**Week 4: The Social Web**

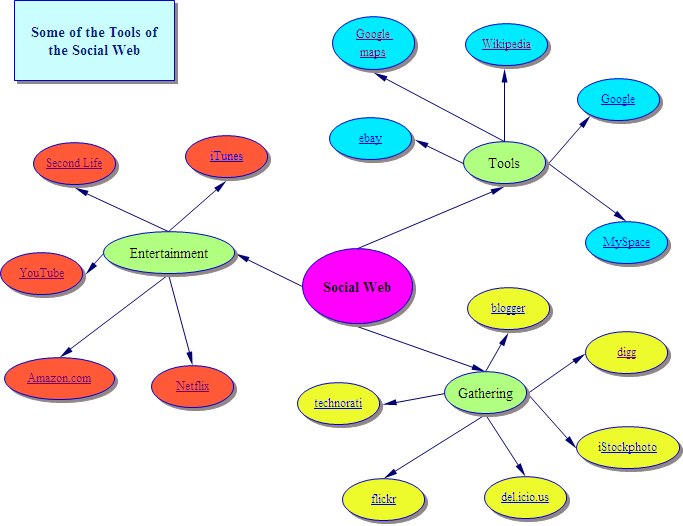
**Web 2.0: Facebook, Myspace, SecondLife, Wiki, Blog, SurveyMonkey**

**So what is the difference between Web 1.0 and Web 2,0?**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Web 1.0 was about** | **Draw a line to match the pairs** | **Web 2.0 is about** |
| reading |  | communities |
| companies | sharing |
| client-server | writing |
| home pages | wireless |
| wires | bandwidth costs |
| owning | blogs |
| dialup | peer to peer |
| hardware costs | broadband |

The term, social web itself suggests social interactions; not just one on one interactions but interactions that have formed a complex network. Web 2.0 allows a person to repurpose and make sense of the information in their context which otherwise might be useless to them. Social software has emerged as a major component of Web 2.0 allowing the user to create and manipulate content from the Internet. This social web serves as a medium for exposing one's thoughts, feelings, ideas or the lack thereof . Some of the more popular Web 2.0 technologies include Wikipedia, FaceBook, MySpace, YouTube, Flickr, Blogger, Ebay and Amazon.

The [diagram](http://www.education.unisa.edu.au/education/school/subjects/11570/2007/socialweb.htm) attempts to identify some of the common software tools associated with the social web. The hyperlinked diagram (above) also allows you to link to the main pages of the various tools.



**Blogs and Wikis?**

What is the major difference between a blog and a wiki?

How could we use them to improve learning outcomes through engaging and challenging students?

What are the dangers and drawbacks?

A political science class is exploring news stories through traditional media using Google news, and then investigating the world of blogs identified either through Google or via Memeorandum (a service that integrates news stories and blog responses) to access further information. Is this an example of a new way of teaching? What would the ‘traditional’ way of teaching this material look like?

When a history class explores world views using Blogdex (charts the most popular web pages as linked by a group of bloggers), what can be said about the pedagogy? How might this link to the ideas you’ve already explored about constructivist learning, learning styles and higher order thinking?

How do we know whether students are better off reading blogs on a particular topic or reading a published article? Which might have the greatest learning benefit?

The blog may be one way of supporting classroom discussion where the blog is contained and held together by the sociality of class members. Educators may ask whether these newer technologies are producing better learning outcomes than previously used chat or discussion forums. The traditional pedagogies which are more aligned with Web 1.0 tools are not harnessing the full potential of the new social web tools or the learning style preferences of today's students.

Social web tools demand new ways of teaching that capture the learning style of students in their classes. Digital natives appear to thrive on instant gratification and frequent awards, while preferring games to serious work. How can educators adapt to these learning preferences? What guidance can be given to the development of effective pedagogies?

Based on the elements identified as critical to the effectiveness of online learning communities it would appear that learning can occur in a less structured way. Many of these tools have the potential to advance a new learning culture, suggesting greater flexibility and independence. In the social web students create their own communities and hence it may be important for educators to release some control and provide a more flexible design that will allow this is happen. There is also a blurring around what might be considered formal learning and the value of informal learning.

There are the digital natives and students born into this era who are not comfortable with the technologies or are deprived of access, because of their socio-economic background. Also there are also the students (digital immigrants) who are comfortable with more traditional styles of learning. Consideration also needs to be given to the cultural diversity within the student population and the learning preferences of this group. Do the social web tools have the potential to enhance learning for all students or only a particular group? Is it possible to design effective pedagogies that harness the potential of the social web? Does the social web have any educational value?

* **Set up a ‘Web 2.0 in Education’ wiki for your group to discuss each of these issues. How would you organise it? How could this adapt to include other things that would help you in your learning about e-learning . . . ?**

**Resources**

Issues: cybersafety

<http://www.childnet-int.org/blogsafety/teachers.html>

Big list of web 2.0 tools you could use with your class

<http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/fil/pages/listweb20s.html>

Interesting examples and links

<http://k12onlineconference.org/?p=39>

All you need to know to get started with blogs

<http://www.det.wa.edu.au/education/cmis/eval/curriculum/ict/weblogs/>

 Instructional Design for Online Learning   
[http://www.pitt.edu/~poole/onlinelearning.html](http://www.pitt.edu/%7Epoole/onlinelearning.html)

Education Network Australia   
<http://www.edna.edu.au/edna/go>

Discovery Education   
<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/>

Sites for Teachers   
<http://www.sitesforteachers.com/>

Top Educational Sites   
[http://www.topedusites.com/#](http://www.topedusites.com/)

Education World   
<http://www.education-world.com/>

Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators   
<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schrockguide/>

Curriculum Corporation   
<http://www.curriculum.edu.au/ccsite/>

The Le@rning Federation   
<http://www.thelearningfederation.edu.au/default.asp>

Resources for Educators   
<http://www.globalclassroom.org/resource.html>