

# Multimedia Design Lessons for the Design Novice



A Guide to Multimedia Resources & Services on the Web

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Studies have shown that multimedia lessons are effective in helping deaf students learn and retain lesson information. Multimedia lessons deliver lesson content using a combination of media: text, graphics, video, audio and animation. Multimedia in the classroom usually means teacher-created PowerPoint presentations or commercial courseware published on CD-ROM.

We are a successful Web design team who has created scores of engaging and effective multimedia websites used to teach deaf students at NTID. In this presentation we will discuss multimedia created for the web browser, using

examples from our past projects. We will show how even teachers who are relative design novices may take advantage of a number of free or almost free Web 2.0 resources and services to create similar multimedia lessons for use in their classrooms.

Web 2.0 refers to a new breed of websites that provides tools to help inexperienced users generate interactive Web content. We have compiled a guide to showcase the more interesting Web 2.0 websites we have explored. We offer this guide to those who would like to experiment with the tools and services on these websites.

## About This Guide

### Highlighted Features:

Create, edit and save video online for use in lessons.

Store images online and turn them into photo galleries, animated flip books, online presentations and scrapbooks.

This guide is a collection of multimedia services available on the Web. It is just a sampling of the many tools out there that we have tried to evaluate and determine their usefulness for creating multimedia lessons for deaf learners.

As of now, these resources are free to use, with a few exceptions. However, these services were created because the developers and their investors hope to reap a financial return in one way or another. If they do not succeed, some of

the services may be discontinued or only remain available for a fee. That is something to keep in mind when you start developing a project using these services.

The guide is split up into various categories. You can see these categories (top left) with page numbers of this guide that they are on. Take a look around and start exploring the new world of Web 2.0 multimedia!

## Photos

There are so many things you can do with your photos on the web. Begin with uploading your photos from your computer or collecting them from other web sites. Then add identifying tags and create photo sets. From there you can easily share your photos by linking to them, or by embedding them into your website. Some sites also offer editing functions, like cropping, resizing, and color corrections. You can also add effects and captions. Beyond that, you can create interactive slideshows. These tools are all available on the web. In addition, some services have free desktop software you can install for additional features and an easy way to organize your local images.

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## Sharing & Hosting

### Flickr

[www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)

- Free
- Store, sort, search, and share your photos online
- Upload limit per month is 100mb
- Upload limit per image file is 10mb

### Photobucket

[photobucket.com](http://photobucket.com)

- Free
- Upload and share photos, videos, and graphics
- Make slideshows with music
- Print pictures through online store
- 1gb of storage for images and video
- Upload limit per image file is 1mb

### Slide

[www.slide.com](http://www.slide.com)

- Free
- Works with other social networking sites (facebook, myspace, Friendster, blogger, etc.)
- Make slide shows
- Add stickers, graffiti, text, and more to your photos
- Make frames for YouTube videos
- Unlimited image hosting

### Picasa Web Albums

[picasaweb.google.com](http://picasaweb.google.com)

- Free
- Post and share photos on the web
- 1gb free storage
- Works with optional free software, Picasa, to manage photos on your computer

## Editing

### Picnik

[www.picnik.com](http://www.picnik.com)

- Free, no account required
- Photo Editing
  - Auto-fix
  - Advanced controls
  - Crop, resize, rotate
  - Special effects
  - Available fonts and type tool
  - Shapes
- Use with photos from myspace, flickr, facebook, photobucket, picasa, your own computer, or the url of any website

### Photoshop express

[www.photoshop.com/express](http://www.photoshop.com/express)

- Free, account required, beta
- 2gb storage
- Photo library
  - Create albums
  - Create slideshows
  - Rate your photos
- Photo editing
  - Auto-correct
  - Crop, rotate
  - Color corrections
  - Red-eye removal
  - Special effects (twirling, distorting)
- Photo sharing
- Upload photos from your computer, flickr, facebook
- Create slideshows and embed them in any webpage

### Fotoflexer

[fotoflexer.com](http://fotoflexer.com)

- Edit photos from your computer, photobucket, myspace, facebook, flickr, picasa, and more

## Image Effects

### RoundPic

[www.roundpic.com](http://www.roundpic.com)

- Free image editing
- Add effects, fonts, shapes, doodling, distortion, retouches, layers, advanced editing
- Upload or enter image url
- Creates anti-aliased rounded corners

### Blogger Glitter Word Generator

[www.doobix.com/generators/blogger/glitter-word.html](http://www.doobix.com/generators/blogger/glitter-word.html)

- Generates code to turn plain text into styled “glitter” text

### Comeeko

[comeeko.com](http://comeeko.com)

- Create comic strips from your images
- Upload photos from your computer or import from flickr
- Add speech bubbles, captions, effects
- Post comics to myspace, facebook, etc.
- Flash-based

### Mai’Nada Comics Sketch

[www.mainada.net/comics](http://www.mainada.net/comics)

- Draw and create your own comic strips

### Super Lame

[SuperLame.com](http://SuperLame.com)

- Flash-based
- Adds captions, speech, and thought bubbles to photos

### Picbite

[picbite.com](http://picbite.com)

- Add captions, speech bubbles to your photos

### Picreflect

[picreflect.com](http://picreflect.com)

- Adds reflection to any image

### Flash & HTML Templates for Picasa

[www.paulvanroekel.nl/picasa](http://www.paulvanroekel.nl/picasa)

## Desktop Software

### Picasa

[picasa.google.com](http://picasa.google.com)

- Free download
- Locate and organize photos on your computer
- Edit and add effects
- Share photos
- Create galleries and post online

### Jalbum

[jalbum.net](http://jalbum.net)

- Free download
- Create photo albums, customize with skins
- Publish to jalbum or another site
- Includes skin for [www.banalbum.com](http://www.banalbum.com), another web gallery

### JetPhoto Studio

[www.jetphotosoft.com](http://www.jetphotosoft.com)

- Free download (pro version available)
- Create flash galleries from your photos
- Upload album to the web

## Videos

It's so easy to create, upload, and share your videos on the web now. Many sites offer great services to upload and share your videos and allow others to interact with the content. Other sites provide you with tools to record your computer screen, a great way to create a step-by-step tutorial. Sites are also starting to offer web-based video editors where you can combine video clips, images, and audio into a movie, adding titles, transitions, and effects. Online communities have become highly dependent on the use of video to foster communication and discussion.

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## Video Sharing & Hosting

### Viddler

[www.viddler.com](http://www.viddler.com)

- Free
- 500mb limit per video
- Can upload unlimited number of videos
- Upload videos
- Capture videos directly to web via webcam
- Users can comment on specific points in video
- Users can tag specific points in video
- Embed videos on your own website/blog
- Control who sees videos
- Search inside videos

### Stickam

[www.stickam.com](http://www.stickam.com)

- Free
- 2gb storage
- Live Video Chat/Streaming
  - Live streaming
  - Video chat with up to 12 people at once
- Videos
  - Upload prerecorded videos
  - Capture videos from webcam
  - Create playlist of videos, can include videos created by others
- Photos
  - Display photos as slideshow
  - Create playlist of photos, can include photos uploaded by others
- Audio
  - Upload audio files (MP3 or WAV)
  - Create playlist of music, can include audio uploaded by others
- Wireless phone
  - Upload photos, videos, or audio from your mobile phone

### YouTube

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

- Free
- 100mb/10 minute limit (or download windows software and upload up to 1gb)
- Video sharing
- Upload videos
- Comment on videos
- Embed videos in other websites

### Vimeo

[www.vimeo.com](http://www.vimeo.com)

- Upload videos
- Share
- Includes hd channel

### Howcast

[www.howcast.com](http://www.howcast.com)

- Features how-to videos and guides

### Video Snapshot

[www.videosnapshot.com](http://www.videosnapshot.com)

- Record yourself being interviewed, review, revise video
- Link to video in your resume



## Recording & Capturing

### Free Screencast

[freescreencast.com](http://freescreencast.com)

- Record your screen
- Upload video
- Share
- embed

### Debut

[www.nchsoftware.com/capture/index.html](http://www.nchsoftware.com/capture/index.html)

- record screen
- share

### Jing Project

[www.jingproject.com/](http://www.jingproject.com/)

- capture images and video from your computer
- share online
- embed

### Utipu

[www.utipu.com/app/](http://www.utipu.com/app/)

- record screen
- share

### Stickam

[www.stickam.com](http://www.stickam.com)

- Capture videos from webcam

### Seesmic

[www.seesmic.com](http://www.seesmic.com)

- Free
- Video blogging site in pre-alpha stage
- Makes uploading easier for webcam users

## Editing

### Jumpcut

[www.jumpcut.com](http://www.jumpcut.com)

- Free
- Upload videos
- Add photos
- Add audio
- Grab media from public Jumpcut videos
- Web-based editor lets you create your own movie
- Add transitions, titles, effects
- Post to other websites

### Motionbox

[www.motionbox.com](http://www.motionbox.com)

- Free
- Upload videos
- Edit, trim, and join videos
- Secure sharing

### Eyepot

[www.eyepot.com](http://www.eyepot.com)

- Free
- Upload videos
- Add images, audio
- Use “mixables”—a collection of files created by others
- Web-based editor is easy to use
- Add special effects
- Share with others

## Presentations

There are many ways to combine photos, video, audio, and text to create a multimedia presentation. You begin by uploading and importing media from your computer and other websites. Then you use a web-based visual editor to create slides and arrange your content accordingly. Some sites help you easily achieve a web-based presentation similar to something you'd create in PowerPoint. Others let you create scrapbooks of your content. After you create a presentation, you can link to it or embed it in your website. You will find that there are many different ways to present your multimedia content on the web.

## Online Presentation Services

### VCASMO

[www.VCASMO.com](http://www.VCASMO.com)

- Free
- Create an online presentation using video, audio, and slides
- Use video, audio, PDF, PPT, photos in presentation
- Visual editor to arrange slides on a timeline
- Embed in any webpage
- Add subtitles as an .SRT file
- Permission control
- Downloadable offline version
- Daily upload limit: 200mb
- Total storage limit: 1024mb

### Scrapblog

[www.scrapblog.com](http://www.scrapblog.com)

- Free
- Combine photos, videos, audio, text into online scrapbooks
- Start building a book using a theme, or create your own design
- Drag-and-drop “stickers”, shapes, photos, and videos onto a page
- Import photos and videos from, and post scrapbooks to: facebook, flickr, myspace, photobucket, picasa, wordpress, blogger, webshots, smugmug
- “Ken Burns” effect adds subtle motion

### Thumbstacks

[www.thumbstacks.com](http://www.thumbstacks.com)

- Free
- Make and share slide presentations
- Early stages of development
- Create presentations with WYSIWYG editor—layout is similar to PowerPoint
- Basic features
- Publish your presentations to share

### Spresent

[www.Spresent.com](http://www.Spresent.com)

- Free
- create web-based flash presentations

### Slide

[www.slide.com](http://www.slide.com)

- Create photo slide shows
- Personalize photos (funpix)
- Skins for YouTube videos
- Free image hosting

## Printing

Printing services allow you to upload content and have it printed and bound into beautiful books. There is a site that offers tools to convert your blog into a book. You can order copies for yourself, or you can sell your book in their online marketplace. These sites also have tools that help you design your book online, and offer a variety of themes and designs to choose from.

## Printing Services

### Lulu

[www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)

- Publish your manuscript, photos, or digital files
- Select the format you want, size, cover, and binding
- Order books for yourself or publish online

### Blurb

[www.blurb.com](http://www.blurb.com)

- similar to lulu.com to publish books
- free download of software that will extract text and pictures from your blog and format it into a book

## Office Tools

Online office tools allow you to create and collaborate on documents online, including word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations. Some also include email and calendaring functionality. These tools are compatible with your Microsoft Office files, and you can upload files and make them available online from any location. It is a great way to organize, edit, and collaborate on documents. You can apply security settings to your work to be sure it is safe. Various sites also offer handy productivity tools, like note taking and task lists.

## Office Tools

### Google Apps

[www.google.com/a](http://www.google.com/a)

- Online collaboration and tools
- email
- Calendar
- Text and voice calling
- Docs
- Sites
- Security and compliance

### Acrobat

[Acrobat.com](http://Acrobat.com)

- Share and send files
- Write and collaborate on documents
- Store files online
- Convert (up to 5) files to pdf
- Adobe ConnectNow (video conference and screen sharing)
- Beta, free

### Office Live

[www.officelive.com](http://www.officelive.com)

- Password protected document sharing
- Works with word, excel, PowerPoint

### Zoho

[www.zoho.com](http://www.zoho.com)

- Free
- Online productivity and collaboration apps
- Word processor
- Spreadsheets
- Presentation tool
- Note taker
- Wiki
- Organizer
- Chat
- Mail



## Storage

Storage sites offer storage, sharing, and security tools for your files. You can use these for anytime secure access to your files, and also as a way to keep files organized. They make it easy to access your files from anywhere, and to share or limit access to your files. You can find the right storage solution based on your capacity needs.

## Online Storage Services

### Blip

[www.blip.tv](http://www.blip.tv)

- Upload videos (up to 1gb each)
- Free
- Provides their own blog
- Uses cross-posting to mirror your posts to blogger, wordpress, typepad blogs. Also del.icio.us and flickr, and the internet archive.
- Upload videos in any format (preferably mov or wmv), and videos will be converted to flash video.

### xDrive

[www.xdrive.com](http://www.xdrive.com)

- 5gb free online storage

### Box

[www.box.net](http://www.box.net)

- Online storage
- Send files to anyone
- Host files for your website
- Free 14-day trial

### Free Drive

[www.freedrive.com](http://www.freedrive.com)

- 1gb free online storage

### My Other Drive

[www.myotherdrive.com](http://www.myotherdrive.com)

- 5gb free online storage
- Individual file size limit is 2gb
- Link and share files

### Driveway

[www.driveway.com](http://www.driveway.com)

- Free 2gb storage
- Track downloads
- Share files
- Embed/share data as widgets

### Easy File Sharing Web Server

[www.sharing-file.com](http://www.sharing-file.com)

- Software download
- Windows only
- Host peer-to-peer and web-based file sharing

## Storage Resources

### List of other online file storage sites

[techmagazine.ws/free-online-file-storage/](http://techmagazine.ws/free-online-file-storage/)

## Blogs

Blogs are a way to take all of the content you have already created and merge it together in one place. It's also a place where people can visit frequently to view this content, and to stay updated with your latest blog posts. Users can add your blog to their own RSS reader, so that they will always know if you have updated your blog or added a new post. There are also a lot of plug-ins and widgets available. Many blog services also give you statistics, so you know how many people are visiting your site. Your blog will also be reported to most search engines, so it will be easy to find. Blogs are a great way to build a community on the web.

## Blogging Services

### Wordpress

[www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com)

- Free
- Design tools & templates
- Add plug-ins and widgets
- Blog posting
  - WYSIWYG text editor
  - HTML editor
  - Spell check
  - Preview your post
  - Insert links, images, and video in your post
- Sidebar
  - Links
  - Search box
  - Archive
  - Profile
  - Search comments
- Publishing
  - Submits to Google
  - RSS, Atom Feeds
- Feedback/traffic
  - Traffic/referrer stats
  - Feed stats
  - Comments
  - Views
  - Trackbacks
- Privacy settings: public or private
- Spam blocker

### Blogger

[www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)

- Free
- Design tools & templates
- Add plug-ins and widgets
- Blog posting
  - WYSIWYG text editor
  - HTML editor
  - Spell check
  - Preview your post
  - Insert links and images in your post
- Sidebar
  - Links
  - Search box
  - Archive
  - Profile
- Publishing
  - Submits to Google
  - RSS, Atom Feeds
- Comments
- Privacy settings: public or private
- Photo album/gallery (works with Picasa Web Albums)
- Create polls

## Blog Resources

### Free Vlog

[www.freevlog.org](http://www.freevlog.org)

- Tutorial videos and tips for enhancing vlog content using free applications.