



Linking Logic with Literacy: Using Code Jumper to Construct Narratives

Session abstract

Substantial effort has gone into creating tools to teach young students to program. Most existing tools are highly visual in nature, both how code is manipulated (dragging and dropping blocks) and how the code behaves (showing animations). Although Code Jumper was developed with the needs of students with visual impairments in mind, it was designed to be used with all students. It enables everyone to learn fundamental programming concepts in a very concrete, collaborative, and tangible way. Many other disciplines such as occupational therapy can utilize strategies to build skills through Code Jumper. In this hands-on workshop, participants will be given an in-depth introduction to the Code Jumper materials, some basic coding vocabulary for anyone who is not familiar with coding, as well as some concrete examples and cross-disciplinary ideas for ways to implement Code Jumper into any classroom.

Brief description of session

In this hands-on workshop, participants will receive an in-depth introduction to Code Jumper, basic coding vocabulary for anyone who is not familiar with coding, as well as concrete examples and cross-disciplinary ideas of ways to implement Code Jumper with any student.

Michelle Cundiff has been with the American Printing House for the Blind since December of 2015. She began as an intern in the Government and Community Affairs Department, where she led the public through APH's halls as a tour guide. After moving into a full-time position in the Education and Outreach Department in 2016, Michelle was involved with some behind-the-scenes logistics for events, such as packing and shipping APH's products for exhibits, trainings, and presentations. Now, Michelle's work includes exhibiting at conferences and presenting on APH products. Michelle has exhibited at conferences such as AER International, OCALICON, and CSUN. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and is a member of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER).



Li Zhou has a B.S. in mathematics from Capital Normal University in China, and a M.Ed. and an Ed.D. in special education from Texas Tech University. He has worked as a math and physics teacher at Beijing School for the Blind in China and as a post-doctoral associate at Mississippi State University. He has participated in several research projects focusing on education of students with visual impairments. Since 2013, Li has been working at the American Printing House for the Blind as a Core Curriculum Project Leader.

Robin Lowell has been teaching for 15 years as a special education teacher. She started in Bend, Oregon as a teacher of students who are blind and visually Impaired and then moved to The Washington State School for the Blind as a distance education high school mathematics teacher. Currently, she is working in the Issaquah School District as a special education teacher and content developer for i2e and APH. She lives in Issaquah, WA with her husband, three children and a boxer with a visual impairment.

