

Brendan Holloway

English 613

Final Project

6. Personal Reflection:

There are limitations to what a WebQuest can do, particularly when the user software is outdated. It seems every time I tried to include something like a video clip or high-quality image, the system could not handle the media. In fact, questgarden.com only uploads media 140 kilobytes or less. This is just not enough memory for digital media these days. I spent more time reformatting images and video clips--which I never could get under 140KBs--than I should have, and many of my options were depleted as a result. Media embedded within a WebQuest should enhance the overall goal of the project, but they also serve to create a visual ambience and “feeling” for the user. I feel the images that I was finally able to embed, after lessening the digital quality of the files, serve both function and aesthetic. But I cannot help but feel that I was hindered creatively because of the irrelevance of an outdated interface.

There was a point when I almost scrapped the project and created a micro-network within our course wiki site, formatting my own WebQuest from blank wiki pages. But I was not sure of the practicalities of such a venture, and time was at a premium. Then I began to imagine an in-house university WebQuest system. A network of WebQuests, crossing disciplines, branching out from just classroom instruction and supplementation, and into administrative functions--which I dabbled in for this WebQuest--and other aspects of campus life in which important communication and diffusion of information is a necessity. Right now, the technology of our university wikispaces is could handle the size of modern, high-quality media. At UMB, we could one day say, “We have a WebQuest for that”?