Keeping Current on Educational Resources

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March 2006
Icebreaker

- Pair up
- Tell your partner:
  - Your name
  - Where you’re from and what you do
  - What you hope to get out of this
  - At least one professional development resource you use
- You tell whole group what your partner told you
Overview

- What is RSS?
  - How to Find and Read Feeds
    - Bloglines
- What are Blogs?
  - How to Find and Read Blogs
- What is Social Bookmarking?
  - del.icio.us
- How to Publish Blogs
  - Blogger and Wordpress
What is RSS?

Alternately called:
- RDF (Resource Description Framework) Site Summary
- Rich Site Summary
- Really Simple Syndication (this last one seems to have won out)

Way to syndicate content--to make content come to you without you having to check for updates on a continual basis
Why You Would Use RSS

If you want an efficient way to monitor lots of sources of information

Advantages to RSS

- Less clicking and more reading!
- Helps to keep track of frequently AND infrequently updated sites
- Little spam or ads (a la TIVO)
- Spares your e-mail inbox
- Information presented how YOU want it—no reading weird color schemes

Disadvantages to RSS

- Some feeds just have a headline or excerpt, no full text
- Your favorite site may not yet have RSS—but you can created a feed for the site (more on this later)
- You were once clicking to 200 sites a day, now you’re reading 200 RSS feeds!

How do you know it’s an RSS Feed?

- Little orange XML, Atom or RSS button or text; syndicate this site

- Your browser will show it (Firefox, Safari, Opera; soon IE)

How to get RSS Feeds

- To read them, you need an RSS or feed reader, aka a news aggregator-software program that collects and reads RSS feeds
  - desktop (Amphetadesk (PC) or NetNewsWire (Mac))
  - web-based (Bloglines); even incorporated into browser (Firefox)
  - can be paid or free

- See list of readers at [http://allrss.com/rssreaders.html](http://allrss.com/rssreaders.html)
  - from Peter Scott's RSS Compendium
Setting up an RSS reader

  - Web-based so I can read it anywhere
  - Free
  - Easy to set up
  - Not just for blogs but for any feed
  - Username: mann_ref@cornell.edu; Password: mannclass

- Pick a couple of subscriptions from their list just to see how it works

- Some things you can do with Bloglines:
  - Add and delete feeds
  - Clip, keep or email items
  - Organize feeds and clippings into folders

How to get RSS Feeds*

- Look for symbols or text
- Your news aggregator (Bloglines Quick Picks)
- You can use Google to check particular sites
  - site:nea.org rss

How to get RSS Feeds*

Feed locators and search engines

- 2RSS.com: http://www.2rss.com/
- Feedster: http://www.feedster.com/
- Syndic8: http://www.syndic8.com/

Feed examples for education

- News
    (scroll to bottom and click on Add NY Times RSS feeds to get to feed)

- Curriculum
  - NSDL:  
    [http://nsdl.org/resources_for/k12_teachers/?pager=newsfeed](http://nsdl.org/resources_for/k12_teachers/?pager=newsfeed)

- Stats/Research
  - National Center for Education Statistics:  

- Association
  - NEA: [http://www.nea.org/newsletters/NEARSS.html](http://www.nea.org/newsletters/NEARSS.html)
RSS & blogs

- RSS feeds
  - From many sources
  - Usually automatically generated by blogs
What are Blogs?

- "Blog/WebLog: a web page containing brief, chronologically arranged items of information. A blog can take the form of a diary, journal, what's new page, or links to other web sites."

- Most blogging software produces RSS feeds.

Sunday, November 06, 2005

Sunday in Addis

A quiet day today. I've just been working through my e-mail and working on my blogs & RSS presentation. I also cross-posted the following to my other blog, "Entertaining Myself To Death".

This article, "Shock and Awe When the IT Stops" by Terry Calhoun at http://www.campus-technology.com/news_article.asp?id=11986&typeid=153 has particular resonance right now as I am taking to people who have little access to the digital windows of the world, as I mediate my experience in Africa through the digital window of my blog, and as I see the events happening in Addis through the double screens of the internet/TV and word of mouth. . .

I think I am going to step away from all screens today and go sit by the pool. . .

posted by Camille @ 6:57 AM 0 comments
What kinds of blogs are there?

- Pundit, news, and political blogs (“citizen journalists”)
- Personal journals and diaries
- Business/corporate blogs
- Organizational and project blogs (including blogs for communities of interest and practice)
  - For professional development
  - For organizational knowledge management
- Not all text-based: Picture, audio (podcasting), and video (screen or vodcasting)
Blogs in education

- **Personal**
  - Eduwonk- http://www.eduwonk.com/

- **Classroom**
  - Applied Science research class- http://www.appliedscienceresearch.blogspot.com/

- **Organizational**
  - Associations
    - Association for Educational Technology
    - http://www.aect-members.org/
How to Find Them?

- **Blogging indexes and search engines**
  - Blogdex-[http://blogdex.net/](http://blogdex.net/)
  - Your news aggregator (e.g. Bloglines)
How to Find Them?

- **Blogrolls and Blog Recommendation Pages**
  - Blogrolls-Lists of links to other blogs the author is reading found in the sidebars
  - Links to other blogs within posts
  - Blog recommendation pages
    - e.g. Blogging about Incredible Blogs
      
A few caveats on blog reading

- As with all information, evaluate!
  - Accuracy, currency, purpose, reliability, coverage, bias
  - Often good for personal opinion, current trends, current awareness
  - Not always good for scholarly or comprehensive reference
  - Realize that “facts” and opinions change and always verify information

- Preaching to the choir or the problem of audience
Six reasons to read feeds

- Current awareness and personal information management
- Conversations taking place and subjects being discussed here that aren't elsewhere
- Faster updates
- Easy to explore other fields
- For fun!
See What Other People Are Reading

Another way of tracking. . .

- See what others are reading and save through. . .

Social Bookmarking!
Social Bookmarking: What Is It? (1)

- Web-based system of bookmarks or favorites
- Accessible from any Internet-connected computer
  - No more finding you’ve saved a bookmark you need on your home computer while you’re at work
  - No more e-mailing links between computers
- Easy to save things (bookmarklets)
What Is It? (2)

- Added feature: tagging or “folksonomies”

- Everyone “tags” saved websites with their own keywords
  - i.e., I could save Mann Library website with tags like mann, mannlibrary, library, myjob, etc.

- No more bookmarking in multiple folders and allows multiple categorizations and uses
Problems with tagging

- Everyone calls everything something different (blogs, blog, blogging; tagging, folksonomy, del.icio.us, social bookmarking)

- Synonyms and multilingual issues (rose- pink in French, flower in English)

- Perspective (me, toread, torec)
Extra-Special Feature! Collaborative--everyone can see what you bookmarked and how you’ve tagged (though some applications allow privacy)

In looking at what others have tagged with the same or similar words, you can discover other resources
Social bookmarking applications

- Del.icio.us
  - [http://del.icio.us/](http://del.icio.us/)
  - Popular general social bookmarking site
  - Mann Library Class test site
    - Username: mannlibraryclass
    - Password: mannclass
  - Main features:
    - Page Title
    - Description (optional)
    - URL
    - Tags
Other social bookmarking applications

- **Scuttedu** - for educators (allows notes on grade level, subject area); in development; [http://idea.zanestate.edu/archives/2005/08/announcing-scuttedu/](http://idea.zanestate.edu/archives/2005/08/announcing-scuttedu/)

- See example at [http://blogs.zanestate.edu/mybookmarks/browse.php](http://blogs.zanestate.edu/mybookmarks/browse.php)

Browse bookmarks by subject + grade

- Biology :: Grades 1-2
- Business
- Computers :: Grades 6-8 :: Grades 9-12 :: Higher Ed
- Early Childhood Education :: Grades 1-2
- English :: Grades 9-12 :: Higher Ed
- German :: Higher Ed
- History :: Grades 6-8 :: Higher Ed
- Information Technology :: Grades 6-8 :: Higher Ed
- Law Studies :: Higher Ed
- Math :: Grades 1-2 :: Grades 6-8
- Physics :: Grades PreK-K
- Science :: Grades 6-8 :: Grades 9-12 :: Higher Ed
- Social Studies :: Grades 3-5 :: Grades 6-8 :: Grades 9-12 :: Higher Ed
- Spanish :: Grades 9-12
Other social bookmarking applications

- **Furl**-[http://www.furl.net/index.jsp](http://www.furl.net/index.jsp)
  - General service like del.icio.us but also saves page and allows comments, rating of pages

- **Citeulike**-[http://www.citeulike.org/](http://www.citeulike.org/)
  - for academics (allows academic citation info, export into BibTex format, notes, includes lots of biological and medical papers)
Not just web bookmarks

- **Flickr**
  - [http://www.flickr.com/](http://www.flickr.com/)
  - Photos

- **43 Things**
  - [http://www.43things.com/](http://www.43things.com/)
  - Things to do

- **LiveJournal, Technorati**
  - Blog posts
Which one?

- Social Bookmarking Comparison Tool
  http://www.consultantcommons.org/node/239

- Not limited to just one
  - Multiple bookmarklet tool
    http://jade.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/alan/marklet_maker.php
Problems with tagging

- Not on your computer. What if it goes down?
- Free for now but later?
- Spam
Tagging is good for

- browsing
- finding other people’s opinions and interests
- catching latest trends,
- triangulating terms and concepts
- new things, things that change over time
The Next Step

- It’s very easy to read and keep what other people are reading and publishing, but what if you want to publish your own blog?
Why blog?

- Easy method of web publication
  - Not necessary to know HTML
  - Content is easily reusable and distributed via RSS; can add updated content to websites
- Management of information for personal or organizational use
- Learning
- Expression
- Community
A few caveats on publishing blogs

- Private vs. public or there’s no such thing as total anonymity
- Blogging ethics and policies
  - Will Richardson’s teacher-blogger thoughts
  - http://www.weblogg-ed.com/2005/02/11#a3122
- Organizational policy
How do you publish a blog?

- Numerous blogging tools
- Client or server-based (they host or you host)
- Client--they host (free and paid)
  - Wordpress.com (free)
    [http://wordpress.com/](http://wordpress.com/)
  - Livejournal (free)
  - TypePad (paid)
  - Bloglines even lets you create a quick and dirty blog
Getting Started with Blogger

  - Quick and easy blogging tool with very basic functionality
  - They can host (Blogspot) or you can host on your own server
  - Free!
  - Now owned by Google
Other blogging programs

- If you want more functionality, use a server-based program (you’ll need your own space on a server with ability to install software)
  - Wordpress (free and open source)-
    http://wordpress.org/
    - You can host other blogs (see James Farmer’s Edublogs.org-http://edublogs.org/)
    - Uses Wordpress but he hosts
  - Movable Type (free and paid versions)-
    http://www.sixapart.com/movabletype/
Other blogging programs

- Services can range from the very simple to full content management systems
  - multiple blogs with multiple authors
  - security/authorship levels; password protection
  - categories for posts
  - trackbacks so you can see who’s linked to your post; pingbacks so you can let authors know you linked to them, etc.
Want to try blogging?

- Sign up for an account
  OR
- If you’d like to play with the Mann Library Class blogs on
  - Blogger: I will send everyone an invite to be added as a user to http://educurrent.blogspot.com/
  - Wordpress.com: Sign up and e-mail me your user name so that I can add you to http://mannclassblog.wordpress.com/
More information on RSS

General RSS resources:

- RSS tutorial: [http://rssgov.com/rssworkshop.html](http://rssgov.com/rssworkshop.html)
- RSS tutorial for content publishers and webmasters: [http://www.mnot.net/rss/tutorial/](http://www.mnot.net/rss/tutorial/)

And many many more…
More information on blogs

- The Internet Courses: Weblogs-Dr. L. Anne Clyde, Professor, Faculty of Social Science, The University of Iceland—http://www.hi.is/~anne/weblogs.html

- Weblogs Compendium—Peter Scott http://www.lights.com/weblogs/

More info on social bookmarking

- April 2005 issue of DLib magazine
  - “Social Bookmarking Tools (II): A Case Study – Connotea” - Ben Lund, et al. (http://www.dlib.org/dlib/april05/lund/04lund.html)

- del.icious bookmarks for this workshop
  - http://del.icio.us/tag/Mannteachers
Questions?

- Contact me at:
  255-8673 or ca92@cornell.edu

Thanks for coming and good luck keeping current!