

Title of Session: BlogStreams Salon

Moderator: Bee Dieu and Aaron Campbell

Title of File: 20050529blogstreams

Date: May 29, 2005

Room: BlogStreams Salon Group

PhilB: Well, I'd be happy to voice my own concerns about using blogs with potentially irresponsible students, or my hopes for success using a blog for project launching.

RitaZ is all eyes

Maggi: two good topics

PhilB: But I'd rather hear from the *veteran* bloggers!

BeeD: Alors Phil...just ask what is in your heart!

LesleyG joined the room.

BeeD: and I will try to answer the best I can, based on my experience

Maggi: Hi Lesley

BeeD hugs Lesley

LesleyG: Hi everyone

RitaZ: hi, Leslie

LesleyG: What's new everyone?

BeeD: Phil is about to start an E-twinning project and was wondering about how to use blogs

PhilB: Bee, my experience with your students has shown that yours are more disciplined and self-motivated than mine. These guys in mechanical engineering are sometimes hard to rein in.

PhilB: I've got like 9 out of ten serious students, when it comes to using web tools responsibly, but the other one on ten are a pain.

LesleyG: Where do you teach Phil?

BJB2 thinks that Bee's students were the same way when she started using CMC

ChristinLo: Phil, I think I have the same experience in some classes

BeeD: I have a lot of students who are a pain as well...do not fool yourself

LesleyG: One out of ten ain't bad!

BeeD: but I believe it is the teacher's role to motivate them and somehow connect them

PhilB teaches in a mostly technical high school in southern France where English tends to be very far from the primary interest of the boys.

BeeD: what are they interested in?

PhilB: I'm concerned that if students all start their own blogs, there will be no editorial control, as in our forum projects.

ChristinLo: Students in mechanical engineering, or technical sciences don't like verbal reports!

LesleyG: I think I've seen your posts on NETEACH Phil. I teach in the S of France too. Looks like we'll soon be leaving Europe LOL

BeeD: Why is that Lesley? Are you leaving?

PhilB: Nonsense, Lesley, today's vote is basically meaningless, I think.

LesleyG: That was a ref. to the referendum vote in France, for those of you who live elsewhere

RitaZ: thanks, Lesley

BeeD: Yes...and France is against it

LornaB joined the room.

BeeD: but mostly because of its own internal quibbles

LesleyG: Sorry I'm going to take a little break. My daughter has earache.

PhilB: So my question to Bee and Rita and other veteran bloggers is, how do you launch the blog participation? Send every student to www.blogger.com to set up an account?

BeeD: no pb Lesley

RitaZ: uh, Phil, difficult issue, that of motivation

PhilB: ((France is deeply divided, even the "no" people are "no" for ten wildly different reasons.

RitaZ: to me, the most difficult, as I find resistance among colleagues!

Maggi: same in Germany

AaronPC joined the room.

Maggi: Hi Aaron

PhilB: Big group!

AaronPC: Hello Maggi.

BeeD: Bonjour Aaron

AaronPC: Hello everyone.

RitaZ: hi, Aaron, pleased to see you

Maggi: it is early morning for Aaron in Japan

BeeD: Aaron is an early bird

AaronPC: Yes....early morning.

AaronPC: It's going to be a nice day here too.

AaronPC: The birds are already singing.

RitaZ: Monday in Japan, right? still Sunday eve here in Argentina

AaronPC: Yes...Monday morning.

BeeD: Phil wants to start an E-twinning project with his mechanical engineering stds in France and was wondering whether he should send his stds to set up an account at Blogger

PhilB: So... first you send all the students to create their own account on www.blogger.com? Or do you need to start a motivational talk first? Lay down ground rules?

LesleyG: Back again. To answer Phil's q. I took all of my students into the multimedia lab together and gave them a quick run through on how to set up a blogger account and

then left them to it for about an hour. They then consulted each other's profiles. The first few posts were highly directive. I gave them things to write about. They then compared and left comments.

LesleyG: It worked really well.

BeeD: My first question is Phil...what kind of project are you setting up? and why do you think a blog would be the appropriate means to conduct the interaction?

PhilB: Bee, that's precisely what I don't know. I've used forums extensively, and really doubt whether my kids will be responsible netizens enough to use blogs effectively.

BeeD: setting up an account on blogger takes about one hour of computer class

LesleyG: I think you might be surprised at how much even the quiet ones have to say in their blogs.

BeeD: what you do with it later is what is important

PhilB: We're setting up a multi-site exchange project with 5-6 other European high schools: <http://village-europa.blogspot.com/>

LesleyG: Continuous assessment also does wonders for responsible blogging!

RitaZ: and positive feedback, right?

LesleyG: Absolutely Rita

ChristinLo waves goodbye to all

PhilB: I've always steered away from assigning a "grade" to online student writing in the target language. Positive feedback, yes. stamping their foreheads with 6/20 or 15/20, no.

ChristinLo left the room (signed off).

BeeD: Looks good Phil

LesleyG: I got an e-mail from a student today saying she felt hurt because I hadn't commented on her final post. I felt mega guilty.

PhilB: No sleep for Cyberteachers. <smiles>

SusanneN joined the room.

BeeD: Why not have self-assessment? This is what I did with mine last trimester

SusanneN: hola folks

BeeD: Bonsoir Susanne

LesleyG: Hola!

AaronPC: Right Phil....I agree that writing lends itself well to qualitative assessment.

RitaZ: hola, dear Sus!

AaronPC: Peer assessment is interesting too.

AaronPC: Hi Sus.

RitaZ: yes, Aaron, its peer collaboration

BeeD: I usually start with self...and then move to peer assessment. I have been seldom disappointed

LesleyG: I'm all for self/peer assessment but university administrations aren't quite there yet

SusanneN: do I see Phil Benz here tonight - is that really YOU!

PhilB: Susanne, bonsoir - good to see you again.

SusanneN: vraiment! long time no see

PhilB listens eagerly to Rita, Bee, Lesley, et al.

BeeD: Phil...have you had a look at the ECML project?

RitaZ: but its true that success is not always the final outcome, which is diappointing to us, with all the zest we carry along....!

PhilB: Bee, I looked at most of the stuff linked from Dekita, was ECML one of those?

BeeD: yes...they have written a bit on their living spaces

BeeD: you could direct your stds there to model their posts

LesleyG: I had my students do a final post summing up what they had got out of the course and the outcome seems to be that blogging was resounding success not only because they felt they'd produced some meaningful English but also because they got to know each other better and interacted in a way that was perhaps even more authentic than in traditional pairwork activities in the classroom

BeeD: you could also use Flickr...so they can illustrate their posts with pics as for the Mugshots project Sergei started

PhilB: yes, those all seemed like good resources.

SusanneN: Yes, Flickr, or Buzznet

RitaZ: yes, Flickr is userfriendly and simple

AaronPC: Yes Lesley...that sounds like a successful experience with blogs!

BeeD: and allows notes, comments and interaction without many ads

SusanneN: I think Sergei used Buzznet for our Mysteryguest project blog (with the mug shots and all that)

LesleyG: I added a flickr badge to my blog tonight. I looooooove it!

RitaZ: a badge, Leslie?

PhilB: Lesley: no problems with language proficiency, or perpetuating errors in online samples of writing?

LesleyG: Yes, Bees got one too. It's a mosaic of photos from your Flickr page, in the sidebar.

SusanneN: can we get a link to your blog and have a look, Lesley?

RitaZ: thanks, Leslie, will have a look

AaronPC: I like your "new" eye Lesley.

LesleyG: Massive probs with lang proficiency, but I sent corrections by e-mail in Word files with "suivi de modifications"

JamesMH joined the room.

BeeD: Here you can have a look at the examples of what students have posted on their cities for instance (this was a project we participated last year)

BeeD:
[http://ejournal.eduprojects.net/ipmtools21/index.php?action\[\]=IBrowsing::gotoFolder\(1564\)](http://ejournal.eduprojects.net/ipmtools21/index.php?action[]=IBrowsing::gotoFolder(1564))

BeeD: Welcome Jamie!

AaronPC: What gets me is that I've gotten feedback from my students like Lesley's and then....

AaronPC: they stop blogging.

LesleyG: <http://LesleyGraham.blogspot.com>

JamesMH: hello

AaronPC: Hi James

JamesMH: Good morning Aaron

LesleyG: Yes, but we don't really know if they DO stop blogging. Maybe they just open another, more private, address

AaronPC: True!

BeeD: Good to see you here James...another early bird from Japan

AaronPC: I wonder how often that happens?

JamesMH: thanks, it's nice to be here

SusanR joined the room.

SusanneN: Hello Susan and James

JamesMH: Hi Susanne

SusanR: Hi Susanne and James

RitaZ: hi, Susan and James

SusanneN: Lesley, I got disconnected and would like your URL again, also for the new ones please`?

LesleyG: Or maybe they just have a blogging hiatus and will start again in a few month's/year's time

JamesMH: I have just started using blogs with my EFL teaching methodologies class

BeeD: Great James...tell us a little bit about your experience

RitaZ . o O (Leslie is a positive thinker)

LesleyG: <http://LesleyGraham.blogspot.com>

JamesMH: we are using blogspot

SusanneN: another blogspotter

EmilyW joined the room.

JamesMH: I would say that over half my students seem to be enjoying the blogs

LesleyG: Do you feel it's a failure if they stop blogging Aaron. I admit I do a little.

JamesMH: 30 % seem to be a little daunted by the technology

EmilyW waves

BeeD: Phil...an example of a Day in the Life of you mentioned earlier
[http://ejournal.eduprojects.net/ipmtools21/index.php?action\[\]=IArticleShow::showArticle\('9865'\)](http://ejournal.eduprojects.net/ipmtools21/index.php?action[]=IArticleShow::showArticle('9865'))

RitaZ: good percentage, James!

AaronPC: No...I don't think it is a failure at all Lesley.

SusanR listens attentively

AaronPC: James...can you give us a URL to the site?

JamesMH: It is a great way for students to provide each other feedback about their practice teaching

JamesMH: <http://aspiringeflteachers.blogspot.com/>

AaronPC: I think it would be great for students who wish to continue....

JamesMH: My page has links to the students' pages

AaronPC: blogging as a means of continuing to learn and communicate.

SusanneN: Lesley, would you expect all of your students to have that much to communicate in public? At least now they know how blogs are made, and how to take up blogging some day soon if desired

JamesMH: I am using bloglines and plan on introducing it to my students this week

AaronPC: I just think that so many students still see it as related to their 'schoolwork'....

JamesMH: I was wondering if there was any way to use RSS for comments

AaronPC: that they drop it like a hot coal after the term is over.

PhilB: Wow, information overload!

LesleyG: That's true Sus but I'd like it to be something that's not just something they do for the class, but something more long-term

AaronPC: Wow James! Quite a collection of student blogs here.

PhilB: Lots of cool stuff here.

SusanneN: can you perhaps get an email notification for comments, as the owner of a blog? I think there is a setting for that

EmilyW: I know there is a setting on blogger

BeeD: You have to configure it in the settings Susanne

SusanneN: right!

BeeD: and then you get the notification

JamesMH: Ok, I will check that out

LesleyG: James, I like the little driver!

SusanneN: but I don't think a RSS feed exists for comments.

JamesMH: Thanks

BeeD: some open source software offers it

JamesMH: It is hard for me to keep track of students' comments

AaronPC: Some software allows for that...but not Blogger I believe.

BeeD: Dekita did

BeeD: not sure whether Rudolph turned if off

JamesMH: Well, I am sorry but I have to get on the bullet train and go to work

JamesMH: On Monday morning

JamesMH: I teach English to nurses

JamesMH: in a city called Mizusawa

RitaZ: nice to have met you, James

PhilB: Here's a question other colleagues will inevitably ask me: doesn't managing your students' participation in blogs require a huge time investment on your part, as the teacher?

AaronPC: thanks for stopping by James

JamesMH: Nice to meet you all and I hope to speak to you next week

JamesMH: adios

JamesMH left the room (signed off).

RitaZ: guess it's like that, Phil, Bee can answer more accurately, she's the specialist

LesleyG: Another cool feature would be "comments you've made". Flickr has it, so you can see if a subscriber has answered a comment you left about his/her photo but I don't think there's anything similar for blogs. I sometimes forget about comments I've left. And then come back weeks later and see that a whole discussion ensued in the comments section

AaronPC: Not necessarily.....but for me it is a bit more time consuming than what I might do in 'normal' f2f classes.

EmilyW: I just started writing comments on blogs

RitaZ: unless you have plenty of f2f classes to prepare for, Aaron, which is the general complaint here

PhilB: I mean, I know full well that as a teacher, as soon as you shift from the "oh, this is so cool!" phase to the "ick! what a chore!" phase, half the battle is lost.

AaronPC: I have never seen it as a chore though...for me it is a joy to aggregate the feeds and respond with comments, suggestions, help, etc.

AaronPC: The use of an aggregator is necessary...

BeeD: Well...my students complained last week that they were fed up with reflecting on what they were doing in class

LesleyG: You're right Phil. And yes it is time consuming.

AaronPC: otherwise you would go completely mad trying to keep up with it all.

BeeD: and that they wanted to post on their own subjects

LesleyG: Introspection isn't everyone's cup of tea Bee, I suppose Bee

BeeD: I made a sort of a compromise

SusanneN: It would also depend on how much management you require. If their contributions are seen more like an ongoing conversation and not something that need to be part of the assessment such, you would not necessarily have to correct every line or follow up on everything, just try to keep the ball rolling

BeeD: I correct them once a trimester

AaronPC: Yes....building flow and momentum is key, Sus.

BeeD: print all the blogs

PhilB: "aggregate the feeds"... "fed up with reflecting"... you guys are a gold mine!

AaronPC: Once it gets going, the conversation can have a life of its own.

BeeD: are you familiar with RSS Phil?

RitaZ: even with a few of them, it pays, Phil

RobertWB joined the room.

PhilB: Is there an easy way to print all articles and comments on a blogger blog in one go?

PhilB: RSS? Nope.

LesleyG: There are lots of memes out there that I'm sure would work with students. The music meme is doing the rounds at the moment.

RobertWB: Bob tries to sneak in late, very quietly.

BeeD: Well then I have to direct you to a presentation

SusanneN: The Mystery guest project (where Sergei's students in Minsk were interviewing me and we paped a meeting in Elluminate, and this generated a lot of good

and relevant writing and presenting; they worked hard on this and were pretty engaged I think.

Maggi: HI BOB!!

LesleyG notices Bob tiptoeing in

AaronPC: Hey ElderBob!

PhilB: RSS, "memes", I go offline for a year, and I don't even know the lingo any more!
<g>

BeeD hugs Phil

RobertWB: Dadgum, caught again.

BeeD: do not despair

BeeD: Hi Elderbob

RitaZ: hi, Bob!

RobertWB: Hi all, sorry so late, kid problems.

EmilyW waves to Bob

SusanneN: Hello again Bob! Thank you for helping me with the Knowplace blog weekend! It was a thrill!

RobertWB: I'm sure none of you have ever had any of those.

AaronPC: Lesley...are your students in the midst of blogging right now?

LesleyG: No they've finished now. Exam next week.

RitaZ congrats Sus on the blog weekend publicly

PhilB: Anyway, I've caught the "buzz" again, and no doubt, each Sunday I'll learn a little more from the Blogpresarios and Blogmeisters! Gotta dash now, though. Good to see y'all again!

BeeD: Good to see you here Phil

RitaZ: my pleasure, Phil!

AaronPC: Thanks for coming Phil.

RobertWB: Sorry, I missed you Phil...stay in touch.

LesleyG: Bye. I like the terms!

Maggi: nite Phil

EmilyW: bye Phil

SusanneN: Phil - is that no for sure in the French vote for the EU tractate??

LesleyG: I'm going too. Just time for a quick look at the analysis of the NO vote in France before I go to bed.

SusanneN: France has had a very important vote today!

PhilB left the room (signed off).

LesleyG: It's 100% certain Susanne

RobertWB: Has anyone noticed that Flickr now has a small Java badge that you can attach to your website or blog.

Maggi: well Holland is next

RobertWB: Well, I can see that my service is still lagging.

SusanneN: that will hopefully give us a break in the EU!

AaronPC: Yeah...we were just talking about that before you came.

RitaZ: So I've learnt here, Bob, today

AaronPC: Pretty spiffy, huh?

EmilyW still needs to upload pictures to flickr

SusanneN: ah - the Flickr badge is a new gadget! I need one as well

RitaZ will try it asap

SusanneN: Emily, the more I use Flickr, the better I like it

LesleyG left the room (signed off).

RitaZ: me too, Sus

BeeD: I must upload some of my pics from the weekend

AaronPC: Flickr and Furl are my Favorite Friends

BeeD: FFFF

EmilyW: I like it I just don't know what pictures to add

RitaZ: lol

BeeD: alliteration

BeeD has been in a poetry mood lately

RobertWB: Well actually the badge has been there for a while, but it was a different script...the new one is like a small movie.

SusanneN: haven't used Furl yet myself! Still more new things to learn all the time

RobertWB: It displays several pics in a square and then highlights and enlarges one randomly letting people scroll through all your photos.

SusanneN: I'm in a photo mood!

RobertWB: The old one was just pics down the side of a page.

SusanneN: I see

BeeD: I have one of these on my blog Bob...it displays windows

RobertWB: And if you dig in their archives there is also an HTML on, if you dont want to use java.

RobertWB: Yes, I think Bee, I haven't noticed yours...It was on the site for a while, then they took it down and now it has been slightly corrected and is back again/

RobertWB: So there is a choice of two badges...right/

RobertWB: and actually three if you count the HTML one...

AaronPC: I think there are several different choices.

RobertWB: There may be others Aaron, but on the site that Flickr sends you to, I think there are only the two.

RobertWB: A couple of weeks ago, I was looking for something like a slide show and I searched that site high and low, and it was not there.

AaronPC: Oh.

RobertWB: If anyone uses a moodle, both of those can be put in your moodle in various ways, as can Furl, Del.icio.us and Buzznet badges.

SusanneN: some very cool program developers at Flickr! It is still beta but I heard they have been sold to Yahoo? Am I right?

RobertWB: And I think the newest incarnation of Moodle allows you to import a slide show.

AaronPC: Yes

RobertWB: Is it yahoo or google...

RobertWB: Or maybe it was already google and now yahoo.

RobertWB: There is a sale in place, and there is also a Pro version now that wasn't there when started....

SusanneN: fast moving forward!

RobertWB: I'm wondering what will happen when that goes into effect.

SusanneN: yes yes

RobertWB: Time to look for some open source options....

RitaZ: a question, guys, I've tried to send a photostory via email, I love it, btw, but I've seen that you cannot view it

RobertWB: What are you trying to view it with Rita.

RitaZ: if you haven't got Windows XP

SusanneN: yes, that was a pity, I've not seen one single of these Photostories yet.

RitaZ: real pity!

RobertWB: I thought you just had to have Windows Medial Player 9 or above.

RitaZ: you also need XP

LornaB left the room (signed off).

BeeD: yes apparently they do not show on Macs

RitaZ: nor on W 98, either

SusanR: If you are a mac OS X user there is jalbum

SusanR: free web photo album software and photo gallery software

BeeD: why can't these things be compatible!!!

SusanR: <http://jalbum.net/>

SusanR: sorry runs on both platforms

BeeD: Next week we have a special session at Blogstreams

BeeD: Salon

RitaZ: I know, Bee!

BeeD: With Natalie d' Arbeloff

BeeD: <http://www.nataliedarbeloff.com/blaugustine.html>

SusanneN: I've marked next week's session in my calendar

AaronPC: I'm looking forward to that.

BeeD: It would be nice to have a look at her blog

BeeD: and have some questions coming up

SusanneN: yes, would be good to be prepared on advance

BeeD: Natalie has a lot to share with us

BeeD: and she is looking forward to it

BeeD: however

SusanneN: xxx

BeeD: she feels a little bit unhappy by the interface

BeeD: about the interface

SusanneN: so we do our best to make her feel comfortable and at home with us!

BeeD: absolutely

SusanneN: and no virtual drinks before at the end of session!

BeeD: quoting her words : What I find difficult about this way of communicating is that the medium

BeeD: overwhelms the message. In other words, the format doesn't encourage the

BeeD: development of ideas or deeper exchanges that can happen in live

BeeD: conversation or in e-mail communication.

BeeD: something to discuss perhaps

RitaZ: yes, Bee, nice topic

SusanneN: yes, a good topic

RitaZ: is it the format itself what she finds daunting or "not good enough"?

EmilyW: what was it that she did not like?

BeeD: I think she is not very much used to synchronous exchanges

EmilyW: would it be better for her to post a message?

RitaZ: but is she referring to blogs, Bee?

BeeD: no Tapped In

RitaZ: ahhhhhhhh

AaronPC: synchronous text chat format

RitaZ: We can tell her, then...;-))

BeeD: She feels restricted by the short snippets of text

RitaZ: ??

BeeD: But she is willing to try

EmilyW: short snippets?

RitaZ: interesting feeling, first time I hear about it

BeeD: and I am grateful to her for it

BeeD: She is not the first one to express it

Maggi: like a conversation at a party

BeeD: but this is a topic for some other discussion

BeeD: on Blogstreams

BeeD: her topic is

BeeD: Blogging as freedom and as home.

AaronPC: Wow!

BeeD: Hope to see you all next Sunday

RitaZ: meaningful approach

BeeD: same bat channel and same bat hour

RitaZ: thanks, Bee; Aaron and all, CU next week!

AaronPC: See you!

RitaZ waves bye to all

Maggi waves

AaronPC: I gotta run too. Train is leaving soon.

AaronPC: See you all next week!

BeeD: Run Aaron, run!!

BeeD hugs all

AaronPC left the room (signed off).

BJB2: thanks, Bee

SusanneN: I've just finished a weekend workshop on blogging at Knowplace with some highly motivated participants (mostly career coaches, and some good webheads - it was all async and in Moodle

BeeD: How did it go Susanne?

SusanneN: very well!!

BeeD: great!

BeeD: will you share your experience through your blog, Susanne?

SusanneN: I was happy and I did not make info overload but wanted to see what they would like to work on (which was their own blogs)

SusanneN: yes, I've been blogging part of the workshop

SusanneN: and now that it is over, I'll see what more would be relevant to save and share

BeeD: Looking forward to it

SusanneN: Rita and Bob were my great supporters

SusanneN: the Open Weekends are 48 hours only...

SusanneN: so after that's over, people cannot get access to the Moodle course again.

BeeD: what a pity it's not open

SusanneN: that's the way that Knowplace leaders decided it to be. If people want more, they need to take a paid< course

BeeD: everything behind passwords, enrollment and fees huh?

SusanneN: Yes - I find it is too restrictive somehow

SusanneN: yes yes

SusanneN: so, when I blog part of it, the users can get back and read again

SusanneN: one reason why blogs are better for knowledge sharing in the open

BeeD: anyhow...people must make a living somehow

SusanneN: yes, and of course in the Moodle format, you can structure and develop your content, and that's more advanced.

BeeD: yes..it's a course

SusanneN: and I need to find my own feet in the money earning system - I don't have an employer as such, working free lance is different.

BeeD: not easy

SusanneN: but fun

BeeD: I will be very soon in this situation

BeeD: so will need your advice .-)

SusanneN: will you? are you retiring or what?

Maggi: freelance means being your own boss

SusanneN: Knowplace educates career coaches!

SusanneN: right Maggi

BeeD: Maybe you can find a place for me :-)

BeeD: I was kindly asked to retire

SusanneN: I did not know that Bee!!

BeeD: but have not intention of doing so

SusanneN: how can they!

BeeD: so there is a battle to be fought ahead

SusanneN: for how many years did you teach at this school?

BeeD: they want to put a French national in my place

BeeD: and think I have already done my years

BeeD: so they implied

BeeD: that if I had other interests, I might give more time to them

SusanneN: they will have difficulty in finding a more devoted and innovative teacher

BeeD: well...this is your view...not theirs

BeeD: I disturb, disrupt, question

BeeD: their system

BeeD: Must go now

BeeD: lots of things to do

BeeD: Good evening to all and see you next week !