

Creating Technology-Rich Collecting Cultures

New England League of Middle Schools

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Modern middle schools are places of engaging activity. In this environment, much is created that contributes to and demonstrates growth and learning. To honor the teaching and learning that occurs in a middle school and to use what is created as an accurate and useful record of the learning that occurs, the "stuff" must be documented. The job of collecting the thousands of artifacts generated by a student body can be daunting. Computers and related technology provide tools for collecting the artifacts, but an approach best described as a *Collecting Culture* is necessary to ensure success.

Technology-Rich Collecting Cultures:

- **Involvement:** A *Collecting Culture* depends on participation by all.
- **Integration:** Collecting must occur as a part of all activities.
- **Infrastructure:** Technology supports collecting.

This Presentation:

The presentation reviews lessons learned from designing and implementing plans for documenting learning in student-centered classrooms in southwestern Vermont. The following points are explicated:

- Electronic portfolios provide vehicle for involving all and integrating collecting into the curriculum.
- Technology provides tools for digitizing projects and performances:
 - Digital cameras
 - Scanners
 - Microphones
 - Video
- Technology helps us manage collections
 - A network model
 - Databases