



Application of Web 2.0 for Enhancing Teaching Skills: Focus on Weblog

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ABSTRACT: The paper describes Web 2.0 tools and its applications in teaching and learning. The focus has been given on Weblog and how it can be used as a tool for teaching. Also describes the steps of developing a Weblog.

I. INTRODUCTION

For centuries, social and technological changes have been affecting every profession. During the last two decades rapid technological development has affected teaching and research as well. Specifically for the last five years, Web 2.0 technologies have significant impact on the higher education sector all over world.

II. WEB 2.0

Tim O'Reilly invented the term Web 2.0 in 2004. "Web 2.0" refers to web development and web design that facilitates interactive information sharing, interoperability, user-centered design and collaboration on the World Wide Web. Examples of Web 2.0 include web-based communities, hosted services, web applications, social-networking sites, video-sharing sites, wikis, blogs, mashups and folksonomies. A second generation of services available on the web that lets people collaborate and share information online. A Web 2.0 site allows its users to interact with other users or to change website content, in contrast to non-interactive websites where users are limited to the passive viewing of information that is provided to them.

III. NEED OF WEB 2.0

- Continuously changing : Impact of ICT on students Environment
- Way of Communication, interaction, sharing of knowledge

TRANSFORMATION OF WEB

Web 1.0	Versus	Web 2.0
E-mail	→	IM
Double Click	→	Google Ad Sense
Ofoto	→	Flicker
Akamail	→	Bit Torrent
Mp3.com	→	Napster
Britannica Online	→	Wikipedia
Personal websites	→	Blogging
Evite	→	Upcoming.org and EVDB
Domain name speculation	→	Search engine optimization
Page views	→	Cost per click
Screen scraping	→	Web services
Publishing	→	Participation
Content management systems	→	Wikis
Directories (taxonomy)	→	Tagging ("folksonomy")
stickiness	→	syndication

IV. TOOLS FOR WEB 2.0

- **Blogs** : A blog is a website where library users can enter their thoughts, ideas, suggestions and comments
- **Wikis** : A wiki is a webpage or set of WebPages that can be easily edited by anyone who is allowed access.

- **RSS** : It is a family of web feed formats used to published frequently updated work such as blog entries, news headlines, audio and video in a standardized format.
- **IM** : it is a collection of technologies that create the possibility of real-time text-based communication between two or more participants over the internet
- **Social Networking** : It is a service which focus on building online communities of people who share interests or activities.
- **Pod casting** : A podcast is a series of audio and video digital media which is distributed over the internet by syndicated download, through webfeeds, to portable media playfers and personal computers.
- **You Tube** : Allows users to upload, tag, watch, rate, review, view and even create play lists.
- **Tagging** : A tag is a keyword that is added to a digital object to describe it

V. APPLICATION OF WEB 2.0 IN TEACHING

Blog:

- Serve as a platform where the users can file their concern, quires and suggestions regarding the services and activities of the library.
- As a form of publication
- As a collection development tool where the users request the resources.
- Marketing of library and information services
- As a discussion forum.

Wikis

- Social interaction and discussions among the librarians and users.
- Wikis can also be used by users to share information and enhance the content and a record of these transactions is archived for future reference.
- As a Ref. resources to built for FAQ
- For creating subject guides, subject gateways etc.

RSS

- Announcement of the availability of new books and other resources in a given subject area.
- We can subscribe to RSS from the sources for compiling their customized alerts.
- Enhance library instruction programmes
- Promote events organized in the library
- Announce availability of new research and learning opportunities in various academic/research departments.
- Integrating library services through RSS feeds

IM

- Instant clarifications for the questions from users and vice versa.
- Reference librarians can also send text, video and audio files
- Online meetings
- For providing virtual reference services.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

- Librarians can create a page to approach to new users.
- It can be used to interact, share and exchange resources dynamically in an electronic medium.
- For building network among the interested group in discussing the common interest.
- Content can be added to the library catalogue, including users book reviews or other comments.

PODCASTING

- Podcasting promotional recordings about the library's services and programs
- It can be used for highlighting about new resources.
- Podcasts enable librarians to share information with anyone at any time.
- It can be a publishing tool for users and librarians oral presentations.

YOUTUBE

- *It can be used as publishing tool.*

TAGGING

- It can be applied to the LIS for editing the subject headings from the user point of view and there by enhancing the indexing and relevancy of the searches, making the collection more dynamic

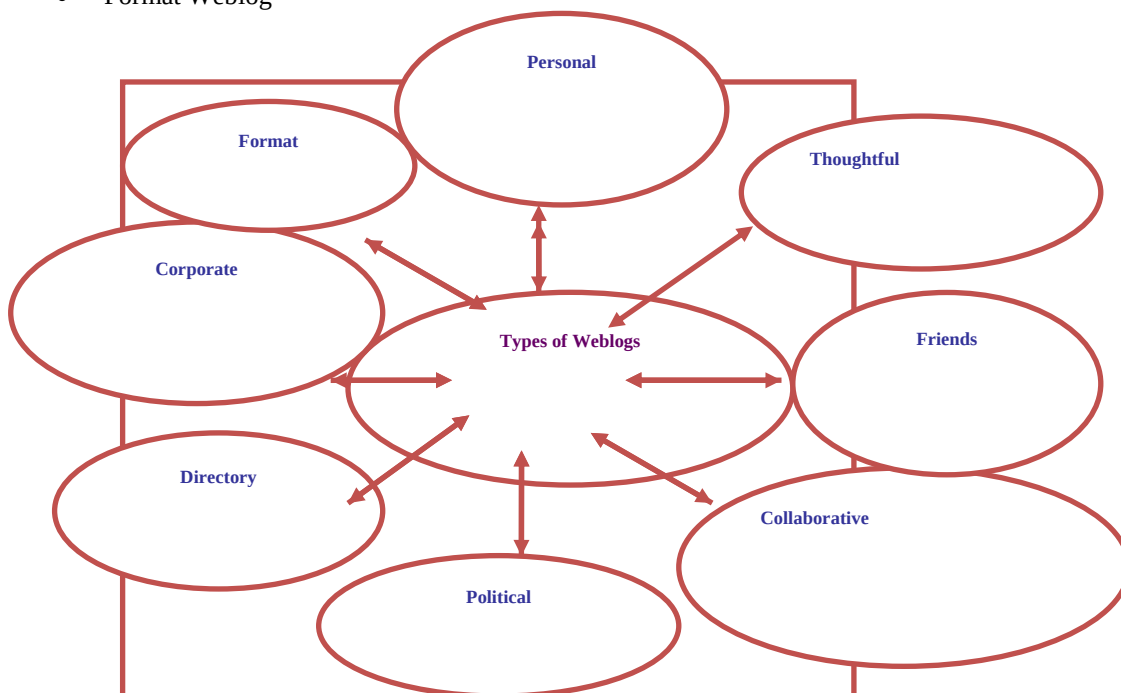
VI. WEBLOG AS A TEACHING TOOL

- Weblog is a new tool for information sharing and dissemination.

- A Weblog is a applicant that contains reverse chronologically ordered posts on a common webpage.
- The term Weblog was coined by Jorn Bergers in December 1997. The First Weblog was built by Tim-Burner – Lee at CERN, The European particle physics laboratory,
- Weblog, originally a simple web browser based system for updating websites has developed into powerful webbased content management system capable of acting as a platform for learning.
- 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."

VII. TYPES OF WEBLOG

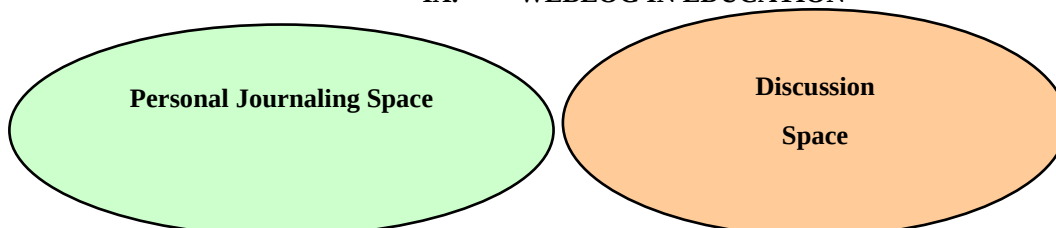
- Personal Weblog
- Thoughtful Weblog
- Friends Weblog
- Collaborative Weblog
- Political Weblog
- Directory Weblog
- Corporate Weblog
- Format Weblog



VIII. ADVANTAGES OF WEBLOGS

- No need to know HTML, FTP
- Add / edit content anywhere, anytime
- Dynamic, Quick and easy to develop
- Easy to publish
- No need to download software
- Open Source and open Access feeling
- No Rules

IX. WEBLOG IN EDUCATION



BLOGGING AS A TEACHING TOOL

- Feedback for revising the course, change of teaching strategies etc.

- An online course management tool
- A weekly topic is posted
- Post articles
- Students post their thoughts
- Class discussions
- Writing assignments and homework exercises.
- Exchange information
- Posts comments, questions and advice.
- Students post their thoughts on what they are learning.
- Students use the blog as a writing portfolio.
- Students read each other's rough drafts of writing assignments and give feedback.
- Discuss news related to the courses subject.
- Students discuss class activities.
- Online students can get to know each other by reading and commenting on each others blog entries.
- Posts class times, rules governing classes, suggested readings, and exercises etc.
- Provide links to Internet items
- Organize class seminars.

TIPS

- ❖ Be predictable and trustworthy
 - Frequency of posts
 - Consider the nature of your posts
- ❖ Be consistent
 - Case in headlines, editorial rules for acronyms, terms, linking
- ❖ Check your links
- ❖ Spellcheck - it's quick!

HOW DO YOU PUBLISH A BLOG?

- ❖ Numerous weblogging tools
- ❖ Client or server-based (they host or you host)
- ❖ Client--they host (free and paid)
 - Livejournal (free)
http://www.livejournal.com/
 - TypePad (paid)
http://www.sixapart.com/typepad/
 - WordPress.com (free)
http://wordpress.com/
 - Bloglines even lets you create a quick and dirty blog

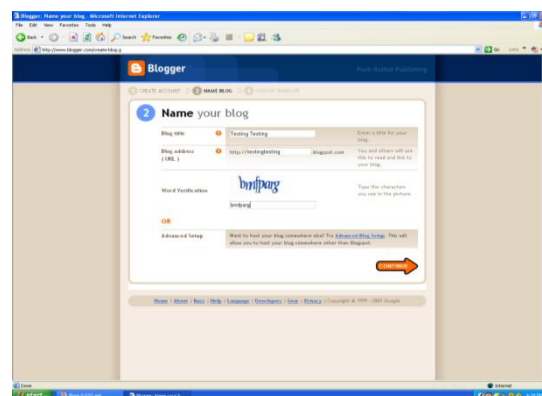
Getting Started with Blogger

- **Blogger**-http://www.blogger.com/
- 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

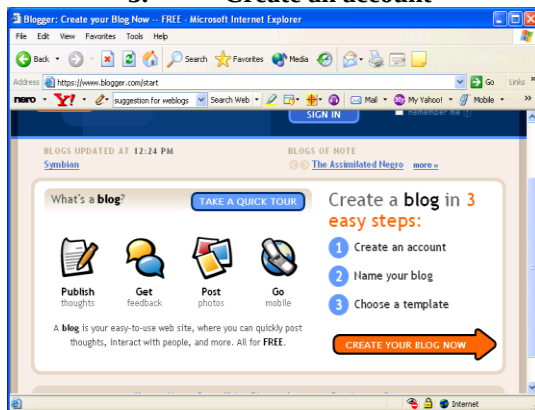
1. Create a Blog



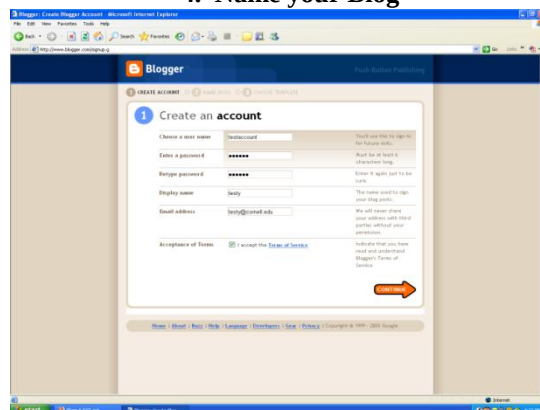
2. Click on Create an Account



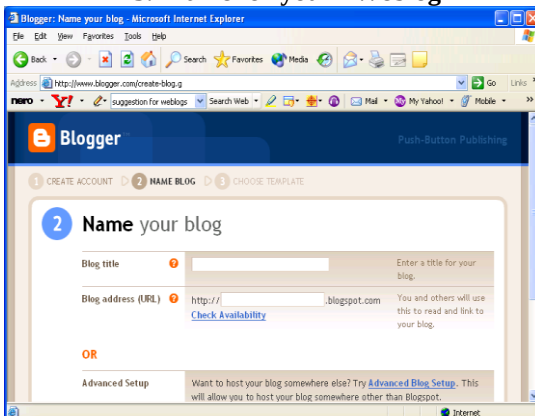
3. Create an account



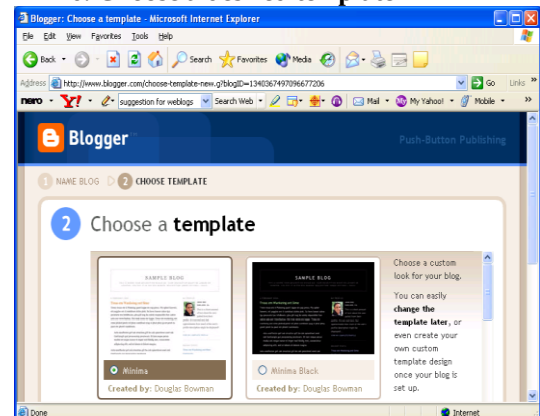
4. Name your Blog



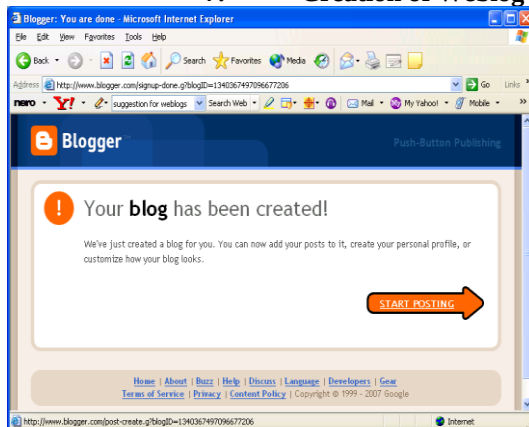
5. Name for your Weblog



6. Choose a desired template



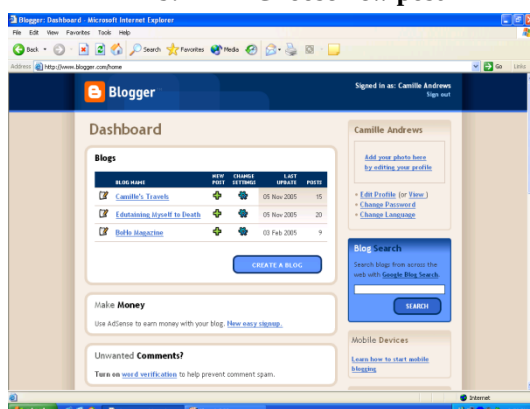
7. Creation of Weblog



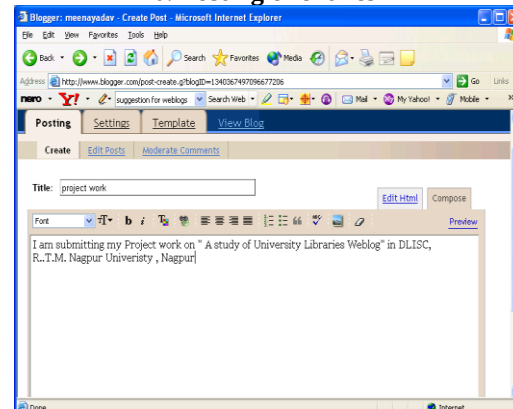
8. Create your Blog



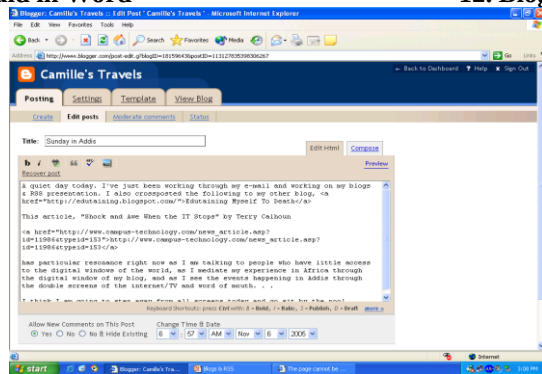
9. Choose new post



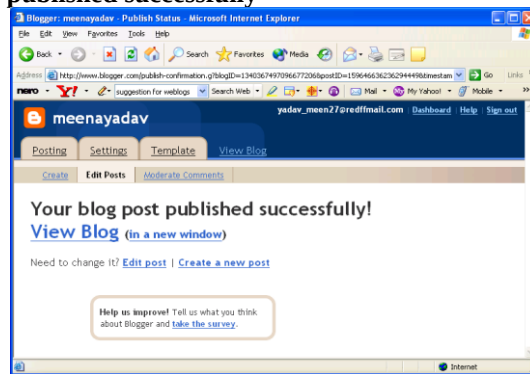
10. Posting of entries



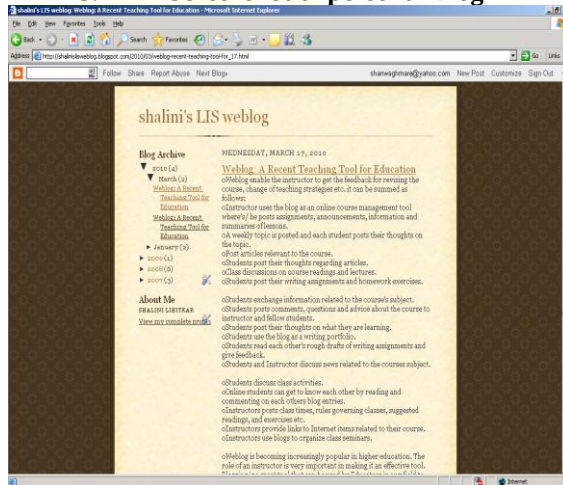
11. Give your post a title and then would in Word



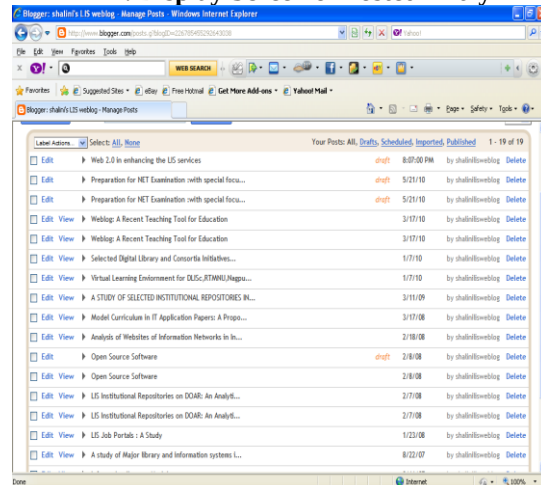
12. Blog is published successfully



13. Screenshot of personal Blog



14. Display Screen of Posted Entry



X. CONCLUSION

- One of the basic requirements for education in the 21st century will be to prepare students for participation in a knowledge-based economy.
- Teachers in India need to be prepared for imparting the new age education, hence teacher education program in India should integrate ICT component in such a way that teachers are enabled to face the new demands in the profession.
- Most of us are habituated for lecture-based and other direct methods of teaching. But simultaneously e-learning is now the global scenario and we should not avoid that. It is very hard to change and new training system but not impossible. Lots of issues and challenges are involved with this task but as soon as we put forward we will overcome all those problems.
- Weblog is becoming increasingly popular in higher education. The role of an instructor is very important in making it an effective tool. Blogging is a great tool that can be used by Educators in any field to enhance quality of teaching and learning.
- There are many ways in which Blogs and RSS feeds can be used in academic environment to promote and market services and resources to faculty and the students.
- Librarians are using Blogs in unique and diverse ways for e.g. in personal knowledge management, class announcements, posting student work for viewing, publication of tutor essays and as a community forum.
- Weblogs were found in only other countries like USA, U.K, Canada, Australia, New Zealand. However checks of search engines and websites of weblogs failed to find more evidence of Blogs in India.
- Indian Institutions/teachers/Librarians should maintain their weblogs if we missed and backward in the new technology we cannot go ahead for newer technology.

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