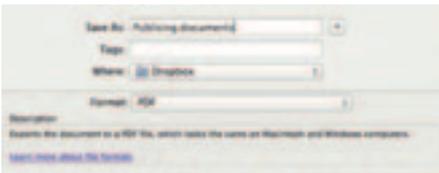




Creating, sharing, publishing

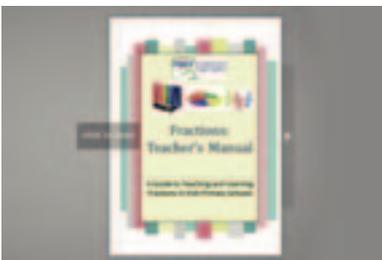
Create a document... Save as

Many pupil-produced documents have their origins in word processors – Word, Pages, Google document, Open Office Writer etc. All can be saved and attached to an email/webpage in the format in which they were created. This may limit their use, as the same word processor will be required by the recipient/viewer to see the document. By saving the document in .pdf format, a number of other options are open to us. “When you convert documents, forms, graphics, and web pages to PDF, they look just like they would if printed... When you share a PDF file, virtually anyone can read it using free Adobe Reader® software or the Adobe Reader mobile app” (www.adobe.com).



Reading old documents with new technology

Hand-held devices including smartphones and tablet computers are being used increasingly in our classrooms. Many of the documents we have created over the years may not be viewed on these devices in the format in which they were created. However, they can be viewed if the original document is resaved as above. It must be acknowledged that more and more app developers are allowing the use of multiple document formats to be read.



'Flipping' online books

Flipsnack enables us to create 'flipping' books to be viewed online whereby the reader progresses from page to page with a mouse click/swipe. A teacher-centred platform <http://flipsnackedu.com> allows teachers create a full class profile and thus control all sharing options of the publications. The PDST guide to teaching fractions (www.pdst.ie/node/1109) has

been published online using this tool.

All documents must be in PDF format before they can be published in *Flipsnack*. For pupil documents, the link to the document can be shared with parents. For more advanced users, the embed code can be used to embed the document in a school website or blog.

Sharing and publishing presentations online

The same process can apply to presentations we have created over the years in a variety of formats – Powerpoint, Keynote, Google presentation, Open Office Impress etc. All can be saved as PDF in order to be viewed and/or re-used using a variety of other tools applications. Slideshare facilitates the upload of PDF and a number of Microsoft and Open Office formats so that documents/presentations can be shared/published online. To eliminate advertisements, a subscription-based plan is a requirement. Google documents and presentations can be published (link/embed code) but may not be viewable in all browsers.

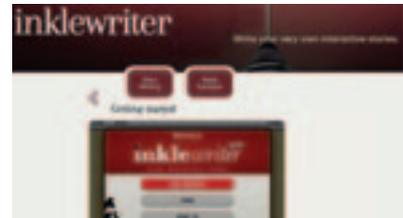
Multimedia publications

Publications do not have to be confined to documents and presentations and one popular option with schools is the use of *Animoto* allowing text/images/video and music to be combined together and published online in video format. This is a fantastic tool for presenting school events and projects. All teachers can apply for a free pro account at <http://animoto.com/education/classroom>



Interactive adventure stories with multiple options...

For teachers (and pupils in senior classes with advanced writing skills) who like to write and publish their own stories, *Inklewriter* offers a free tool and platform to create and publish interactive adventure stories whereby multiple decisions and outcomes can be managed within each story. Each story begins life as a series of scrap papers in the middle of the *Inklewriter* workbench. Choices can be



added to every aspect of the story so the reader can embark on a journey with multiple outcomes. Of course, options have to link together before the story is complete – a very good way to teach story planning and sequencing. Images can be added – not from file but rather by submitting the image url. Copyright free images can only be added – *Inklewriter* will not facilitate the uploading of copyrighted images – a lesson in itself to students.

Inklewriter can be used without signing in. Your story will be saved locally in your browser and be available every time you come back. However, it is only possible to work on one story at a time. Furthermore, if you work locally, you cannot share your stories with others. Creating your own profile removes these restrictions. A teacher can also create profiles for students without the need of an email address – another very useful feature.

What an exciting time to be a writer in schools – there are so many options for us to present our stories!

Compiled by **SEÁN GALLAGHER**, PDST Technology in Education.

Enrol in an online summer course from PDST Technology in Education

This summer's online courses are:

- ✦ Scratch for Literacy and Numeracy
- ✦ Tablets for Literacy and Numeracy
- ✦ Using the Interactive Whiteboard to Support Literacy.

Courses are fully funded by PDST Technology in Education and provided free of charge for teachers. A Scoilnet Account is needed for enrolment. These courses tend to be popular and fill fast. Links to course descriptions and enrolment information are available at TeacherCPD.ie.

