, video, and Web publishing. In the field of education, teachers and their students, from early childhood classrooms through graduate school, are using digital storytelling in many different content areas and across a wide range of grade levels. The purpose of this article is to explain the way how the digital storytelling can be created. There are five steps in creating digital storytelling in this workshop. 1. Determine Topic and Write a Script, 2. Collect Digital Resources, 3. Select Content and Develop a Storyboard, 4. Import, Record, Finalize, and 5. Share, Teach, Improve. It is expected that after having completed reading this article, the readers can create their own digital storytelling for educational use.

Key Words: Digital Storytelling, Computer Based Tools

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

“Digital Storytelling is the modern expression of the ancient art of storytelling. Throughout history, storytelling has been used to share knowledge, wisdom, and values. Stories have taken many different forms. Stories have been adapted to each successive medium that has emerged, from the circle of the campfire to the silver screen, and now the computer screen.” The Digital Storytelling Association.

Digital storytelling is the new style of telling story assisted by the use of technology both the preparation and the delivery system. Long time ago storytelling was delivered orally by parents or mostly grandparents at bed time. There was no media at all to tell a story. There was just the voice of the storyteller. The only interesting thing of the ancient storytelling is the way the storyteller tells the story like how he or she plays the voice in such way that it can imitates the sound of animal, the sound of thunder or many thing else. Now telling story is

aided by the computer technology. Using computer, the storyteller creates story. Using computer the storyteller deliver the story.

Ancient storytelling and digital storytelling are different in some ways. Most of the time old version of storytelling was delivered in the living room or bedroom. It was used to introduce moral lesson to sons or daughters. Besides, it was also used to entertain the listener. The storytelling used human organs of speech to tell. Digital storytelling on the contrary, is delivered in the classroom or other places which conducts academic event like seminar, workshop, conference and so on. The functions of it may vary from entertaining, educating, until instructing. It is said to be entertaining because by watching the digital storytelling the audience will feel glad especially to those which are done incredibly. It is educating because digital storytelling may contain education content. It is also instructing since the digital storytelling sometimes instruct the audience to do something either directly or indirectly.

Digital storytelling is an interesting media for teaching and learning. Gail Matthews-DeNatale(2008) states that Storytelling and learning are inextricably intertwined because the process of composing a story is also a process of meaning-making. Digital Storytelling. Furthermore he says that integrating opportunities for “storytelling” into coursework strengthens course participant learning. Through storytelling, students are asked to reflect on what they know, to examine their (often unquestioned) assumptions, and – through a cyclical process of revision – to record their “cognitive development process. It is clear that education and digital storytelling is tied together with learning process.

## **B. DISCUSSION**

The following is the steps of creating the digital strorytelling;

### **1. Determine Topic and Write a Script.**

At this stage we are about to determine topic and begin to write a script. As what we do when we are going to write any articles, we must select or determine

topic about what we are going to discuss. As there are three kinds of digital storytelling according to Robin (2014) they are: Personal Narrative, Historical Documentaries, Content Area Stories (digital stories which inform or instruct). Script is one of the important components in composing digital storytelling. Script will be used when storyboard is created. Script describes the whole story. Therefore, script must be well composed. The final result of the digital storytelling project is relied completely on the script. There is no good digital storytelling without good story. Additionally there is not good story without good script.

There are some tips we can do during script writing. First get personal. It is not essay contest. It is our story and people want to hear us. Second write lousy first draft. Do not edit as we go because writing and editing using the different part of the brain. Let it spill out and we can edit it later. (<https://sites.google.com/site/digitalstorysite/process/create-script>). The next is Write short. We will be surprised at how much we can convey with a few words and some key images. Those are tips for beginning scriptwriting.

In this article, personal narrative is chosen as the example. We must think about what narrative of ours that we are going to tell. Just to show some examples that may inspire our narrative topic, here are they: My Previous Job, Father Who Inspires Me, Cenna My Daughter of Proud, My Smartest Student Comes from The poorest Family, or in descriptive form like: Borobudur Temple, Amazon River, Eiffel Tower, and so on. Let's take

## **2. Collect Digital Resources**

One of the steps to finish a digital storytelling is collecting digital resources. There three kinds of digital resources that we must prepare well. They are images, audio, and video. The three will compose the digital storytelling.

### **A. Collecting Image**

Image or exactly still image is the most important component in creating a digital storytelling. It is important because the image will illustrate what is the speaker narrate in the digital storytelling. The image will also animate the story. Without image the story will sound empty, uninteresting, boring and meaningless.

The image itself tells a story. It can be said that no image is no story. Additionally no story is no digital storytelling.

Still image can be obtained in many ways. First, we can draw an image. Finish the drawing in a piece of paper. Once it is finished, scan it and save it in digital format. Second, we can scan any available image and store it in digital format. Next, we can also obtain an image by using camera. Each of these will be elaborated below. Drawing is one of the ways to obtain an image. If we think that we can draw well, why not? Draw and scan it with scanner so we can have the digital format of our drawing. Drawing image will be more beneficial as it can precisely reflect what the storyteller tells. Sometimes it is very difficult to get an image which represents the storyteller desires. In this case the hand drawing may be the best choice.

Scanning is the alternating way in acquiring an image. We of course have plenty of photographs with us. Although they are just the leftover of the “older era”, they are very valuable. Many of the times the photograph tells very good story. The very old photograph of our family may be a good example. For instance, there is a photograph of our grandmother and our father where he was still at the age of 6 years while we are at our 40 now. It will tell great story. It tells about the past times of the people in the picture where not many people know. It tells what year was the photo taken, where was the location, in what occasion was it taken, and there are still many stories which can be told. To sum up the alternating way to get a picture is by scanning our photograph.

Capturing photo with camera is the other interesting way in obtaining a picture. Today's gadget enables us to gain picture instantly. We can use the most sophisticated camera until the simple mobile phone to shoot a picture. All the pictures are stored in digital format and can be used as the building components of digital storytelling. This activity of taking picture can be done by the most professional photographer until the most amateur one. All can be used as far as it is good enough to be the material in digital storytelling.

#### *B. Collecting Audio*

Audio which must be collected for digital storytelling are of two kinds. They are music and recorded narration. Music will be used as the background of the story as a soundtrack. Music will raise the mood and the emotion of the viewer of the digital storytelling. Without it the digital storytelling will be lack of attraction. Recorded narration will tell the story together with the image. The narration is the soul of the digital storytelling. Without it the story will be mute, meaningless.

There are some ways to derive music and recorded narration audio. For music we can download it from internet. But we must be careful as many of the music are copyrighted. Therefore we can download only the free copyrighted copy of music. No worry, there thousands of music which are free copyrighted so we do not violate copyrights. Two websites which provide free music copy are: [www.jamendo.com](http://www.jamendo.com) and [www.freemusicarchive.com](http://www.freemusicarchive.com). For recorded narration we can record our voice through many devices. One of them is Audacity. Audacity is a free open sourced digital audio editor and recording computer software application. With this application, we can record, edit, and manipulate our voice. It is very attractive. The other one is just use our mobile phone which is equipped with recording program. We can record using this tool and store it in digital format or edit it using Audacity.

### *C. Collecting Video*

Video is not too the important in digital storytelling. Its existence is just for completing few parts of the story of which the message can be clearly delivered. However it is important to know how we can obtain video. First we can use our camera to capture video which will tell the story. Second we can find videos in YouTube, a video-sharing website. In this web, we can find millions of video but of course, only a few which meet our need. That is why capturing with our gadget ourselves may be better alternative.

### **3. Select Content and Develop a Storyboard**

After collecting digital resources, the next step is selecting content and developing a storyboard. We have now got many pictures to use in the digital storytelling. We must select which ones are the best to use. Storyboard is the next thing that must be done.

### A. Selecting Media

Selecting media content like images is important. Not all images you we have obtained are suitable with the story. Some are just good to look at but not good to use as digital storytelling media. Only those which match the story will be imported during the creation of the digital storytelling. The one that match the story means that the image is in the same emotion, mood, or feeling with and best illustrates the story. If we have a good picture of sunrise for instance, it will not be suitable if we tell the story of full moon people's activities. Good and high resolution image of animal will not tell a good story of plantation. Good picture of our grandfather will not tell a good story of our extended family where parents, uncle and aunt are included in the digital storytelling. Images must be not only good but also tells the story well.

### B. Develop Storyboard

Storyboard is a written or graphical representation of the all of the elements that will be included in the digital Storytelling. It helps us organize and visualize your story, determine the sequence or timing of the story elements (script, image, music and etc.), and allow you to easily make changes before you begin putting the story together on a computer (Robin). Storyboard must be developed so that it can help us in narrating and recording our voice. It is so because the text which should be said is in the storyboard. When recording our voice, we are guided by the storyboard.

Storyboard can be created in many ways. We can use paper and pencil. We can also use computer to create it. Also, we can create storyboard using a template. Paper and pencil will be the easiest way in creating storyboard. Many people may prefer using it to using a computer program. For those who are good at drawing will consider paper and pencil as the most comfortable way to create a digital storytelling. Computer program like Microsoft Word will be beneficial for those who always work with computer. It enables the computer user to create storyboard easily. A template is also the other way to write a storyboard. The template can be gained by downloading it on internet. Working with template can

be faster because everything like the table which consists of columns and rows is available. To sum up, there are many ways to compose a storyboard.

Storyboard can be simple but can be complicated as well. If the storyboard contains text only, it can be said as simple. However many of the storyboards contain text and thumbnail. It is said to be complicated if the storyboard contains text, image, timing, etc.)

There are things to consider when making storyboard. First the storyboard must be coherent and logical. Second it must include as much of the script as possible. The last it should appropriately describe what is being said in the script.

#### **4. Import, Record, Finalize**

The next step in composing a digital storytelling is import, record, and finalize. All media which have been selected before based on the importance of suitability with the story must be imported. The text in the storyboard which we want other to hear must be recorded. After that all materials for digital storytelling should be finalized.

A. *Import to movie maker software*

B. *Record audio narration*

C. *Save into video format*

#### **5. Share, Teach, Improve.**

Share the digital storytelling to your friends or colleague

Teach the students/colleagues how to create digital storytelling

Improve your digital storytelling so that it can be used educationally

- Share the digital storytelling to your friends or colleague
- Teach the students/colleagues how to create digital storytelling
- Improve your digital storytelling so that it can be used educationally

## References

- Reinders, H. (2011). *Digital Storytelling in the Foreign Language Classroom*. ELTWO April 2011 Volume 3. Retrieved February 21, 2016 from <http://blog.nus.edu.sg/eltwo/2011/04/12/digital-storytelling-in-the-foreign-language-classroom/>
- Robin, B.R. *Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling Websites*. Retrieved February 21, 2016 from <http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/page.cfm?id=27&cid=27>
- Gail Matthews-DeNatale, Ph.D., *Tips and Resources*. Simmons College, Boston, MA, 2008