

Development work has begun on Monticello Digital Classroom

Thomas Jefferson Foundation staff members are in the process of creating the Monticello Digital Classroom, a special section of Monticello's Web site designed specifically for teachers and students at the mid-elementary to early high school levels.

Intended to meet the needs of the current classroom environment, the Monticello Digital Classroom will offer a variety of features, including:

- A small library of short, grade-appropriate reports and suggested classroom activities on a range of topics related to Jefferson and Monticello.
- A collection of images and media files offering primary source materials, readings of historic documents, and excerpts from Monticello's video archives.
- A database of lesson plans that can be searched by topic, grade level, and curriculum and that allows teachers to submit their own plans for use by their colleagues elsewhere.
- A "teacher toolbox" that teachers can use to create and share resources with students and colleagues alike.
- A section for special interactive features that allows students to bring together some of the materials they've found in the MDC in a creative, entertaining and educational way.

The Foundation has contracted Terra Incognita of Austin, Texas, as

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creative and technical consultants on the project. Consistently ranked among the best educational content on the Web, Terra Incognita's work has been recognized by Museums and the Web, the American Association of Museums, the Webby Awards, and numerous publications.

The Monticello Digital Classroom, which is being funded by the John & Amy Griffin Foundation, Inc., is scheduled to be online by the end of this year.

COMMENTS? newsletter@monticello.org