
Some Days You Get the Bear: Using the Blogosphere to Create Real-Time Lesson Plans

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Some Days You Get the Bear

- My proposal explains how I used the blogosphere to create a lesson plan in near real-time
 - Based on the March 2008 JP Morgan buyout of Bear Stearns
 - Result
 - One of my best class sessions of the semester
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Key Takeaways

- Credible, expert information is available online
 - Access to this information provides the opportunity to create or update lesson plans on a near real-time basis
 - Bringing current events into the classroom as they unfold
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Presentation Objectives

- (Almost) Everything you need to know to use the Internet to create lesson plans
 - Let's give it a try ...
 - At the end of the presentation, we'll research a topic or two suggested by the audience
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What is a Blog?

- An online diary
 - Messages are often called “posts” and are “posted” (i.e., published)
 - Blog authors are “bloggers”
 - Totality of blogs called the “blogosphere”
 - About 100 million blogs & growing
 - Many are read by maybe one or two people (at most)
 - Some are read by hundreds of thousands of people every day
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Elements of Blogs

- There are no rules
 - Each blog is a representation of its author(s)
 - Look and feel determined by software used
 - There are some commonalities
 - Messages are posted in reverse-chronological order
 - Many blogs allow readers to comment on individual posts
 - Links! Links! Links!
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Examples

- Concurring Opinions

<http://www.concurringopinions.com/>

- Workplace Prof Blog

http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/laborprof_blog
(note the _ in laborprof_blog)

- The Big Picture

<http://www.bigpicture.typepad.com/>

- Slashdot <http://slashdot.org>

Getting Started

- Bob's list of blogs:
<http://www.uwyo.edu/sprague/blogs.asp>
 - Law.com Legal Blogs:
<http://www.law.com/service/blogcat.shtml>
 - Google Blog Search:
<http://blogsearch.google.com>
 - blogged Law Blog listing:
<http://www.blogged.com/directory/society/law>
 - Technorati:
<http://technorati.com/>
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Other Resources

■ Lexology <http://www.lexology.com>

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Other Resources

- Marsha Hass
- ALSB Listservs <http://www.alsb.org/listserves.htm>



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ALSB Listserves

The Academy maintains two lists: ALSBTALK and ALSBNEWS. The Sections also maintain their own respective lists and information about them may be obtained by visiting the "ALSB Sections" on the homepage.

ALSBTALK is the discussion list where ALSB members exchange information, ideas, and hold discussions of general interest to the Academy at large.

ALSBNEWS is used by the Executive Committee to post announcements, job postings, calls-for-papers, general information, etc. for the ALSB membership.

To subscribe to the ALSBTALK and ALSBNEWS, e-mail this message "sub ALSBTALK *your-first-name your-last-name*" and/or "sub ALSBNEWS *your-first-name your-last-name*" to listserv@listserv.muohio.edu.

Only current ALSB members will be permitted to subscribe as these are controlled-subscription lists. If you have any questions, would like more information, or if you desire to join, please contact the Executive Secretary, Daniel Herron, via email at herrondj@muohio.edu.

Start Slowly

- Find one or two blogs and start reading them regularly
 - Drop any blog you do not like
 - Too biased/slanted the wrong way/lousy writing
 - Not current enough/too few posts
 - Hint: if the last post is more than a few weeks old, may not be a good source of timely information
 - Just not interested in the content
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Proactive vs. Reactive

■ Proactive

- ❑ Search the Internet and blogs based on a topic or practice area of interest
- ❑ Find good blogs based on their discussions of a particular topic or practice area


■ Reactive

- ❑ As you begin reading blogs you'll come across interesting topics and issues
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Building a Base

- This is where the links come in
 - I've "discovered" a number of good blogs from links provided in posts on other blogs
 - Most blogs will display a list of blogs
 - Favorites; similar topics; etc.
 - If you like a particular blog, odds are you'll like a few of the blogs it lists
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Managing the Information

- Create a “Favorites”/“Bookmarks” Blog subfolder
 - RSS (Really Simple Syndication) sends links of blog postings to you 
 - Subscribe for feeds at individual blogs
 - Google Reader: <http://www.google.com/reader>
 - More information
 - Google: How RSS Works
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Saving the Information You Find

- Save the posts you think you might need later
 - Permalinks
 - “Permanent” link to a specific blog posting
 - Usually identified as a “Permalink” at the bottom of the post
 - Some blogs use the post’s title as the permalink
 - Where will you save the links?
 - In “Favorites”/“Bookmarks” folders and subfolders
 - Only available on a specific computer
 - Can quickly become unwieldy
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Online Information Management

- A variety of services allow you to save links online
 - Available from any computer with an Internet connection
 - Saved links can be categorized
 - delicious: <http://delicious.com>
 - Digg
 - Part of concept is to share what you find interesting with others
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Using the Blogosphere

- We will now use the blogosphere to research a topic
 - A few tips
 - Use Google's blog search to search for blogs discussing a particular topic
 - Many blogs categorize their posts
 - Can then browse a blog's previous posts concerning a particular topic
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Questions/Comments/Links

- I will post these slides (plus links to any sites we are able to visit during the presentation) in the “Blogs, etc.” section on my personal Web page:

<http://www.uwyo.edu/sprague>
