

Blogging Across the Curriculum
 A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University

Navigation Menu:

- What is a Weblog?
- How to Blog
- Blogs & Teaching
- Blogrolls
- IDD Blog Projects
- Bibliography
- About this Site
- My Favorite Sites

Main Content:

Welcome

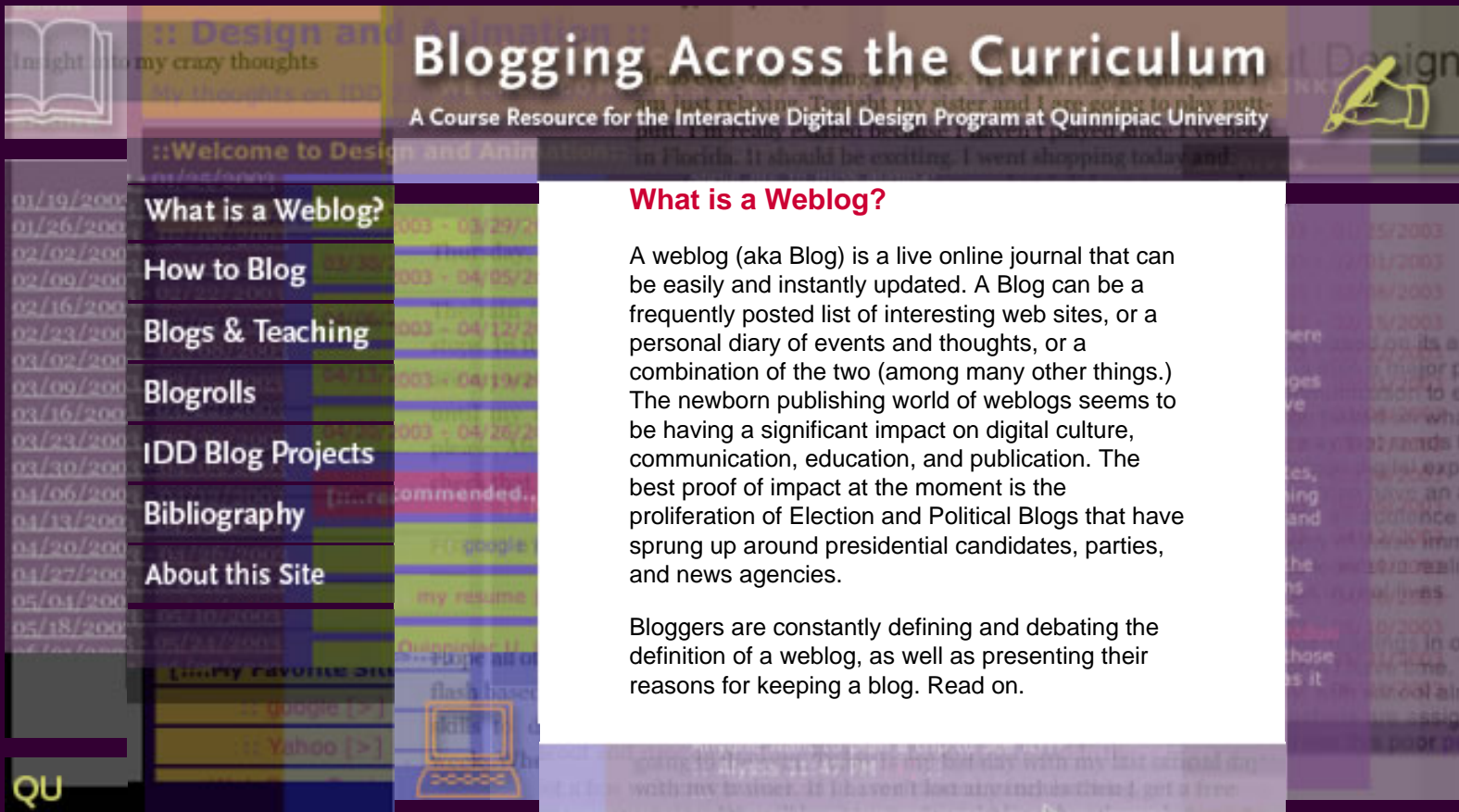
Fall semester of 2002, I began to experiment with the use of individual student weblogs as a substitute for the traditional paper design journal. I was so pleased with the results that I am continuing the project and expanding it to include additional courses. This site is meant to be a growing and living resource for the weblog projects in these classes. Constructive feedback about this site is encouraged. To my students: Have a look around, make yourself at home, and enjoy! I'll see you in class.

Pattie Belle Hastings
 Assistant Professor in the Computer Science & Interactive Digital Design Department
 Quinnipiac University

Footer:

Blogging Across the Curriculum
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- 01/19/2003 What is a Weblog?
- 01/26/2003 How to Blog
- 02/02/2003 Blogs & Teaching
- 02/09/2003 Blogrolls
- 02/16/2003 IDD Blog Projects
- 02/23/2003 Bibliography
- 03/02/2003 About this Site
- 03/09/2003
- 03/16/2003
- 03/23/2003
- 03/30/2003
- 04/06/2003
- 04/13/2003
- 04/20/2003
- 04/27/2003
- 05/04/2003
- 05/18/2003

What is a Weblog?

A weblog (aka Blog) is a live online journal that can be easily and instantly updated. A Blog can be a frequently posted list of interesting web sites, or a personal diary of events and thoughts, or a combination of the two (among many other things.) The newborn publishing world of weblogs seems to be having a significant impact on digital culture, communication, education, and publication. The best proof of impact at the moment is the proliferation of Election and Political Blogs that have sprung up around presidential candidates, parties, and news agencies.

Bloggers are constantly defining and debating the definition of a weblog, as well as presenting their reasons for keeping a blog. Read on.

“2. A blog is a love letter, scribbled on three-hole paper and scrunched up all sweaty in your hand that you try to pass to the cutest looking guy in class and he drops it and walks on it and then your friend goes to retrieve it and bring it back to you, unread while you die a thousand deaths.”

[Halley Suitt](#)

What is a Weblog? Links

[jill/txt: final version of weblog definition](#)
 “Right, this is my final draft of my entry on weblogs for the Routledge Encyclopedia of Narrative Theory.”
 This is an entry From Jill Walker’s weblog jill/txt.

[What makes a weblog a weblog?](#)
 “At Berkman we’re studying weblogs, how they’re used, and what they are. Rather than saying ‘I know it when I see it’ I wanted to list all the known features of weblog software, but more important, get to the heart of what a weblog is, and how a weblog is different from a Wiki, or a news site managed with software like Vignette or Interwoven.”
 From Dave Winer at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School.

[Deep Thinking about Weblogs](#)
 “Weblogs are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore for those of us who spend much time reading the Web. Also known by the inscrutable nickname ‘blogs’, weblogs are something of a hard nut to crack. Compounding the difficulty is the fact that a great deal of weblog content today is about weblogs and weblog technology. What are weblogs? What’s the big deal? Why should we pay attention?”
 From [Andrew Grumet](#).

[Media Matters. Blogosphere | PBS](#)

“Once Upon a Blog. A long time ago, in the hazy middle years of the decade nineteen-hundred-and-ninety, between the darkest reaches of dial-up and the Ethernet, a creature was born. It was not of this earth but, rather, the first-born child of the Internet. Its name was ... blog.”

From [PBS Online](#).

weezBlog: First Person Narrative

“This is what I’ve come up with... Blogs are a first person narrative in real time.”

From Elouise Oyzonis [weezBlog](#).

An introduction to terms for weblog readers

“So, here’s my brief guide to weblog terms for readers, not bloggers.”

From [Phil Gyford: Writing](#).

Halley’s Comment

“1. A weblog (or blog) is a daily online diary on the Net where you write and publish at the near-same moment to a few million of your closest friends, except only about 20 people actually read what you write. Each entry is called a ‘post’ and the person writing a weblog (or ‘blog’) is called a ‘weblogger’ or ‘blogger.’”

From Halley Suitt’s Weblog [Halley’s Comment](#)

What the hell is a Weblog?

“And through it all, I drew my inspiration from the cacophony of personal voices I found online. Here was the mother lode of personal expression , the one place in our lives that we (as people lucky enough to have access) can say whatever we want about anything we want. This was the anti-television. Digital democracy.” From [Derek M.](#)

[Powazek: Author, Designer, Troublemaker, Person.](#)

What the hell is a Weblog? You tell me.

Bloggers respond to [Derek’s](#) essay.

Samizdata.net — Blog Glossary

“This is a glossary of blog terminology, including obscure words directly related to blogging and expressions commonly encountered in the blogosphere (qv) which might be obscure to the uninitiated.”

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University



01/19/2003
01/26/2003
02/02/2003
02/09/2003
02/16/2003
02/23/2003
03/02/2003
03/09/2003
03/16/2003
03/23/2003
03/30/2003
04/06/2003
04/13/2003
04/20/2003
04/27/2003
05/03/2003
05/18/2003

What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

Histories of the Weblog

Compared to the histories of humankind, the Weblog is a newborn. Or, perhaps, it has not yet left the womb. In Internet Years, the Weblog has almost come of age and the mothers and fathers of the Blog have documented every little smile and step along the way. Now the digital studies scholars and researchers are beginning to examine the subject while journalists jump on the band wagon or villify bloggers. Seems like everyone is talking about Weblogs.

Let's start at the beginning. The history of the weblog is constantly being revised and debated, but most basic facts are agreed upon. Here are links to a few versions.

[Weblogs.Com News: The History of Weblogs](#)

"The first weblog was the first website, <http://info.cern.ch/>, the site built by Tim Berners-Lee at CERN. From this page TBL pointed to all the new sites as they came online. Luckily, the content of this site has been archived at the World Wide Web Consortium."

From [Dave Winer](#).

[essays:: weblogs: a history and perspective](#)

"In 1998 there were just a handful of sites of the type that are now identified as weblogs (so named by in Jorn Barger December 1997). Jesse James Garrett, editor of Infosift, began compiling a list of 'other sites like his' as he found them in his travels around the web. In November of that year, he sent that list to Cameron Barrett. Cameron published the list on Camworld, and others maintaining similar sites began sending their URLs to him for inclusion on the list. Jesse's 'page of only weblogs' lists the 23 known to be in existence at the beginning of 1999."

From [what's in rebecca's pocket?](#) (Rebecca Blood)

[Personal knowledge publishing and its uses in research](#)

"In this document, I analyze an emerging form of knowledge sharing that I call personal knowledge publishing. Personal knowledge publishing has its roots in a practice known as 'weblogging' that has been rapidly spreading on the World Wide Web over the last three years. It is a new form of

"One of the most significant things that happened with the growth of the weblog community is that weblogs became a conversational medium. Many editors would use their weblog to discuss things that had been said by another editor, using links to enable readers to follow threads. Arbitrary numbers of people could participate in such conversations, provided they had their own weblog."

[Sébastien Paquet](#)

communication that many expect will change the way people work and collaborate, especially in areas where knowledge and innovation play an important role.”

From [Seb's Open Research](#) (SÉbastien Paquet)

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University



What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

Why We Use Blogger

The choices of tools for blogging are growing rapidly. They range from dedicated online sites (such as Blogger) to server based scripts and software (such as Movable Type) and from free (with and without ads) to reasonably priced. They all have their advantages and disadvantages. I started out with Blogger and have had a good experience using it for my weblog. I have also been using it in my classes for about a year now with few problems along the way.

Go to [Blogger](#)

[Other Tools](#)

Some of the reasons we use Blogger for my courses:

- It's Free!
- It's extremely easy to use! Students can have their Blog up and running in 15 minutes or less
- It's available at anytime - from anywhere
- You can have multiple blogs
- Automatic archiving
- No installation of software or programming is required
- The students have complete ownership and access to their weblog, even after graduation
- It's upgradable: there are more features available at reasonable prices
- The tech problems are someone else's headache

Go to [Blogger](#)

"Blogging is fun but I'm afraid I'm gonna end up with seven blogs that I'm obsessed with updating and six hundred blogs that I have to read daily. No big deal, could be worse. I could have a constant pinching sensation in my nether regions. But I don't!"

[Biz Stone](#)

[Other Tools](#)

[Tool Comparison Chart](#)

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University



What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

Blogging Support

You probably won't run into many technical problems while creating, modifying and publishing your Blogspot weblog, but there is ample online support should trouble arise. If other kinds of support are needed such as "I'm not sure what to write..." or "How often do I have to post?", please refer to the resources on this site or drop by to see me during office hours.

I will be conducting an experiment this semester using AIM. I will be available in person and via AIM during my office hours. I will also be available at various other times during the week via AIM. You'll find my screen name and the details on your course syllabus.

Blogger Support Resources

[The New Blogger Knowledge Base](#)

Most of your questions or problems can be solved here.

[The Old Blogger Knowledge Base](#)

Most of your questions or problems can be solved here.

[Blogger Support Center](#)

A very brief overview.

[Status Blogger](#)

This is a weblog kept by the Blogger programmers. You can check this site for server problems or other issues that might be happening.

[Blogger User-to-User Support](#)

This is a Yahoo group run by and for Blogger users. It is not affiliated with Blogger, but is a valuable resource for problem solving and finding out how to add nifty features to your weblog.

[Blogger Control](#)

A tool for Blogger Pro (paying subscribers) users to report problems and find solutions.

"Maybe here, you can finally get a real answer."

[Blogger User-to-User Support](#)

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Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University



What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

Blogging Tools

Blogger isn't the only weblog hosting service – there are many choices. Some are free and some are not. If you are not in my class and want to set up a weblog, be sure to comparison shop before you spend your time and energy.

The alternative to using a hosted service, like Blogger, is to get your own blog software. These applications often allow for greater customization. Many of the popular blog applications are free or inexpensive. They are usually loaded onto a host server and accessed by the user(s). This list includes GreyMatter, Movable Type, and Manila, among others. There are various server requirements for each application and installation usually requires some knowledge of scripting.

Hosted Services

[Google Directory - Weblog Hosts](#)

[TypePad](#)

"TypePad is a personal publishing service designed to provide a simple yet full-featured environment for you to put your thoughts, ideas, and experiences on the web, whether it be a weblog, journal, photo album, diary, or an entirely new creation. Starting your weblog is just a click away."

[LiveJournal.com](#)

Another free online blog/journal service.

[Upsaid: Web Journaling Service](#)

And another.

[Diaryland](#)

A free online diary site that is inhabited mostly by teens.

Blog Software

[movabletype.org](#)

"Movable Type is Six Apart's powerful, customizable publishing system which installs on web servers to

"Yes, installing MT yourself can be a bit of a, uh, character-building experience, but once it's up and humming like a top (and Ben and Mena are right on top of it when you finally break down and beg for mercy), it is an impeccably professional and amazingly versatile content management system for members of the dumb-ass masses with a little better than average Web-savvy quotient."

[Colin Brayton](#)

enable individuals or organizations to manage and update weblogs, journals, and frequently-updated website content.”

[Textpattern](#)

“A flexible, elegant, easy-to-use content management system for all kinds of websites, even weblogs.”

[What is Manila?](#)

“Manila is an Internet server application that allows groups of writers, designers and graphics people to manage full-featured, high performance Web sites through an easy-to-use browser interface.”

[Greymatter](#)

“Greymatter is the original opensource weblogging and journal software. With fully-integrated comments, searching, file uploading and image handling, completely customisable output through dozens of templates and variables, multiple author support, and many other features...”

[Google Directory , Weblog Clients](#)

[Google Directory , Weblog Publishing Tools](#)

Commenting Options

[Google Directory , Weblog Commenting Tools](#)

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University



What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

Writing for Weblogs

There are as many styles and voices as there are webloggers. The trick is to find your own and make the most of it. You go about this in the same way that you do for any sort of writing. You read a lot of good writing and you read closely. Meaning, of course, that you pay attention to and reflect on the details. Who are you drawn to? What is it about their writing that you like or that keeps you coming back?

Then when it comes to writing your posts, be sure to rewrite, edit, read it to yourself out loud, and proofread carefully. Now you can press the "Publish" button.

Weblog Writing Links

[A List Apart: How to Write a Better Weblog:](#)

"After posting my own short list of things that ought to be banned from weblogs, I realized that a list of things to be encouraged would be more useful. Some people are new to weblogging. Others want to raise the bar. In the end, everybody wants better sites, and some of these suggestions might help."

[Dennis A. Mahoney](#)

[A List Apart: 10 Tips on Writing the Living Web](#)

"Every revision requires new writing, new words that become the essence of the site. Living sites are only as good as today's update. If the words are dull, nobody will read them, and nobody will come back. If the words are wrong, people will be misled, disappointed, infuriated. If the words aren't there, people will shake their heads and lament your untimely demise."

[Mark Bernstein](#)

[The Weblog Handbook: Weblog Ethics](#)

"Weblogs are the mavericks of the online world. Two of their greatest strengths are their ability to filter and disseminate information to a widely dispersed audience, and their position outside the mainstream of mass media. Beholden to no one, weblogs point to, comment on, and spread information according to their own, quirky criteria."

[Rebecca Blood](#)

Writing Sites

[Creative Nonfiction](#)

[Advice on Academic Writing](#)

[Yahoo! Directory Literature > Creative Writing](#)

[Bartleby.com](#)

[Paradigm Online Writing Assistant](#)

[Poets & Writers, Inc.](#)

[Visual Journal Lounge](#)

[Conversations Within](#)

[Leaving A Trace](#)

[Writing The Journey](#)

diarist.net

[Center for Digital
Storytelling](#)

Writing about Design

Concrete

“Yet, while designers use drawings and images to portray our ideas, it is difficult to deny that we also use words. Oftentimes, the precision of our words becomes more important than drawing as we attempt to explain our ideas to others as well as to ourselves. Because language is so very important in all phases of the design process, and because language is often and most importantly transmitted via the written word, it is surprising that in our design education, writing is not a seminal part of the curriculum.”

Student Publication at UC Berkeley

Writing about Art

How to Write About Art

“Students often think that they are writing for the teacher, but this is a misconception; when you write, you are the teacher. An essay on art is an attempt to help someone to see the work as you see it.”

(Sylvan Barnet, A Short Guide to Writing About Art)

From [Patricia Kieft's Art History Site](#)

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University



01/19/2003
01/26/2003
02/02/2003
02/09/2003
02/16/2003
02/23/2003
03/02/2003
03/09/2003
03/16/2003
03/23/2003
03/30/2003
04/06/2003
04/13/2003
04/20/2003
04/27/2003
05/03/2003
05/18/2003

my crazy thoughts
my blogroll
my resume

What is a Weblog?
How to Blog
Blogs & Teaching
Blogrolls
IDD Blog Projects
Bibliography
About this Site

[...recommended...]
google
my resume

QU

Weblogs In and Around the Classroom

Weblogs are increasingly being used in education by researchers, teachers, and students. Professors are keeping research blogs, requiring students to blog, or creating course weblogs. Students are keeping course blogs or personal blogs. Scholars are studying and writing about the weblog phenomenon while keeping weblogs about weblogs.

The list is growing quickly. Here is a smattering of what is going on in and around Academia.

“Weblogs are not special because of their technology but because of the practice and authorship they shape. And it is a practice that will require a weblog author to be »connected« to processes, discourses and communities.”

[Oliver Wrede: Weblogs and Discourse](#)

[The Chronicle: 6/6/2003: Scholars Who Blog](#)

“The soapbox of the digital age draws a crowd of academics” by David Glenn

[techLEARNING.com | Technology & Learning - The Resource for Education Technology Leaders](#)

“For starters, Web publication gives students a real audience to write to and, when optimized, a collaborative environment where they can give and receive feedback, mirroring the way professional writers use a workshop environment to hone their craft.”

[Blogging communities' popularity draws students](#)

“By the looks of the Web these days, Johnson is not the only one with a little extra time. Blog sites and communities are popping up all over cyberspace ó and University students like Johnson are taking part in the phenomenon.”

[Harvard Weblogs: About Weblogs At Harvard](#)

“We're studying weblogs and evangelizing them. We're excited about how this technology might be used in all the activities of the university, for faculty, administration, students, alumni, staff.”

[research blogs](#)

“This is an annotated list of weblogs I have found that are used by researchers and academics as a part of their research practice. I'm gathering these links to find out more about how blogs are used in academia and research.”

[The Year of the Blog: Home](#)

From the Blog resource site by Barclay Barrios at the Rutgers University Writing Program

[The Educational Bloggers Network The NITLE News Volume 2, Number 1, Winter 2003](#)

"Blogs are being employed in the liberal arts classroom in a variety of ways. Educational uses run the gamut from course management to student portfolios to collaboration, or any combination thereof. In many of these various incarnations, blogs are being used to strengthen class community."

[Weblogg-ed Vol.2: Using Weblogs in Education Wired News: Blogging Goes Legit, Sort Of](#)

"Next fall, a handful of students at the University of California at Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism will convene weekly to learn about blogging from John Batelle, a co-founder of Wired magazine, and Paul Grabowicz, the school's new media program director."

[Professors Who Blog](#)

A list kept by Andrew R. Cline, Ph.D.

[UBlog](#)

"The School of Informatics weblog server allows students, faculty, and alumni of the program to better communicate their research and other activities. Any individual or group related to the school may request their own blog."

[Oliver Wrede: Weblogs and Discourse](#)

"This paper discusses different questions of weblogs in context of higher education."
From [Oliver Wrede](#)

[Collaborative learning environments sourcebook](#)

"This is a sourcebook for academics and students who want to develop collaborative learning environments (or communities of practice) in which lecturers, students and others can work together to create new knowledge while learning new skills."

[Seblogging: Dynamic Webpublishing, CMS and Weblogs in Education](#)

"Weblogs, CMS, and personal Webpublishing for learning and education"
From Sebastian Fiedler

[Seblogging: Personal Webpublishing as a reflective conversational tool for self-organized learning, Paper Draft for BlogTalk 2003](#)

"This paper suggests that personal Webpublishing technologies and practices can be conceptualized

as a reflective conversational learning tool for self-organized learning.”

From Sebastian Fiedler



Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University



01/19/2003 - 01/26/2003
01/26/2003 - 02/02/2003
02/02/2003 - 02/09/2003
02/09/2003 - 02/16/2003
02/16/2003 - 02/23/2003
02/23/2003 - 03/02/2003
03/02/2003 - 03/09/2003
03/09/2003 - 03/16/2003
03/16/2003 - 03/23/2003
03/23/2003 - 03/30/2003
03/30/2003 - 04/06/2003
04/06/2003 - 04/13/2003
04/13/2003 - 04/20/2003
04/20/2003 - 04/27/2003
04/27/2003 - 05/04/2003
05/04/2003 - 05/18/2003

What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

A Few Popular Blogs

When I say "popular," I mean the weblogs that have the most readers and the most people linking back to their site.

Just a few. In no particular order. If you want to see a list of the top 100 go to [Technorati](#) or [Daypop](#).

"After the last article I wrote in the Guardian I was wondering whether I should stop whining. The problem is that people want to read that things are getting better and we are happy, but things are getting better in such a slow pace that it is almost imperceptible, and with the one step we move forward on one front we move back 3 steps on other fronts. People need to know that their kids and loved ones are here for a good reason and this is what they want to hear. Otherwise they send me emails saying that I am being part of the problem."

[Salam Pax](#)

[evhead](#)

[Where is Raed?](#)

[harrumph!](#)

[Lawrence Lessig](#)

[memepool.com](#)

[dooce](#)

[Textism](#)

[Dave Barry's Blog](#)

[The Shifted Librarian](#)

[William Gibson](#)

[plasticbag.org](#)

[Reecie.com](#)

[Ben Hammersley's Dangerous Precedent](#)

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University

What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

Designer Blogs

Web designers and developers were among the first bloggers and the list of design related weblogs continues to grow. This partial listing is a great place to find creative inspiration, design resources, and valuable information. Some focus on special topics such as interaction design, information architecture, or television, while others are more general in nature.

If you get stuck in your own blogging, take a break and come to this page. Grab a cup of coffee, sit back, and enjoy the view.

“So I’m redesigning the Media Services and Customer Services websites for work, and I need a way of explaining what these two bits of the University offer in the smallest possible space on the homepage.”

[Derren Wilson](#)

[Jeffrey Zeldman](#)

[kottke.org :: home of fine hypertext products](#)

[PhotoDude](#)

[brushstroke.tv](#)

[xBlog: The visual thinking weblog](#)

[Magnetbox](#)

[webgraphics](#)

[scrubbles.net](#)

[matt jones](#)

[solublefish.tv](#)

[netvironments](#)

[site seeing v2](#)

[jish.nu](#)

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University

01/19/2003 - 01/26/2003
01/26/2003 - 02/02/2003
02/02/2003 - 02/09/2003
02/09/2003 - 02/16/2003
02/16/2003 - 02/23/2003
02/23/2003 - 03/02/2003
03/02/2003 - 03/09/2003
03/09/2003 - 03/16/2003
03/16/2003 - 03/23/2003
03/23/2003 - 03/30/2003
03/30/2003 - 04/06/2003
04/06/2003 - 04/13/2003
04/13/2003 - 04/20/2003
04/20/2003 - 04/27/2003
04/27/2003 - 05/04/2003
05/04/2003 - 05/18/2003

What is a Weblog?
How to Blog
Blogs & Teaching
Blogrolls
IDD Blog Projects
Bibliography
About this Site

Blogroll Academic

Here is a small selection of Academic weblogs to get you started. (More to come.)

See also [In and Around the Classroom](#)

“Some have started blogging in order to muse aloud about their research.”

David Glenn
[Scholars Who Blog](#)

[mamamusings](#)

[Purse Lip Square Jaw](#)

[Scott Rettberg](#)

[Seb's Open Research](#)

[Matthew G. Kirschenbaum](#)

[PhDweblogs](#)

[bIPlog](#)

[Yale Insider: Yale Insider](#)

[McGee's Musings](#)

[Sappho's Breathing](#)

[Crooked Timber](#)

[Oliver Wrede](#)

[hyperfiction - noah wardrip-fruin](#)

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University

01/19/2003
01/26/2003
02/02/2003
02/09/2003
02/16/2003
02/23/2003
03/02/2003
03/09/2003
03/16/2003
03/23/2003
03/30/2003
04/06/2003
04/13/2003
04/20/2003
04/27/2003
05/03/2003
05/18/2003

What is a Weblog?
How to Blog
Blogs & Teaching
Blogrolls
IDD Blog Projects
Bibliography
About this Site

Blog Research(ers)

It is time to examine this thing called "blogging" and some excellent minds are on the job.

Here is a starter list.

"Social software is a particular sub-class of software-prosthesis that concerns itself with the augmentation of human social and / or collaborative abilities through structured mediation (this mediation may be distributed or centralised, top-down or bottom-up/emergent)."

[Tom Coates](#)

[Clay Shirky](#)

[Corante: Social Software](#)

[Seb's OpenMind: Social Software](#)

[plasticbag.org | weblog | My working definition of social software...](#)

[mamamusings: the people in my \(social software\) neighborhood](#)

[Joho the Blog](#)

[Blogging Thoughts \(pdf\)](#)

Torill Mortensen and Jill Walker: Blogging thoughts: personal publication as an online research tool, in: *Researching ICTs in Context*, ed. Andrew Morrison, InterMedia Report, 3/2002, Oslo 2002

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University



What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

The Blog Ecosystem

Oh, boy. Some of the most interesting (and some useful) things have sprung up around the land of blog. Genealogy, stocks, neighborhoods, search engines, indexes...

[Technorati: Web Services for bloggers.:](#)

"Find out who's linking to you. Cosmos allows you to find what's new in the blogging universe, and find out who's linking to whom. Simply type in a URL of a blog, website, or interesting article on the web, and Cosmos will tell you which bloggers are linking to the URL."

[Daypop - a current events/weblog/news search engine](#)

"Search 59000 News Sites, Weblogs and RSS feeds for Current Events and Breaking News"

[blogdex - the weblog diffusion index](#)

"Blogdex is a research project of the MIT Media Laboratory tracking the diffusion of information through the weblog community. Ideas can have very similar properties to a disease, spreading through the population like wildfire. The goal of Blogdex is to explore what it is about information, people, and their relationships that allows for this contagious media."

[organica](#)

"Organica crawls weblogs and makes statistics on what's popular right now, related sites, who links to who, which tools are being used, web servers being used for weblogs and so on. In particular there will be a useful xml feed of 'interesting stuff right now'."

[BLOGWISE - Blog Directory and Weblog Research](#)

"...a new site bringing you a collection of

"Industry Buzz: This move enables the player to increase the share price across the whole of the artefact's industry. The market price for blogs in the industry will rise by 5-10%. This could be used to raise the price across the whole of an industry... especially helpful if your portfolio contains a lot of related blogs (i.e.- Fiction blogs, or Italian blogs). You don't lose anything here. Effect on your net worth = possibly positive."

[BlogShares Strategy](#)

categorised blogs from around the world. Whatever your taste, interest and culture - there's bound to be a blog out there written by a person just like you. If not, then why not start one yourself!"

[BlogTree.com - Weblog Genealogy](#)

"Welcome to BlogTree.com, the blog genealogy site. You can register your blogs and record which blogs inspired their creation. You can also search for existing blogs and view which blogs they in turn inspired."

[BlogChalking](#)

"Collaboratively mapping weblogs for smarter blogsearching. First, we used offline signs to map the online environment. Why not do the reverse? BlogChalking Reverse is about using our online blogography to spread web signs over the world."

[BlogStreet : Blog Neighborhood, Top Blogs, Search, RSS and Utilities](#)

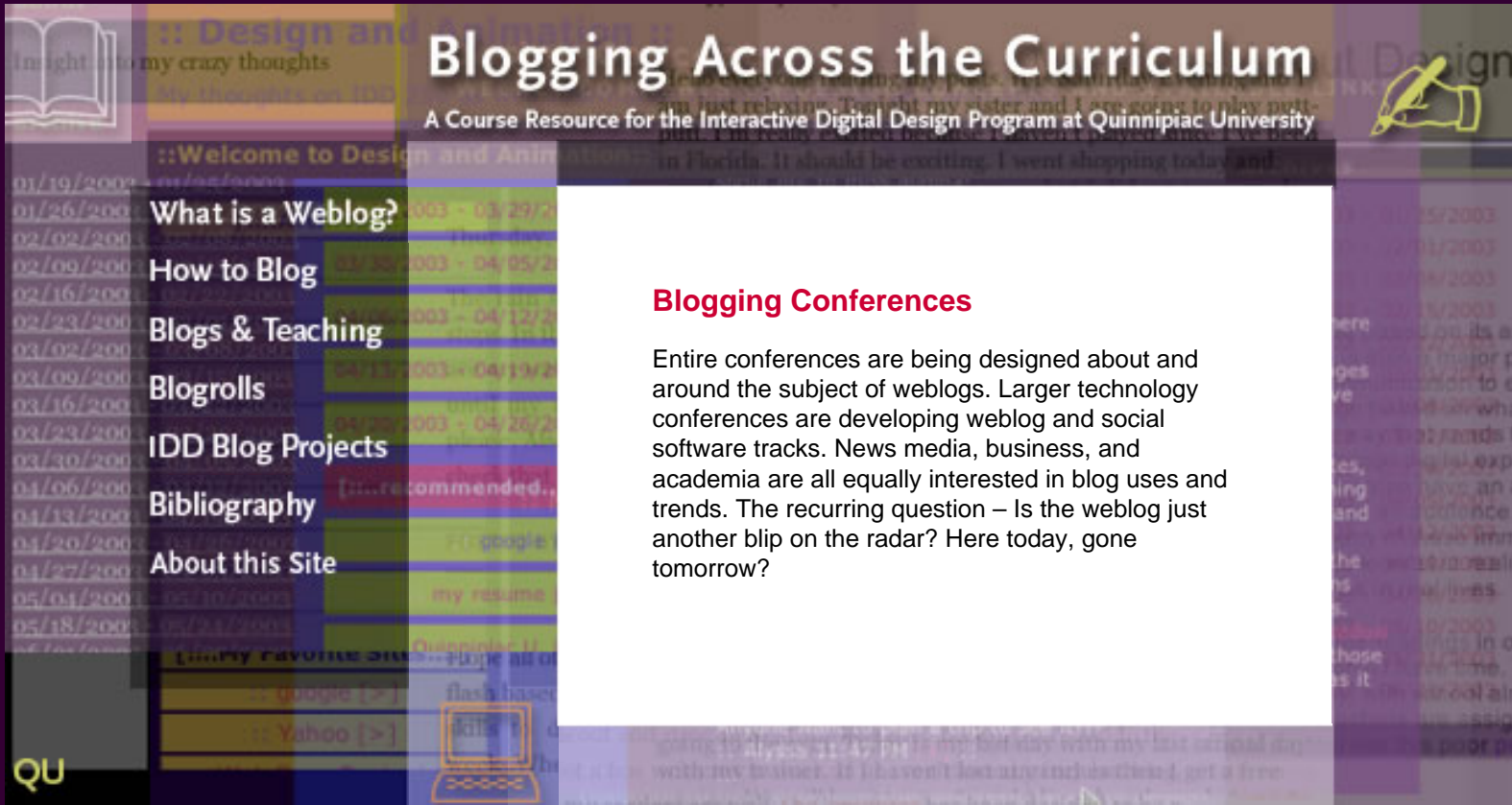
"It is a tool for discovering other blogs which are similar to a blog. For Blog Authors, their Neighborhood is a pool of blogs to track. Treat it as a list of blogs you *should* be knowing about. For Readers, it helps them to find more blogs similar to a blog they have liked. The Blog Neighbourhood groups together blogs of a similar nature, allowing you to find other bloggers writing about the same kind of things."

[BlogShares - Fantasy Blog Share Market](#)

"BlogShares is a simulated, fantasy stock market for weblogs where players invest fictional money to buy stocks and bonds in an artificial economy where attention is the commodity and weblogs are the companies. Weblogs, or blogs for short, are valued by their incoming links from other known blogs. In effect, links become the business deals in the simulation and players speculate on the fortunes of thousands of blogs by buying and selling shares."

[BlogPulse \[BETA\]: Automated Trend Discovery for Weblogs:](#)

"BlogPulse Key Phrases, Key Topics, Key People and Top Links are mined daily from new entries in over 70,000 weblogs using machine learning algorithms and natural language processing techniques."



Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University

01/19/2003 - 03/29/2003
 01/26/2003 - 03/29/2003
 02/02/2003 - 04/05/2003
 02/09/2003 - 04/05/2003
 02/16/2003 - 04/12/2003
 02/23/2003 - 04/12/2003
 03/02/2003 - 04/19/2003
 03/09/2003 - 04/19/2003
 03/16/2003 - 04/26/2003
 03/23/2003 - 04/26/2003
 03/30/2003 - 04/26/2003
 04/06/2003 - 04/26/2003
 04/13/2003 - 04/26/2003
 04/20/2003 - 04/26/2003
 04/27/2003 - 04/26/2003
 05/03/2003 - 04/26/2003
 05/18/2003 - 04/26/2003

- What is a Weblog?
- How to Blog
- Blogs & Teaching
- Blogrolls
- IDD Blog Projects
- Bibliography
- About this Site

Blogging Conferences

Entire conferences are being designed about and around the subject of weblogs. Larger technology conferences are developing weblog and social software tracks. News media, business, and academia are all equally interested in blog uses and trends. The recurring question – Is the weblog just another blip on the radar? Here today, gone tomorrow?

Past and Future Conferences

[LawMeme](#)

Proceedings from the Revenge of the Blog Conference at Yale Law School.

[BlogTalk - A European Weblog-Conference](#)

“BlogTalk - A European Conference On Weblogs: Web-based publishing, communication and collaboration tools for professional and private use.”

[ClickZ Weblog Business Strategies](#)

“ClickZ Weblog Business Strategies 2003 Conference & Expo is the first business-oriented forum to address the recent emergence of Weblogs into the business world and their rising importance as a medium of communication. This conference will bring together Webloggers who are pioneers, experts, and technologists.”

[O'Reilly Emerging Technology Conference 2003 -- Social Software Track Grad School of Journalism -- Weblogs, Information, and Society](#)

“Since the last UC Berkeley weblog panel, users have integrated weblogs into their everyday life and work. Weblogs are mainstream, and they are changing the ways people manage knowledge. As the use of weblogs becomes inextricably intertwined with life and work practice, the act of weblogging influences the ways we share knowledge with our community, and audience. The Weblogs Information and Society panel draws webloggers from

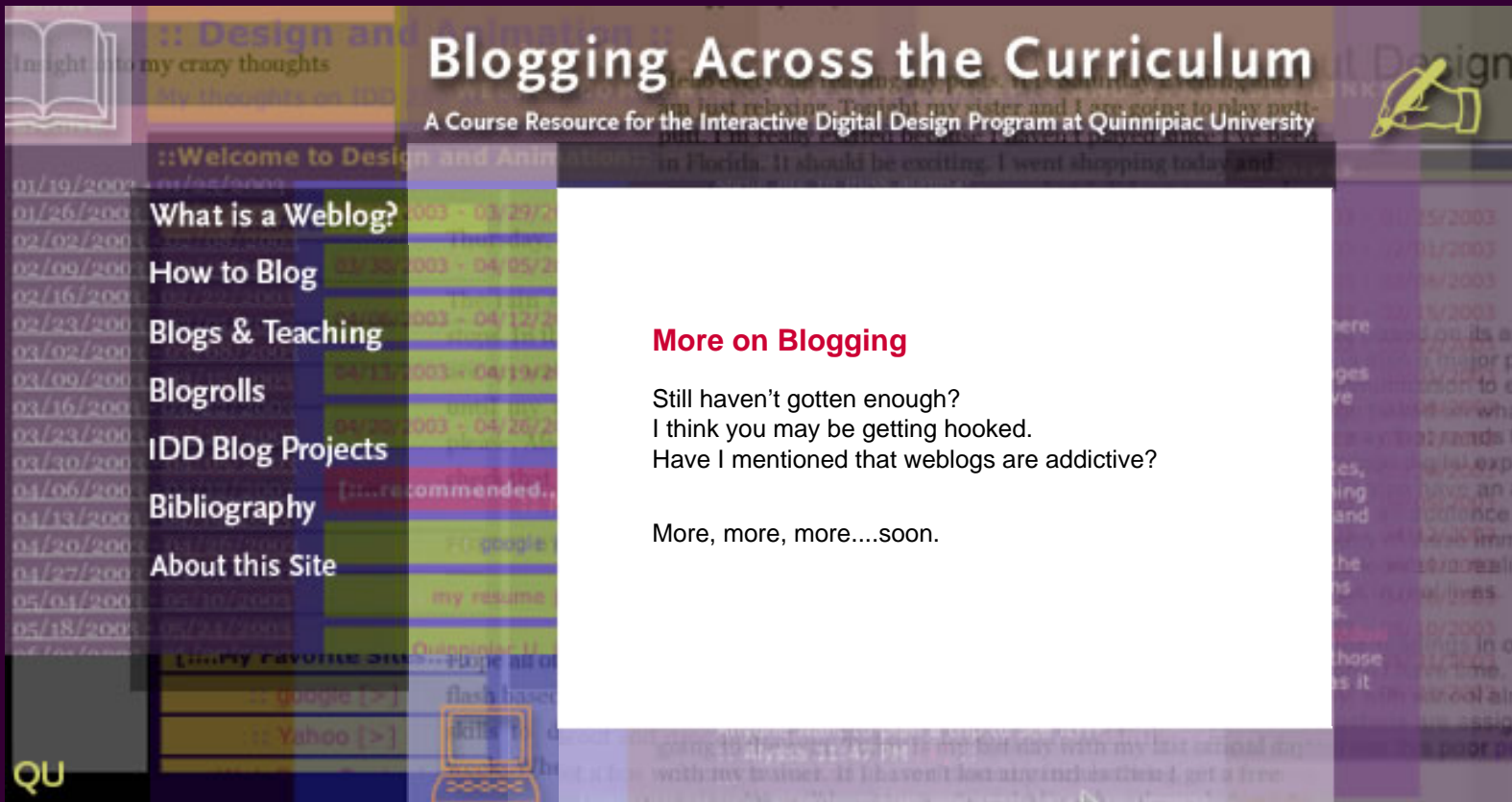
“Meanwhile questions linger. Are today’s bloggers the modern-day Emersons and Thoreaus or Charlie Chaplin, PT Barnum or Erma Bombeck? Is blogspace a Second Superpower, a ride on the Cluetrain, the venue for the next election or is it even worse than it appears, just good enough to make a difference, or the revolution so many say it is?”

[BloggerCon](#)

academe, business, and journalism to explore how weblogs continue to change the way groups and individuals work, learn, and communicate.”

[The BloggerCon 2003 Weblog](#)

“Weblogs. The unedited voice of a person! Will easy and inexpensive publishing technology change the face of politics, business, journalism, the law, medicine, engineering and education? Is a revolution underway, or are weblogs just the latest Internet craze? We'll show how artists create new experiences and inspire with weblogs. New technology will be showcased at BloggerCon 2003.”



Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University

More on Blogging

Still haven't gotten enough?
 I think you may be getting hooked.
 Have I mentioned that weblogs are addictive?

More, more, more....soon.

"So I did something dreadful. Something despicable. Something so horrible and evil I couldn't stand the sight of myself in the mirror in the morning. I started weblogging."

[Derek Powazek](#)

[Blogging News: blog, moblogs, personal publishing, microcontent, weblogs - Corante](#)

"This section's edited by Hylton Jolliffe, the founder, editor and publisher of Corante. Up for inclusion: anything on the culture, technology, politics, and future of blogs. Please send any tips, suggestions or reactions to Hylton."

[Weblog Kitchen: Weblog Kitchen](#)

"The Weblog Kitchen explores current research in weblogs, wikis, and other hypertext systems."

[Weblogs Compendium](#)

" Here you can find everything you need to know about weblogs/blogs: hosting services, tools, directories, definitions, RSS readers and resources..."

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University



01/19/2003
01/26/2003
02/02/2003
02/09/2003
02/16/2003
02/23/2003
03/02/2003
03/09/2003
03/16/2003
03/23/2003
03/30/2003
04/06/2003
04/13/2003
04/20/2003
04/27/2003
05/03/2003
05/18/2003

What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

IDD Project Description

The first project assignment for IDD 250 and IDD 410 is to create a personal weblog for design research and reflective writing. We will create our weblogs as a group during the first class. This project will continue throughout the entire semester.

This site has been created as a resource for you to use for the length of the project (and beyond, if you choose to keep blogging after the course is over). You will find links to the World o' Blogs, tech support, inspiration, writing help, and much more.

A Little Background

Journals and diaries are commonly used in English courses and writing programs to comment and reflect on assigned readings or to draft assignments. In graphic design and related visual disciplines, learning journals (usually called design journals or sketchbooks) have been used to document design research, to collect design and typography notes, to collect design samples and references, and to reflect on assigned readings.

The journaling process of analysing design, articulating ideas, and expressing thoughts seems to help many design students clarify their thinking and creative processes. This assignment is especially useful for understanding interactive design concepts such as usability, navigation, or "data" versus "information." It also helps students verbally communicate visual information and processes, which is critical in client relationships or post graduate studies.

I have assigned design journals in my courses for over 13 years. Until Fall semester of 2002, I had always required the students to keep paper journals. I heard about weblogs a couple of years ago. I quickly became hooked and began "following" some. Intrigued by the possibilities, I started deeper investigation during the Summer of 2002 into the feasibility of using them for my IDD 250 Literature and Writing for Interactive Art sections. It seemed to make sense that for an introductory course on

"This week marks the one-year anniversary of the trip Jon and I took to Yosemite National Park and eloped on a cliff overlooking Half Dome. It was a trip we had planned for a little over a month, and something we kept secret from everyone we knew except his mother, my mother and my father. There was no way I could get married without telling my parents as I have put them through sufficient heartache already, what with leaving the Mormon church and forsaking Rush Limbaugh."

[Dooce](#)

interactivity and content creation, the journaling process should take the form of a live online weblog. The experiment was so successful that I have made it a permanent part of the course and I add more guidelines and greater refinements each semester.

I still assign physical design journals for my print design courses and encourage my students to make visual journaling a life-long practice. I began keeping sketchbooks and journals as a student and continue to do so in many forms.

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University



What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

Reflective Blogging

Blogs are electronically published and publicly available. This means that anyone can visit and read your weblog at any time — other students, friends, family, the teacher, and anyone that has internet access. Although it is possible to create private weblogs, part of the assignment is that you distribute your URL to the class, friends, family, and that you read and comment on the other students' blogs.

With this in mind, you want to create thoughtful, cogent postings and don't forget to rewrite, edit, and proofread before you hit the "publish button."

What do I Write?

This is always the BIG question when we begin the blog project. Your weblog is meant to be a journal of the course, your learning, your creative processes, and your life. Plenty of material here. Trust me.

Start by reading the assigned texts (or sites), working on your homework, and working through the assigned tutorials. Make notes to yourself as you read or analyze works or while you are in the processing of researching and designing. Then go back over your notes and reflect. Is there something in particular that grabs your interest? If so, transcribe the related notes and begin to write your post.

For those of you that still may be stuck, ask yourself:

"What inspires me & why?"

"Why do I like or dislike a particular design (color, typeface, picture, website, etc.)?"

"What has someone else written that I like or dislike and why?"

"What am I learning about design, creative processes, and standard practices?"

"How does this new information connect with what I already know?"

"What have I learned today?"

"What problems am I having?"

"How can I improve?"

"There are, in fact, rules—even online. Rules are not restrictions. Grammar, spelling, punctuation, rhythm, focus, syntax, and structure aren't especially romantic terms, until you get to know them. Writers want to make sense. They want to move the reader. It ain't never gonna happen if you got busted paragraphs, mistaken punctuation and, bad rhythm, not to mention kreative spelling: see? Clarity is key. Learn the rules. Break 'em later."

[Dennis A. Mahoney](#)

Link, Link, Link

Don't forget to link to anything and everything you discuss and describe in your post. The more the better.

Rewrite, Edit, Proofread

BEFORE you hit the "publish" button. Need I say this again?

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University

What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

Real World Blogging

You may be wondering what relevance a course blog might have for your future work in interactive design (and related professions.) Actually, Blogging ties directly into real-world, mainstream web uses in many different ways. I'll mention just a few.

The process of keeping a regularly updated website is excellent interactive design experience. Blogging also provides experience in community and site traffic building. If an IDD student successfully keeps a blog for the duration of their study, they can use this site as a piece in their senior portfolio.

The following list gives some examples of types of weblogs that can be found outside of academia:

Personal Blogs

The most common blogs are personal websites that consist of links to sites of interest and commentary about them or on some other subject. Many web designers and developers keep weblogs on web, design, and code issues.

kottke.org :: home of fine hypertext products

brushstroke.tv

[Jeffrey Zeldman Presents: The Daily Report](http://JeffreyZeldman.com)

megnut.com - a weblog by meg hourihan

Corporate Blogs

Organizations and corporations are increasingly using weblogs as an effort to expand client/customer communications and information.

[Microsoft Blogs](#)

[JD on MX](#)

[Planet PDF Weblog](#)

Journalism Blogs

Journalists and pundits have flocked to the

"Why no updates yesterday:
The murder in Baghdad of non-political humanitarian relief workers left us too sad to even think about discussing web design."

[Jeffrey Zeldman](#)

blogosphere, mainly because of the ability to create instant updates to news stories and to provide more information (or a more personal view) on a subject than is possible in traditional publishing and media. Newspapers, magazines and TV shows/stations are now running their own blogs, usually as diaries of the hottest news stories. As you will see on the Kevin Sites blog, news agencies sometimes view a journalist's personal weblog as competition.

[Kevin Sites Blog](#)

[Mike Wendland's E-Journal](#)

[Lost Remote TV Weblog](#)

[Ms. Magazine Online](#)

Community Blogs

Blogs are being used by online communities, where a member of the community (or sometimes anyone) can contribute links or post a comments. The interests of the group can be specific or fuzzy – I am in the process of setting up a community weblog for the members of the Quinnipiac Women's Studies Group.

[Metafilter | Community Weblog](#)

[Blog Sisters](#)

[Many-toMany: Social Software](#)

Project Management Blogs

This is similar to a community weblog, but with a focus on a specific task. Group blogs are being used by teams for project management as an alternative to email or discussion forums. Most of these are private, password protected sites accessible only to the team members.

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University



What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

IDD 250 & IDD 410 Project Steps

We will be following these steps together as a group, but there are always a couple of people that miss that first day of class. So, here's a step-by-step breakdown for the first project of the course.

After you have set up your Blogger weblog and chosen a template, I expect you to customize and personalize the template with your own colors, email address, etc. I will demonstrate this in class, but you can always go to the Blogger support pages to find template customization information.

Steps to Creating Your Own Blog

1. After familiarizing yourself with this site, read the following article:
[Weblogs: a history and perspective](#)
2. Look at the following sites:
[Textism](#)
[Jeffrey Zeldman Presents: The Daily Report](#)
[Oblivio](#)
[kottke.org :: home of fine hypertext products](#)
[Not A Dollarshort](#)
[The Historical Present: Leslie Harpold](#)
[brushstroke.tv](#)
3. Follow the instructions to set up your own (free) Blog at: [Blogger](#) and send the URL of your new blog to Prof. Hastings.
4. Post your first journal entry with at least one link. Be sure to check your links to make sure that they work. Journal entries must be posted a minimum of once a week and must include commentary on the readings and research involved in the class. They can also include personal narrative and should occasionally comment on the postings of your classmates. See the section called [What do I write about?](#) for more detail.
5. Maintain your Blog throughout the semester. You

"And yes, in case you're wondering, I'm aware that I wrote there's nothing to say and then followed up in a matter of hours with two more posts. But that's always how it is with me."

[Meg Hourihan](#)

must post at least one journal entry per week and at least one link per entry. This is the minimum requirement. Each week's posting is worth a maximum of 5 pts. Your Blog will count for 30% of your total course grade.

6. Check the course weblog for updates and additional information.

Optional

The following free or dirt cheap apps allow you to post from your own machine. The first is for Windows and the second is for Mac. Let me know if you need help setting them up.

[Bloggar](#)

[Kung Log](#)

Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University

What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

Practicing What I Preach

I wouldn't be setting a very good example if I didn't keep a regularly updated blog of my own. I struggle daily with all the same things you will in keeping your weblog , what to write, writing well, how to manipulate the code, and so forth.

You'll find my weblog (and probably more than you ever wanted to know about my research, thoughts, and life) at [Cyborg Mommy](#).



Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University

01/19/2003
01/26/2003
02/02/2003
02/09/2003
02/16/2003
02/23/2003
03/02/2003
03/09/2003
03/16/2003
03/23/2003
03/30/2003
04/06/2003
04/13/2003
04/20/2003
04/27/2003
05/03/2003
05/18/2003

What is a Weblog?

How to Blog

Blogs & Teaching

Blogrolls

IDD Blog Projects

Bibliography

About this Site

Blog Bibliography

I imagine that the list of books on the subject will grow along with the popularity of weblogs. Articles in major magazines and newspapers are on the increase, I hope to have a list of them here. Online articles and postings about weblogs are profuse and you'll find some of them sprinkled throughout this site.

Blog Books

Bausch, P., M. Haughey, et al. (2002). [We Blog: Publishing Online with Weblogs](#). Indianapolis, Wiley.

Blood, R. (2002). [The Weblog Handbook: Practical Advice on Creating and Maintaining Your Blog](#). Cambridge, MA, Perseus Publishing.

Blood, R. (2002). [We've Got Blog: How Weblogs Are Changing Our Culture](#). Cambridge, MA, Perseus Pub.

Powers, Shelley. editor. (2002). [Essential Blogging](#). Sebastopol, Calif., O'Reilly.

Stauffer, T. (2002). [Blog On: Building Online Communities with Web Logs](#). Berkeley, Calif., McGraw-Hill/Osborne.

Stone, B. (2002). [Blogging: Genius Strategies for Instant Web Content](#), New Riders.

[Weblog Madness](#)

[McGee's Musings](#)

[Liz Lawley's Blog Links](#)



Blogging Across the Curriculum

A Course Resource for the Interactive Digital Design Program at Quinnipiac University

About this Site

My name is [Pattie Belle Hastings](#) and I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Computer Science and Interactive Digital Design Department at Quinnipiac University. I am also an artist, designer, and author. At some point in the near future, I'll provide a list of links to some of that work.

I consider this site to be a first draft or beta version, so if you have any thoughts, suggestions, or links, please send me an email! Like all beta versions, I am sure there are bugs and typos. Look for corrections in the updates.

Acknowledgements

The selections of links and references on this site are a reflection of my particular interests and concerns. My intention is that it will grow and change over time (at least each semester.)

I'd like to take a little space here for a few thank you's in the inspiration and creation of this site.

I'd like to send a "warm to the touch" thank you to Mel Goux, aka [Ms. Brushstroke](#), for getting me into this mess in the first place.

The next one goes out to all Bloggers – particularly the Bloggers I read on a regular basis, who continue to entertain and inspire me:

Torrill: [thinking with my fingers](#)

Jill: [jill/txt](#)

Liz: [mamamusings](#)

Anne: [Purse Lip Square Jaw](#)

Many thank you's go out to my department, faculty colleagues, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the QU technology staff, and my University as a whole, for being so supportive and such a great place to work.

And a thank you to my students. You continue to surprise me and make my job so incredibly rewarding. I hope you learn as much from me as I

"cyberfeminist
ruminations by half
mother half machine"

[Cyborg Mommy](#)

do from you...

I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.