# THIS WEEK IN THE CTRE

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY

## Upcoming Events

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| LiveText Workshops | 1/17 & 1/19 2:00-4:00PM LIB 144 RSVP |
| NFO Redux: Share and Prepare | 1/19 12:30-2:30PM LIB 301 RSVP |
| Seeds for Innovation Workshop | 1/20 12:00-2:00PM LIB 301 RSVP |

## { APPEALING APPS }

App: XMind
Price: Free!

XMind is an award-winning open-source brainstorming and mind mapping tool that has "wow" written all over it. It's easy to use, easy to share, and easy to integrate into presentations.

## Hitting the Ground Running

Heading into a new semester can be a time of exciting opportunity, but also one of frenzy. Getting to know a new group of faces and personalities; tweaking lectures and syllabi; solving student issues with getting books or registering; there's no denying that Act I, Scene 1 can be intense.

With that in mind, it behooves any instructor to use all the resources available to him or her to help mitigate difficulties and maximize success. Here are a few tips to help you do just that:

- Ask for advice or feedback from a colleague whose teaching you respect

- Use the teaching resources found on the CTRE's website

- Attend an online or face-to-face workshop on teaching or course design

- Find a new system of organizing your files, grading, handouts, or lecture notes

- Discover new technology on websites like makeuseof.com

## Moodle Help to the Rescue!

It can safely be said that online learning in higher education has grown out of infancy and into the next stage of development.

Since fall 2010, CSU has been using Moodle as its Learning Management System (LMS). Many early adopters and technologically inclined instructors are already using it in highly engaging and innovative ways. For others, however, online teaching seems like a dragon to be slain.

If you're among the latter—perhaps you are looking for ways to overhaul your online courses, or considering teaching online for the first time—remember that the CTRE is here to help!

For starters, you might want to check out the "**CSU-INSTRUCTORS**" page in Moodle, which all instructors have access to. Included there are **over 30 help guides**.

You might also consider attending one of our **Moodle (or Elluminate) workshops**, which are delivered on a regular basis.

Finally—and most importantly—**always feel free to stop by** and get some help in person. It's by far the most effective way to sharpen your Moodle skills. Call us at **x.2960** to learn more.

# Looking *Forward*

## "Creating Content with Respondus 4.0" Training Webinar

*What: Respondus 4.0 Webinar*
*When: Wednesday, January 25 at 1:00 PM*
*Where: LIB 301*

*On **January 25,** the CTRE will host a training webinar for how to use **Respondus 4.0**.  As an auxiliary program to Moodle, it can make your life a lot easier by helping you with creating and managing exams.*

*With Respondus, exams can be created offline in a matter of minutes, employing 15 different types of questions, with tables, images, audio, and video all at your fingertips.  Respondus also allows you to easily link to content on other sites, such as YouTube and Picasa.*

*This webinar would be time well spent for anyone looking to make exam creation more efficient for Moodle.*

## PowerPoint/CounterPoint

The dominance of PowerPoint as the presentation program of choice has been a foregone conclusion for the past fifteen years.  And the reason for that has been simple: for most people, it was the only one available.

But now that is changing, and changing quickly. Whether due to "Death by PowerPoint" syndrome or simply the desire for something different, alternative presentation programs have blossomed, thanks in large part to web-based applications. Since 2006, at least two dozen such programs have been released, many for free.  Currently, the frontrunner and biggest threat to PowerPoint's dominance is Prezi.

Launched in 2009, Prezi is in many ways the anti-PowerPoint.  It is free, entirely web-based, and most strikingly, non-linear.  It is a brainstormer's dream, allowing you to develop connections and relationships between ideas that don't necessarily follow a "1-2-3-4-5" hierarchical sequence.

If collaboration is your goal, however, perhaps you should consider Google Docs, which has a presentation program that is straightforward and user-friendly—indeed, much like everything Google does.

Click HERE for an expanded list of programs.

## CSU News Clips

### Library Instruction Requests

Feel free to begin scheduling library instruction sessions for your classes now. Sessions should be scheduled at least **2 weeks in advance**. To schedule one, please contact the Reference Department at x2235 or email the Instruction Coordinator at instructionrequest@csu.edu.  If you are teaching a course online, please contact Prof. Rosalind Fielder at x12431 or via the aforementioned email address to arrange for virtual library instruction.

### One Book, One University

**One Book, One University** is kicking off  at CSU with ***The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*** by **Rebecca Skloot**.  To receive your **free copy** of the book, click HERE.

### Faculty Forum

Faculty members are invited to continue discussions regarding the new **General Education Student Learning Outcomes**.  The meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 24**, from **1:00 - 2:00PM** in the **Library Auditorium, 4th floor**.