

*This section provides a number of helpful blogging resources, ranging from background information to support considerations.*

## General Information

### Background

These sites offer general discussions about the use of blogging for teaching and learning:

- Steven Downes, "Educational Blogging," *EDUCAUSE Review* 39, no. 5 (September/October 2004): 14–26, <http://www.educause.edu/pub/er/erm04/erm0450.asp>: A thorough overview of the development of blogs and their use in teaching and learning, their benefits and challenges, and commonly used blogging tools.
- Blogs for Learning, <http://blogsforlearning.msu.edu/>: A Web site run by Michigan State University offering articles, case studies, tutorials, and other resources for instructional blogging.
- Scott Leslie, "Matrix of Some Uses of Blogs in Education," October 9, 2003, *EdTechPost*, <http://edtechpost.ca/wordpress/2003/10/09/Matrix-of-some-uses-of-blogs-in-education>: A matrix showing some of the potential educational uses of blogging.

### Examples

A variety of exemplary blogs in higher education and beyond are accessible through the links below. For more higher education examples, see the "What are others doing" section of this guide.

- Blogging: Select Higher Ed Blogs, <http://academic-blog.blogspot.com/>: A collection of links to examples of blogging in a variety of higher education settings.
- CNET News.com Blog 100, [http://news.com.com/2310-10784\\_3-0.html](http://news.com.com/2310-10784_3-0.html): CNET's handpicked list of top blog sites in a variety of technology-oriented topic areas.
- The Edublog Award Winners 2006, <http://incsub.org/awards/2006/the-edublog-awards-2006-winners/>: Highlights the international teaching and learning community's top picks for group blog, individual blog, individual post, and several other blogging categories for both K–12 and higher education.
- *Guardian* U.K.'s Weblogs We Like, <http://www.guardian.co.uk/weblog/special/0,10627,744914,00.html>: Links to blogs from across the world on a wide range of topics, from news to technology to culture.

## Implementation

### Basic Guidelines

These sites cover the practical basics of blogging, from setting up an individual blog to blogging services available for institutional use:

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*This section is part of the **EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative Discovery Tool: Guide to Blogging**. The guide is designed to help you explore blogging's potential and limitations, where it fits in the broader context of teaching and learning in higher education, and how you might approach implementation. Each section can be used independently to accomplish specific goals, or all units can be used together for a comprehensive process guide. Find the complete Guide to Blogging at [www.educause.edu/GuideToBlogging](http://www.educause.edu/GuideToBlogging).*

**ELI Discovery Tools** are practical resources designed to support the development and implementation of teaching, learning, and technology projects on campus. They are available to ELI members only.

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## Where can I learn more?

- Mark Glaser, "Your Guide to Blogging," May 16, 2006, *MediaShift*, [http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2006/05/digging\\_deeperyour\\_guide\\_to\\_bl.html](http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2006/05/digging_deeperyour_guide_to_bl.html): Basic information for blogging beginners, including a description of what blogging is, common terminology, how to get started, and how to find other blogs.
- Blogging to Enhance Learning Experiences, an online forum facilitated by SCoPE (February 12–15, 2007), <http://scope.lidc.sfu.ca/mod/forum/view.php?id=400>: Online moderated forum on educational blogging, with helpful discussions covering a number of practical topics and common questions, including getting started with blogging, blogging software, and student perspectives.
- The Giant Blogging Terms Glossary, <http://www.quickonlinetips.com/archives/2006/06/the-giant-blogging-terms-glossary/>: An exhaustive list of the terms used in blogging accompanied by definitions, plus links to other blogging basics.
- How to Blog Safely (About Work or Anything Else), Electronic Frontier Foundation, May 31, 2005, <http://www.eff.org/Privacy/Anonymity/blog-anonymously.php>: Tips for protecting privacy and freedom of speech when blogging.

## Bloggng Services

The following are some of the blogging services commonly used in higher education and beyond:

- Blogger: <http://www.blogger.com/>
- Drupal: <http://drupal.org/>
- Edublogs: <http://edublogs.org/>
- Elgg: <http://elgg.org/>
- mo'time: <http://www.motime.com/>
- tBlog: <http://tblog.com/>
- LiveJournal: <http://www.livejournal.com/>
- Movable Type: <http://www.movabletype.org/>
- TypePad: <http://www.typepad.com/>
- WordPress: <http://wordpress.org/>
- Blog Software Comparison Chart, July 14, 2005, *USC Annenberg Online Journalism Review*, [http://www.ojr.org/ojr/images/blog\\_software\\_comparison.cfm](http://www.ojr.org/ojr/images/blog_software_comparison.cfm): Helpful chart comparing functionality, design tools, the publishing interface, spam-fighting features, and extras (like moblogging or photo galleries) across a variety of free blogging services.



## Blog Search Engines

The following are two of the more prominent blog search engines for searching hundreds of blogs and blog posts by keyword or topic. Functioning the same as basic search engines, these services search the Web and index blog posts. Blog owners can also submit their sites to these services to increase visibility:

- Technorati: <http://technorati.com/>
- IceRocket: <http://www.icerocket.com/>

## RSS Readers/Aggregators

RSS readers and aggregators are software clients or add-ons that facilitate subscribing to the posts of one or multiple blogs:

- Your Guide to RSS, [http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2006/07/digging\\_deeperyour\\_guide\\_to\\_rs.html](http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2006/07/digging_deeperyour_guide_to_rs.html): Helpful basic information and tips on RSS.

Following are some of the more commonly used RSS readers:

- NewGator/NetNewsWire/FeedDemon: <http://www.newsgator.com/Individuals/Default.aspx>
- NewsFire: <http://www.newsfirerss.com/>
- Bloglines: <http://www.bloglines.com/>
- Google Reader: <http://www.google.com/reader/view/>
- Sage: <http://sage.mozdev.org/>

Readers are built into these personal portals and others:

- My Yahoo!: <http://my.yahoo.com/>
- Windows Live: <http://www.live.com/>



## Blog Enhancements

The following pages list some blog add-ons that can expand the functionality and add to the personalization of blogs:

- WordPress Widgets: <http://widgets.wordpress.com/>
- Blogger Add-Ons: <http://help.blogger.com/bin/topic.py?topic=8931>
- Yahoo! Widgets: <http://widgets.yahoo.com/gallery/>

## Photoblogging and Moblogging

These links demonstrate the shape that these two varieties of blogging can take:

- Photoblogs.org, <http://www.photoblogs.org/>: A portal that includes links to photoblogs (photo-based blogs) as well as how-to information.
- "Moblogging Projects," February 13, 2006, *Bloggng Pedagogy*, <http://pedagogy.cwrl.utexas.edu/?q=node/28>: Brief information about moblogging (blogging from a mobile device) and two examples of its pedagogical use.

## Support Considerations

### Faculty Perspectives

The sites below present views of several faculty on the use of blogging to support learning in higher education:

- bgblogging, [http://mt.middlebury.edu/middblogs/ganley/bgblogging/classroom\\_blogging/](http://mt.middlebury.edu/middblogs/ganley/bgblogging/classroom_blogging/): Posts on classroom blogging from Barbara Ganley, Middlebury English professor and longtime user of blogging for teaching and learning.

- Kara M. Dawson, "Blog Overload," January 30, 2007, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, <http://chronicle.com/jobs/news/2007/01/2007013001c/careers.html>: An alternate perspective of blog use for teaching and learning, presenting a brief and personal look at some of the challenges as well as tips for increasing their efficacy.
- "Interactivism: Implementing and Integrating Blogs in the Classroom," May 31, 2007, *Faculty Academy on Instructional Technologies*, <http://facultyacademy.org/blog07/interactivism-implementing-and-integrating-blogs-in-the-classroom/>: Podcast of a panel discussion with Laura Blankenship, Susan Fernsebner, and Angela Gosetti-Murrayjohn, three faculty who use blogging for teaching and learning.

## Student Readiness

These sites highlight student expectations, abilities, and needs regarding instructional technology, with a focus on blogging:

- Karl Fisch, "Blogging: In Their Own Words," June 16, 2007, *The Fischbowl*, <http://thefischbowl.blogspot.com/2007/06/blogging-in-their-own-words.html>: Video of high school students talking about using blogging for learning, whose perspectives hold value for the college and university setting as well.
- Jennifer Sullivan, "Blogging from a Student's Perspective," February 12–25, 2007, posts to the forum of the Blogging to Enhance Learning Experiences event, <http://scope.lidc.sfu.ca/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=429>: Several postings by students about their views of blogging in the classroom.
- Diana Oblinger and Brian Hawkins, "The Myth About Student Competency," *EDUCAUSE Review* 41, no. 2 (March/April 2006), 12–13, <http://www.educause.edu/apps/er/erm06/erm0627.asp>: A discussion of student technology know-how and the ways it often hides critical gaps in student information literacy.

## Examples of Institutional Blogging Support Services

The sites below show some of the different ways educational blogging services can be offered in a higher education setting:

- Brown University, Instructional Technology Group, <http://www.brown.edu/Facilities/CIS/Faculty/Tools/blogs.html>.
- Tufts University, Spark suite of communication and collaboration tools that includes blogs, <http://spark.uit.tufts.edu/index.jsp>.
- University of Arizona, Instructional Blogging and Best Practices page, <http://elearn.arizona.edu/blogs/bestpractices/>.
- University of Florida, Tools and Techniques Toolbox for Blogs page, [http://www.citt.ufl.edu/toolbox/toolbox\\_blogs.php](http://www.citt.ufl.edu/toolbox/toolbox_blogs.php).
- University of Wisconsin, "Blogs: Uses in an Educational Setting," online seminar, <http://academictech.doit.wisc.edu/workshops/epedagogy/sessions/epedagogyBlogs.htm>.
- Warwick University, Warwick Blogs getting-started page, <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/its/servicessupport/web/blogs/>.
- Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Creating Blogs in Your Course, <http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/ATC/Collaboratory/HowTo/MyWPI/blogs.html>.

### Deciding if Blogging Is Right for Your Learning Goals

- Applying Technology to Teaching and Learning, ELI Discovery Tools, 2006, EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative, <http://www.educause.edu/11816>: A set of guides to help select and integrate technology into teaching and learning (open to ELI members only).

### Legal Considerations—General

U.S. laws affecting intellectual property, privacy, and other areas that relate to blogging are discussed on the sites below:

- 12 Important U.S. Laws Every Blogger Needs to Know, <http://www.avivadirectory.com/blogger-law/>: A quick summary of the important legal concerns for bloggers.
- Bloggers FAQ—Student Blogging, Electronic Frontier Foundation, <http://www.eff.org/bloggers/lq/faq-students.php>: Touches on legal issues arising from student blogging; although focused on high school students, includes some information for college students.
- Legal Guide for Bloggers, Electronic Frontier Foundation, <http://www.eff.org/bloggers/lq/>: An extensive set of resources on the legal issues of blogging.

### Legal Considerations—Institutional Policy

- Non-Pseudonymous Student Blogging: Ethical and Legal Concerns, *Blogs for Learning*, <http://blogsforlearning.msu.edu/blog/archives/2>.

The following are samples of institutional policies dealing with FERPA and other legal issues particular to higher education. As recommended throughout this guide, consult your legal counsel for guidance on specific campus policies.

- North Carolina State University, WolfBlogs: Information for Faculty, <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/blogs/faculty.html>.
- University of Minnesota, Blog Service Guidelines and Description, <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/uthink/service.phtml>.