



The DaVinci Educational Interface

Introduction

In 2008, Fractor developed a groundbreaking web application and issue-based social network that answered the pressing question of concerned newsreaders; "What can I do?" Connecting news with relevant actions you can take to make the world a better place, Fractor dynamically links daily stories to the specific needs of non-profit organizations, whether they are requests for financial donations, volunteer opportunities, in-kind donations or online actions.

Recently, Fractor began work on an educational version of the Fractor website. The DaVinci Interface provides a new model for the use of interactive media in and outside the classroom and connects learned knowledge with practical and civically minded application on a daily basis. Fractor extends the classroom into the 24/7 flow of digital information that is a normal part of student lives and allows them to share, impact and extend their knowledge through action.

With the Fractor interface, teachers have a unique interactive tool for students to connect to, learn about and take action on planned readings, video or audio as well as the ability to aggregate relevant breaking news that will connect their curriculum to critical events taking place around the world. The Fractor educational interface serves as a unique open-ended curriculum tool for building engaging and interactive experiences for students that allow them to quickly and easily apply knowledge, develop community projects, recruit other students and resources and make a positive impact on their peers, their community and around the world.

About Us

The Fractor Corporation is a nonprofit media company dedicated to solving problems of civic participation through online and mobile technologies. In March 2008, Fractor received a MacArthur Foundation /HASTAC Digital Media and Learning Award, and was a finalist in the 2009 WeMedia Pitch It contest. Over the last year, Fractor has successfully built the prototype version of the Fractor website, using the open-source Drupal content management system, and demonstrated the strength of Fractor's core concept. Fractor has begun development of a suite of products that will enhance the ability of news organizations and non-profits to connect with new users and more deeply engage existing ones. Fractor offers the tools citizens need to become active participants in their communities and around the world.

Fractor's homepage: <http://www.fractor.org>

Fractor's demonstration site: <http://demo.fractor.org>

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Fractor's DaVinci Interface

The DiVinci Interface provides a new model for the use of interactive media in the classroom. Combining a dynamic web portal with mobile outreach technology, Fractor's DaVinci Interface creates a 24/7 student community inspired by learning, connected to relevant breaking news and rich with opportunities to affect change. Designed for secondary and postsecondary educational environments, the DaVinci Interface allows students to connect to, learn about and take action on critical events taking place around the world. In addition, it encourages students to become self-learners, allowing them to build on their interests to inspire their own education. The DiVinci Interface will serve as a centerpiece to new and exciting curriculums for engaging young people with the world.

An example of the DaVinci Interface in Action

Imagine a school system wants to explore issues surrounding clean water in third world countries. The DaVinci interface would organize teacher posted articles and activities into weekly tabs and provide students with insight into the opportunities to take action on solutions to water problems. To provide an array of quality service opportunities for the students, we will reach out a select group of local, national and international nonprofit organizations as well as providing an open call for action submissions from nonprofits nationwide.

Interschool co-operation, prizes and a 24/7 interactive experience that engages and inspires students long after they leave the classroom enhance the experience. Supporting articles and daily news will enrich the conversations in class and be forwarded to student's cell phones, extending the learning environment throughout the day. Partnerships with mobile technology and cellular service providers will allow Fractor to reach out to students at no cost to them. We will aggregate news directly from the ground utilizing blogging services and leverage Pulitzer's award winning crises reporting task force to provide an engaging platform for teachers to present daily events from a unique first-hand perspective. Students can ask questions, determine the actions they wish to take from a large list of sponsored selections or even develop their own service projects. To complete the cycle of community benefit, we seek out relationships with local media outlets to publicize the actions these students are taking and offer a rich story local audiences can rally around.

Fractor's Goal

Our goal is to provide an exciting and interactive tool that will propel the inspirational introduction of new ideas through the aggregation of relevant daily events, service and civic action, involvement in issue-based social networks and participatory activities that increase compassion and empathy. The DaVinci Interface will strengthen civic activism and improve student motivation within existing communities as well as across geographically proximate but socially and economically distanced ones.

Fractor aims to energize education in schools with a scalable model that can be applied to almost any curriculum and replicated nationally and worldwide.

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