

DRINKING FROM THE FIRE HOSE

Channeling the Flow of Internet Information

A blog (an abridgment of the term web log) is a website, usually maintained by an individual, with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse chronological order.

RSS (Rich Site Summary) is a format for delivering regularly changing web content. Many news-related sites, weblogs and other online publishers syndicate their content as an RSS Feed to whoever wants it.

The combination of Blogs and RSS make it easier for you, as an instructor to tap into a very large wealth of resources, knowledge and communication that can be found online. **There are 4 basic ways to use these technologies:**

1. **You reading blogs:** This is a valuable way of staying current on your subject area, instruction, events, or any number of other things. The trick is using an RSS reader to access the information in a central location.

Google Reader: www.google.com/reader

Newsgator (Windows) / Netnewswire (Mac): www.newsgator.com

2. **Your students reading blogs:** This is a good way to add current information to your class, and a great way to get discussions going. They can use the same tools.
3. **You publishing a blog:** It's free, and you can use a blog to publish information on a regular basis, either as direct additions to your class, or as "enhancement" or complimentary information. Microblogging is similar, but targeted toward brief thoughts and announcements (Like "class is canceled").

Wordpress: www.wordpress.com

Blogger: www.blogger.com

Twitter (microblog): www.twitter.com

4. **Your students publishing a blog:** This is a great way to have your students keep up a regular journal or writing assignment. If you use an RSS reader, then their work will be gathered and delivered to you in a very easy to read and keep track of environment.

My Sites:

My Blog: <http://wlmoseley.wordpress.com>

My Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/billmoseley>

My Web Site: <http://www.bmoseley.com>