



## Learning Circle Report

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#### Aim

To create an online Australian History Learning Circle aimed at Victorian Middle Schools, Years 9 and 10.

#### Achievements

To date, my major aim has been to create a best practice online model that will support the learning aims of the project. It is crucial to get the structure in place before promoting the idea to teachers.

To achieve that end, I have established an online web and blogging framework to facilitate teachers and students learning and teaching. The website address is [www.h-world.org](http://www.h-world.org). I have created the site structure and design, including curriculum.

Although the AISV grant was for Australian History, I have provided the structure and beginning curriculum for circles in other areas such as Revolutions, American, Chinese history.

I have also put in place the structure for co-curricular learning activities such as:

- the publication of an online History magazine, to be edited and published by students
- an online debating network
- a potential film-making competition.

From the end of Term II to the present, I have successfully trialled the site with Geelong College students, with positive results. I have also engaged in a limited trial with PLC Year 9 and 10 students and staff, also with positive results.

At the HTAV History Teachers' Revolutions Conference, I conducted a session on the value of online learning communities and pitched the concept to a number of History teachers with positive feedback

I have explored the possibility of an in-principle arrangement with an Aboriginal community school as a site partner. This agreement is near completion. It will create much needed 'voice variety' that rarely exists in single classrooms.

#### Problems

This entire process was delayed significantly due to server incompatibility problems at Geelong College. The result has been that the site has been developed totally from scratch.

#### Future

Having established the h-world site, I am now ready to begin promoting the site to teachers and students. To that end I plan to:

- promote the concept to AISV schools with the aim of going 'live' at the beginning of 2007
- hold face to face meeting with participating teachers in Term 4 to discuss online curriculum
- hold professional development sessions for individuals and schools.