

Course Description

Participants enrolling in this course will learn how to locate, use and create weblogs ("blogs"), explore the applications of blogs, create blogs and track blogs using aggregation tools.

Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Have a clear understanding of blogs
- Locate and keep track of blogs
- Create a blog
- Customise, maintain and promote their blog

Prerequisites

- Basic computer skills
- Basic familiarity with the Internet

Locating and reviewing blogs

- Historical development of blogs
- Introduction
- History of Blogs
- Blogs and social software
- Social conventions and etiquette
- Links between blogs

Blog providers

- Blogging tools

Using search tools to locate specific blogs

- The characteristics of high quality blogs
 - ⇒ Usability
 - ⇒ Navigation
 - ⇒ Structure
 - ⇒ Connectedness
 - ⇒ Presentation

Evaluating blogs

Common uses of blogs

- Creating a blog to perform a specific information task
- Defining the purpose of the blog and its target readership
- Using blog creation tools efficiently and effectively
- Blogger.com

Purpose and target readership

- Keeping your blog up-to-date and relevant
- Blogs as an effective information tool

Tracking selected blogs

- Methods of generating newsfeeds
- Using tools for aggregating newsfeeds
- Desktop News Aggregators
- Online news aggregators
- Creating and maintaining a personal list of newsfeeds



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