

A WORKSHOP TO ENHANCE DESTINY INSTITUTE TEACHERS' TECHNOLOGY KNOWLEDGE

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ABSTRAK

Program pengabdian masyarakat ini, dalam bentuk lokakarya teknologi, bertujuan untuk membekali guru dalam pengetahuan dan keterampilan yang diperlukan dengan menggunakan teknologi secara efektif dalam kegiatan mengajar mereka. Program tersebut dilaksanakan pada 27 Maret 2022 di Destiny Institute Salatiga dan melibatkan empat guru di sekolah tersebut. Lokakarya ini memperkenalkan dua platform, "Genially" dan "The Secret Annex", yang merupakan alat interaktif yang cocok bagi siswa dan guru untuk mendukung proses belajar mengajar mereka. Selama lokakarya, penulis memastikan bahwa para peserta memiliki pengalaman langsung dengan Genially dan menjelajahi The Secret Annex dengan detail. Para peserta mendapat kesempatan untuk belajar tentang platform ini karena kebanyakan dari mereka belum pernah menggunakan atau mendengarnya sebelumnya. Menurut tanggapan yang diterima dari para peserta, platform ini mudah untuk digunakan, interaktif, dan menarik membuat proses belajar lebih menyenangkan. Mereka merasa platform ini sangat bermanfaat bagi guru dan siswa karena dapat digunakan untuk mendukung berbagai aspek proses pembelajaran, seperti membuat presentasi interaktif, timeline video, kuis, dan konten multimedia lainnya. Secara umum, program pengabdian masyarakat berhasil memperkenalkan alat teknologi digital baru kepada para pendidik bahasa Inggris di Salatiga. Para penulis berharap bahwa program tersebut telah menginspirasi mereka untuk memasukkan platform ini ke dalam praktik pengajaran mereka dan mengeksplorasi cara-cara baru untuk meningkatkan pengalaman belajar bagi siswa mereka. Penulis berkomitmen untuk meningkatkan lokakarya mereka untuk memberikan pengalaman yang lebih produktif dan menarik di masa depan, berkontribusi pada pertumbuhan pendidik bahasa Inggris di Salatiga.

ABSTRACT

This community service program, in the form of a technology workshop, aims to equip school teachers with the necessary knowledge and skills to use technology effectively in their teaching activities. The program was held on March 27, 2022, at Destiny Institute Salatiga and involved four teachers. The workshop introduced two platforms, "Genially" and "The Secret Annex," which are interactive tools suitable for students and teachers to support their teaching and learning process. During the workshop, the authors ensured the participants had a hands-on experience with Genially and explored The Secret Annex in detail. The participants appreciated the opportunity to learn about

these platforms, as most had yet to use or hear about them before. According to the feedback received from the participants, the platforms were easy to use, interactive, and engaging, making the learning process more enjoyable. These platforms benefit teachers and students as they can support various aspects of the learning process, such as creating interactive presentations, video timelines, quizzes, and other multimedia content. In general, the community service program successfully introduced new digital technology tools to English educators in Salatiga. The authors hope that the program has inspired them to incorporate these platforms into their teaching practices and explore new ways of enhancing the learning experience for their students. The authors are committed to improving their workshop to provide a more productive and engaging experience in the future, contributing to the growth of English educators in Solatia.

INTRODUCTION

Technology has transformed how educators teach, providing educators with innovative tools and resources to enhance their teaching practices (Fernández et al., 2023; Priyanto & Suhandi, 2022). Integrating technology into Indonesian education has provided numerous benefits, including improved access to educational resources and customized learning experiences (Batubara, 2021; Mali & Santosa, 2021). However, several news articles mention that many educators in Indonesia lack the knowledge and skills to integrate technology into their teaching activities effectively (Ghivariantio, 2020; Rambu, 2021; Subarka, 2022). To address this gap, providing educators with training and support to use technology effectively in their classrooms plays a vital role (Prayudi et al., 2021). Through training, educators can learn about the latest technological tools and resources, such as online learning platforms, educational software, and digital media. Moreover, technology can allow educators to create a supportive and engaging learning environment (Arifin & Sukmawijaya, 2020; Ritonga et al., 2022).

Considering the above mentioned-issue, holding a community service in the form of a workshop to train teachers on the use of technology is necessary. More specifically, this workshop aims to equip Destiny Institute teachers with the necessary skills and knowledge to use a specific media platform we have selected effectively. Since the authors have identified that many educators still need to be equipped with the latest technological resources, through this workshop, the Destiny Institute teachers can apply the knowledge in their

teaching activities and improve the quality of education provided to their students.

METHOD

This community service (similar to Mali, 2022) was in the form of a workshop called “Pemanfaatan Teknologi untuk Pembelajaran dan Pengajaran.” It was organized by the Magister Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris program at Universitas Kristen Satya Wacana. It was a project carried out as part of the Introduction to Digital Technology course which aimed to help teachers around Salatiga in using technology in their teaching activities. This community service was conducted offline at Destiny Institute in Salatiga on March 27, 2023, from 2 to 4 p.m. In short, Destiny Institute is an educational program that follows a Bible-based approach and offers both campus-based and homeschool options. This school uses English as the primary language of instruction. This unique program also consists of a mastery-based curriculum, self-instructional materials, character-building, and individually prescribed materials. The participants of this workshop were four (4) teachers at Destiny Institute. In the workshop, we presented Genially (<https://genial.ly/>), an online platform for creating interactive content, and Anne Frank’s website (<https://www.annefrank.org/>), a website dedicated to telling the story of Anne Frank.

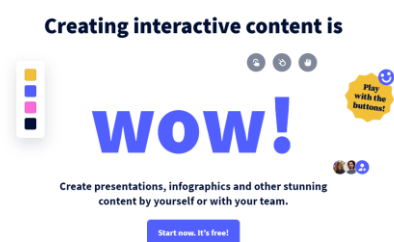


Figure 1. The Homepage of Genially

The writers chose Genially and the Anne Frank website for specific reasons. First, we were familiar with these tools from our previous use in the Introduction to Digital Technology course for mini-teaching sessions. Additionally, the writers believe these resources can significantly benefit teachers at Destiny Institute. Genially is a platform that allows teachers to create their teaching materials and presentations. It provides a user-friendly way for teachers to enhance their teaching activities by designing engaging visual content. On the other hand, the Anne Frank website offers interesting source materials that teachers can use. It tells the story of Anne Frank, a topic that can capture students' interest. By using this website as a resource, teachers can access compelling content to support their lessons and make them more engaging for students.

This was followed by a practical session in which we guided and assisted the Destiny teachers in understanding and utilizing the online tool. The workshop was divided into three sections. The first section focused on assessing participants' existing knowledge and competence in utilizing technology for instructional purposes, alongside providing an introduction to the selected technologies. The second section delved into the core activities of the workshop, wherein participants were guided through creating a video timeline. Finally, the third section revolved around the presentation of the video timelines generated by the participants.

The workshop was carried out for about two hours, and the following information and actions were covered:

1. Introduction to deliver the concept of Genially.
2. Questions and answers and discussions to establish two-way communication between the facilitators and participants.

3. Demonstration of the use of Genially provides a step-by-step guide to the participants.
4. Guidance to assist the participants in overcoming challenges in creating a video timeline.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The community service program we designed aimed to equip educators at Destiny Institute in Salatiga with the knowledge and skills necessary to use technology effectively in their teaching activities. We divided our workshop into three parts to achieve our goals: introduction, central, and closing. In the introduction, we began by introducing ourselves to the participants and creating a comfortable atmosphere by engaging in some light conversation with the participants. We also invited the participants to introduce themselves and mention their position in the school. This helped us to understand the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the educators attending our workshop. To gain insight into the current technology used by the participants in presenting materials, multimedia content creation, or posters, we asked them a question (i.e., what kind of platform do you use when presenting materials for students?). They mentioned primarily using Canva, PowerPoint, and Google Docs in their teaching and learning practices. This information helped us tailor our presentation and ensure our approach was relevant to their current practices.

We then introduced our technology of choice, Genially, and shared a brief overview of its features and benefits. We also provided the participants access to the Genially platform, which they could explore at their own pace. To further enhance their understanding of Genially, we shared a video from YouTube

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ugnhJa_xtI_Y) that provided an overview of the platform's capabilities. By the end of the introduction, the participants clearly understood our objectives, the technology we would be using, and how it could benefit them in their teaching practices.

In the central part of our workshop, we wanted to ensure that the participants had hands-on experience with Genially. We asked them to open the Genially website on their computers and take some time to explore the various parts of the website. We then explained some of the features and their functions to give the participants a better

understanding of what the platform could offer them. To further enhance their experience, we asked the participants to use some of the features they found interesting briefly. This allowed them to see how easy it was to use Genially and to experiment with different interactive features such as animations, videos, and infographics. After some exploration, we focused on the advantages and disadvantages of using Genially in their teaching practices. Some advantages we highlighted included the platform's ease of use, a wide range of templates, and interactive features. However, we also acknowledged some of the disadvantages, such as the fact that some functions require premium access and there are limited customization and features that they can use.



Figure 2. The Workshop with the Participants

To give the participants a better understanding of how to use Genially, we then focused on one of its features: the video timeline. We presented a video timeline we had created before and asked the participants to create one based on Anne Frank's timeline.

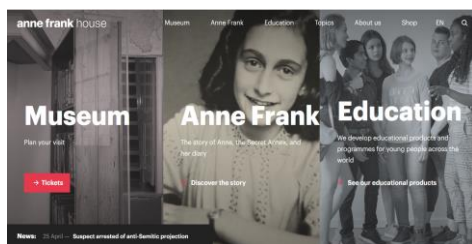


Figure 3. The Anne Frank Website

We provided the participants access to the Anne Frank timeline on the official website of the Anne Frank organization. We also explained briefly about the website. We asked them to choose five events from the timeline and put them in their video timeline. Unfortunately, due to time limitations and some participants needing help with internet access,

some found it challenging to finish their video timelines. One participant commented that her laptop had difficulty accessing the school WIFI, which affected her ability to create the video timeline. Finally, we asked the participants to show their video timelines, but some participants could not present their finished work due to time constraints. We still acknowledged their efforts and encouraged them to continue exploring Genially and its many features in their own time. Overall, this hands-on approach was a valuable part of the workshop. It gave the participants the skills and knowledge they needed to use Genially effectively in their teaching practices.



Figure 4. The Video Timeline Creation

During the workshop's closing session, we made sure to give the participants ample opportunity to provide feedback about their experience. Gathering our attendees' feedback is crucial to better understand what worked well and what areas we can improve for future events. To do this, we asked the participants to share their thoughts on the workshop and let us know if they felt that we, as the presenters, had done an excellent job. This allowed us to gain valuable insights into what aspects of the workshop were successful and what areas could be improved. Finally, we took a moment to express our appreciation for the participants' cooperation and engagement throughout the workshop. Attending workshops can be time-consuming and sometimes challenging, so we wanted to acknowledge and applaud their efforts and commitment to learning.

CONCLUSION

Our workshop aimed to share knowledge about digital technology and English education. The program was successful, and our participants gave us positive feedback. The workshop introduced two platforms, "Genially" and "The Secret Annex," which participants found easy to use and beneficial for

teachers and students. The feedback received from the participants was overwhelmingly positive, and they felt that the program had introduced them to new digital technology tools that could enhance the learning experience. We hope that the program has inspired English educators in the school to incorporate these platforms into their teaching practices.

In order to improve our workshop, we need to address several key issues that we have faced, including (1) time limitations, (2) the size of the room, and (3) internet connectivity problems. Firstly, time limitation has been a challenge, resulting in discussions needing to be longer and more detailed about the platforms' features. In addition, only one participant was able to demonstrate her product successfully. To overcome this issue in the future, we plan to increase the amount of time allocated to discussion to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to share their ideas and that we can cover all topics productively. Secondly, the size of the room has been a significant issue. The size of the room reduced mobility for the attendees. In the next workshop, we can reconfigure the room to optimize the use of space, such as removing any unnecessary furniture or equipment and positioning chairs and tables to maximize the available space. Lastly, internet connectivity has been critical as some participants could not access the platforms using their browsers. To address this issue in the next workshop, we plan to provide alternative connectivity options, such as using our own Wi-Fi hotspot or data to be shared with the participants, to ensure that everyone has stable and reliable access to the platforms. By addressing these challenges, we aim to create a more productive and engaging workshop experience for all participants, with more time for detailed discussions, a larger space to accommodate everyone, and reliable internet connectivity.

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