

The Anatomy of Blogging



- What is a blog?
- Where do blogs come from?
- Who blogs?
- Why blog?
- What makes a blog a blog?
- Where to blog?
- How to blog?
- And - blogs at Princeton?

- Picture from jill/txt's previous site design - still there in the archives, see for example this post:
 - http://huminf.uib.no/~jill/archives/working_in_a_university/does_blogging_count_as_scholarship.html

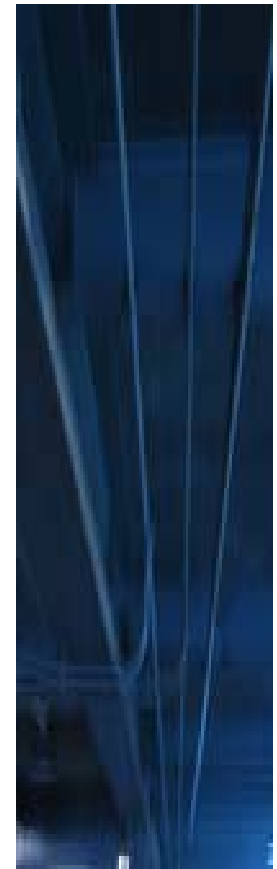
What is a blog?



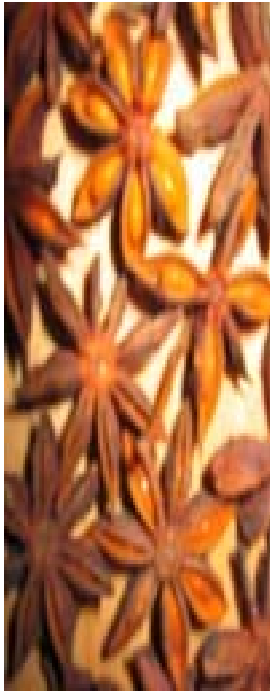
- Frequent, often daily entries
- Displayed in reverse chronological order
- Links, often with commentary
- Pictures, personal and not
- Thoughts, ideas, personal reflections – often on what other bloggers also reflected on
- For one blogger it's her “external memory”: [Weez \(weez.oyzon.com\)](http://weez.oyzon.com)
- Reactions to current events,
- Record of how someone copes with a difficult situation
- Whatever the blogger's wants...

What else makes a blog?

- **Only appears to be diary-like...**
- **Real power of blogs in their networked nature:**
 - **Links aren't presented in isolation but placed into new context, which is often explained with commentary**
 - **Commenting on other blogs**
 - **Trackback pings**
 - **Blogrolls**
 - **RSS feeds and aggregators**



Where do blogs come from?



- A brief history...
 - Term ‘weblog’ coined in 1997; word ‘blog’ came into use in 1999, with breaking of phrase ‘weblog’ into ‘we blog’
 - Blogging really took off with creation of [Blogger](#) in 1999 by Pyra
 - Works with any browser
 - Simple interface doesn’t impose content limitations and invites users to write and post anything that occurs to them
 - Then: 9/11...
 - The Iraq conflict – and the famous Salaam Pax blog
 - Now: a campaign tool...
- See: Rebecca Blood’s [article \(www.rebeccablood.net/essays/weblog_history.html\)](http://www.rebeccablood.net/essays/weblog_history.html)

Who blogs?

- A few blogs...:
 - Politics - [Daily Kos \(dailykos.com\)](http://dailykos.com) and [Instapundit \(instapundit.com\)](http://instapundit.com)
 - Personal-professional journals of academics, like [scribblingwoman \(www.unbsj.ca/arts/english/jones/mt\)](http://www.unbsj.ca/arts/english/jones/mt) and [Easily Distracted](http://mezzoblue.com), or software professionals [mezzoblue \(mezzoblue.com\)](http://mezzoblue.com) (www.mezzoblue.com)
 - Researchers who research networked art, literature and - blogs: [jill/txt](http://huminf.uib.no/~jill) (huminf.uib.no/~jill)
 - Accounts of a personal journey, like one adjunct professor's decision to leave academia: Invisible Adjunct (www.invisibleadjunct.com)
 - Collection of fun/funny links [BoingBoing](http://boingboing.net) (boingboing.net)
 - Literary works re-published in daily installments, like Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (www.unpopularculture.org) or Sei Shonagon's medieval Japanese diary the *Pillow Book*, translated into English by the blogger [Pillow Talk \(blog.simon-cozens.org/shonagon\)](http://blog.simon-cozens.org/shonagon)
 - Group blogs, like [Crooked Timber](http://www.crookedtimber.org) (www.crookedtimber.org), maintained by a group of academics – or in a specific field like the rhetoric, technology and pedagogy group blog [Kairosnews \(kairosnews.org\)](http://kairosnews.org)
 - And many, many personal blogs that combine elements from all of the above... and these are just the ones in English!



What makes a blog a blog?



scribblingwoman

Probably about books, c18, detritus, parenting, poaching, print, sf, or writing.

Someone who likes books, who thinks who lives in unsatisfying society will usually be a good letter-writer.

Friedrich Nietzsche

ABOUT

OCTOBER 2004

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

BLOGGY QUOTE OF THE DAY

On blogging: "most of us out of sight and lights and by."

October 05, 2004

18th costumes and textiles



Jim Chevallier points towards a "tiny but sumptuous" exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Luxury Textiles East and West, many items of which can be viewed online (from C18-L). Browse the Museum's 18th-century holdings.

Scribbled at 07:35 PM AST | Permalink | Hmmm? (0) | TrackBack (0) | Link Cosmos | More? c18th

RECENT ENTRIES

18th costumes and textiles
For the one who has everything
Wierd SF
Can't talk—
Unhappy postscript
SF stuff
We are inexplicable
Slowly, slowly, putting
Academic blogging
Banned books

RECENT COMMENTS

Sharon on Can't talk—... [Go]
LIL on For the one who has everything... [Go]
karl on Wierd SF... [Go]
mjones on Can't talk—... [Go]
... [Go]
... halfway on [Go]
... can't talk—... [Go]
mjones on Can't talk—... [Go]
Sharon on Can't talk—... [Go]
Ancarett on Can't talk—... [Go]

What makes a blog a blog?

MOVABLETYPE
Publishing Platform

MAIN MENU | HELP | LOGOUT | VIEW SITE

My Favorite Blog [Go]

Main Menu > My Favorite Blog > TrackBack Pings

TrackBack Pings

Here is the list of pings for My Favorite Blog.

Filter Options

Show pings where **Title** is **Filter**

Title	Excerpt	Date	Source	Delete
Silly.. but we all do it	My first reaction after reading about a Singaporean student who set a new world record for speedy text messaging was that it's a really silly thing to bother competing over. [Thanks to LiL for the link.] But then I realized...	2004.07.01 18:21:23	Crooked Timber (66.33.219.21)	<input type="checkbox"/>
You know you're from Vancouver if...	I have to get this out of my system. Yesterday, I wasted quite a bit of time by following Wolfangel's instruction to search for a "you know you're from..." list. She has two, one on Canada and one on Quebec....	2004.06.24 16:59:21	flaschenpost (142.103.152.129)	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Pit Bull on the Pant Leg of Opportunity	I hadn't planned on contributing to the "Poem on Your Blog Day" to honor the end of National Poetry Month, in part because so many other bloggers had contributed so many wonderful poems: From The Salt-Box, Jason points to T.S. Eliot's...	2004.04.30 17:25:27	the chutry experiment (216.40.250.86)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barbies, from PC to ... not	Two Barbie links, one to the unexceptionable "Midwife Mary," complete with LaLeche league tee and herbal tinctures, and the other...	2004.04.26 08:10:58	scribblingwoman (131.202.3.39)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children and the academy	There have been a series of posts lately on the singles/parents divide between	2004.04.23 15:48:23	scribblingwoman (131.202.3.39)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Document: Done

What makes a blog a blog?

September 21, 2004

Resistance is futile; you *will* be cute.

Two Borg stories, neither of which I would have blogged alone, but ... well it's just eerie, that's all.

Even sweeter than those little Borg babies in the fishtanks: the Borg assimilate My Little Pony (via *Boing Boing*).

And, another reason to be an atheist (via *Wierdwriter*).

Scribbled at 11:43 PM AST | Permalink | Hmmm? (0) | TrackBack (1) | Link Cosmos | More? films/tv, pop cul, sf

Life-changing books

Isabella posts about the same story I linked to in a smart-alecky way, a couple of days ago: the story about women listing books that changed their lives. She has some trouble coming up with such watershed books, though she does manage to find a few. I wonder, after reading her post, if it is not the books themselves that are so memorable but rather our state of mind when we read them. That is not to say that these books — in my case, Doris Lessing's *Martha Quest* series, some Anaïs Nin (okay, that's

trackback

link

acknowledging source of link

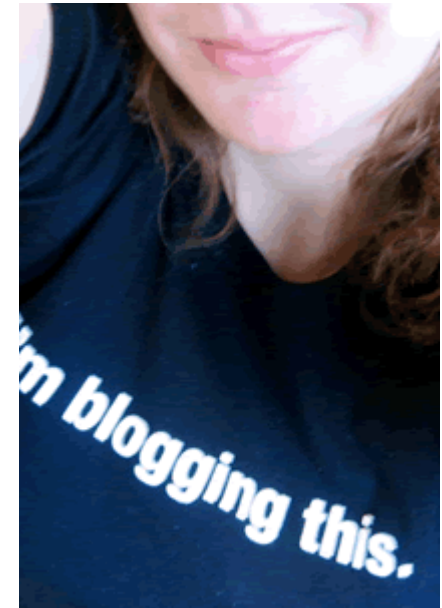
Where to blog?



- Hosted services:
 - Blogger
 - TypePad
 - LiveJournal
 - Radio Userland...
- With your own software installation:
 - Movable Type
 - WordPress
 - Blogger
 - on a server here or with a hosting service, like bloghosts.com
- At Princeton – for teaching and research

How to blog?

- **See, for example:**
 - **blog ethics from Rebecca Blood:**
http://www.rebeccablood.net/handbook/excerpts/weblog_ethics.html
 - **How to blog-socialize:**
<http://careo.elearning.ubc.ca/cgi-bin/wiki.pl?Blogshop/SocialBlogging>
 - **Evaluating student blogging (from Dennis Jerz):**
<http://blogs.setonhill.edu/DennisJerz/EL266/2004/004079.php>
(see also:
<http://jerz.setonhill.edu/weblog/permalink.jsp?id=2792>)
 - **Writing good blogs:**
http://www.blogwidow.com/articles/writing_good_blogs.shtml



And - blogs at Princeton?

- You can request blogs for research, teaching and academic programs at <http://www.princeton.edu/hcrs/blog-request-form.shtml>
- For assistance with these blogs, email blogs@princeton.edu
- And some of the blog-help bounty on the Web:
 - Blogger knowledge at the blogger website
 - Learning Movable Type (www.elise.com/mt, also for WordPress, and - Elise Bauer also has a great recipes blog...)
 - Any and all support forums
 - Blogshop: <http://jade.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/blogshop/>
 - Creating a blog with Movable Type <http://www.tokyoshoes.com/blogclass/>
 - Blogging 101: <http://www.unc.edu/%7Ezuiker/blogging101/index.html>
 - Movable Type templates tutorial: http://diveintomark.org/archives/2003/04/09/movable_type_templates_tutorial

