Title of Session: The Blogstreams Salon - Tagging and Social Networking
Moderator: Bee Dieu
Title of File: 20070506blogstreams
Date: May 6, 2007

Room: The Blogstreams Salon Group

BjB : Welcome to today's Blogstreams Salon, everyone.

BjB : we usually start the Tapped In discussions with introductions.

BeeD : We have done some of this before

BjB : please let us know where you are located and what interests you in the discussion

BjB . o O (unless you've already done that)

NelbaQ : I am Nelba from Argentina. I am here because Rita, Sasha , Vance and I are working on a writing project

DavidWe : I'm David Weksler. I mostly help teachers learn more about technology while I'm not practicing my Turkish. I'm in New Jersey, near New York City

NelbaQ : and we/ I would like to know about tagging

NelbaQ : Vance told us you are familiar with that

VanceS joined the room.

NelbaQ : Hi, Vance

DavidWe waves to Vance

VanceS : bom dia

RitaZ : Hi, Vance

BeeD : I am Barbara Dieu (Bee) and I teach EFL at a bilingual secondary school in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I am very keen on blogging and all it can bring and the host of this session

BeeD : Hi Vance

BeeD : it must be the wee hours of the morning for you

BeeD : thanks for coming

NelbaQ: wee?

BeeD: small

SasaSi: I'm Sasha from Slovenia - I teach EFL at vocational college in Slovenia

DeE: I am Derya Erice from Turkey working at an English Language teaching department of a university

VanceS: very wee, I'm Vance Stevens, a Webhead, and I live in Abu Dhabi

BeeD: time difference?

DavidWe . o O (wee hours - very late/ very early - 3 in the morning, for example)

NelbaQ: it is 18:00 in La Plata, Argentina

DeE: it is 12 am here in Turkey now

BeeD: I am -3 GMT which means it is 18:00 here in Brazil

SasaSi: 23.pm in Slovenia

VanceS: 1 am here

DavidWe: 5:10pm in New Jersey and Pennsylvania

NelbaQ: Argentina is also -3 GMT

NinaTL: Hello, everyone.

BeeD: we have just introduced ourselves

NinaTL: I know almost everyone I think.

NinaTL: For the others, I am Nina Liakos and I teach ESL at the University of Maryland, outside Washington DC

GraceTR: Hi, I'm Grace, I teach Spanish in Kentucky (U.S.) I don't know much about blogging so I'd just like to listen...

NinaTL: Nice to have you here, Grace

BeeD: today we will be discussing tagging and social networking

NelbaQ: super

BeeD: and how this can help educators and students to connect

BeeD: (better and more autonomously)

NinaTL: This is very timely for me because I don't use tags at all yet

BeeD: So first I would like to hear what the recent bloggers have to say about blogging

BeeD: and how you feel about it

BeeD: and how your students reacted to it

NinaTL: How do you define "recent"?

RitaZ: I'm not a "recent" blogger but my stds are...;-)

VanceS: us writingmatrix folks will introduce our topic when prompted

NelbaQ: I find blogging a very interesting tool for expressing oneself. There are some students who find it a space where to show their creativity...

DeE: from the perspective of professional development- a great way of reflecting and sharing on practices

DeE: from the students perspective, online version of diaries when guided well, works out great

NinaTL: Yes, in**DeE**d, wonderful for professional development

NelbaQ: because they not only use the language but also images or video

SasaSi: I agree with Nelba

BeeD: have you been blogging personally...I mean sharing your ideas and reflections?

NinaTL: "when guided well" is crucial

NinaTL: I had a bad experience with blogs this semester

BeeD: or you just use it with your students?

NinaTL: The students never really got into it

NelbaQ: in a way... but not exactly

BeeD: tell us more about it and how it happened Nina

DeE: I start reflecting once in a while and then quit- has not been systematic

NelbaQ: oh, Nina. what a pity!

BeeD: how old were they and what were their interests or expectations?

EmilyW: My blog is a personal blog where I share my thoughts and ideas

NinaTL: These are students between 18 and 35

NelbaQ: give us the URL, Emily, please

NinaTL: Undergraduate and graduate students at UM who are required to take English haltime

NinaTL: They are very focused on passing the proficiency test which they will be taking tomorrow and Tuesday

NinaTL: I had them 4 hours a week in the computer lab (which doubles as a listening lab) and 6 hours in the classroom

NinaTL: I had to spend most of my lab time on listening because of the way the course is set up

BeeD: wow...this is a nice number of hours

NinaTL: too little time for blogging

VanceS listens to Nina

BeeD: so they were very much focused on the exam

NinaTL: I was hoping they would like it and start doing it from home but I should have known better because these are students who have no time for anything they don't absolutely HAVE TO DO

BeeD: right

NinaTL: Also I didn't present it well

BeeD: this also helps...lol

NinaTL: I should have given them a clear focused idea as to why it would be good for them to do it

NinaTL: and then (argghh) required x number of posts/comments per week.

BeeD: hehehe

EmilyW: Nelba my blog is at eweinb04.blogspot.com and one of my blog entries is actually about tagging for educators and that entry is at http://eweinb04.blogspot.com/2005/04/tagging-bookmarks-with-delicious-for.html (it was written 2 years ago)

BeeD: like me and my rubrics

NelbaQ: it is difficult to introduce ITCs in classes

NinaTL: Tell me about your rubrics

NinaTL: ITC?

NelbaQ: students are not used to

SasaSi: my students are usually also like that - they don't do things unless they have to

BeeD: oh...my students were happily enjoying their blogging informally, having a grand conversation

BeeD: when I decided to control the process

BeeD: and jailed them into the rubrics

BeeD: let me check where they are

NinaTL: So the rubrics squelched their creativity?

BeeD: anyway...I absolutely brought the whole thing to a stop

NinaTL: With my group, not controlling meant not doing

NelbaQ: yes, that usually happens, Nina

NinaTL: Most of my colleagues prefer a team blog with all the class contributing to one blog.

NelbaQ: that is what I am doing but students are not very enthusiastic about it... anyway, I will give them time to get used to blogging

NinaTL: but I really like to give students the opportunity to create their own space with its own individual feel

RitaZ believes pressing stds doesn't work at all..., they just need to be motivated..., which is not an easy task for teachers all the time!

BeeD: I worked with a team blog as well

NinaTL: So has anyone here succeeded in really motivating busy grade-focused students to blog?

BeeD: where all stds were invited to join

RitaZ: I have..., but don't know how long it'll last

BeeD: but the reason I did it at the time

NelbaQ: remember that perhaps students are not so interested in blogging as we are

NinaTL: How did you present it to them?

BeeD: was that Blogger did not have a comment area

NinaTL: Yes, Nelba, exactly

RitaZ: making them aware of their going global

BeeD: I spend about 2 to 3 classes

BeeD: explaining the concept

NelbaQ: we may be really fascinated by Internet tools but they only want it for chatting or downloading their favourite music

BeeD: showing them examples

NinaTL: I think this is a little less motivating for my ESL students here in an English-language environment

SasaSi: I started with a team blog too and then moved on individual student blogs

NelbaQ: people in general do not know what it is about

BeeD: asking them to read and give feedback

BeeD: orally in class

BeeD: on what they have read

BeeD: and whether they find it interesting or not

NinaTL: Asking them to read what, Bee?

RitaZ: talking about their interests

NelbaQ: I think we can get them involved with chat meetings first

BeeD: Here are the rubrics that led to the revolution

NelbaQ: It is working with my group

BeeD: http://www.members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/crit2.html

NinaTL: I had some lovely chats this semester here at TI

GraceTR: And the students do all their blogging in the target language?

BeeD: I select a number of different blogs

DeE: are students free in topic selection?

NelbaQ: who are you asking Grace?

BeeD: political, student blogs, teacher blogs, cooking blogs, etc

NinaTL: You can select the language in blogger, Grace

RitaZ: I've found the opposite: asynchr meetings to get to know each other and building up expectations for a synchr meeting has worked for me

BeeD: and ask them to tell me the kind of content they find...what they think about it

BeeD: and why these could be useful or not

GraceTR: Anyone--I guess someone who teaches a second language--what is the purpose

GraceTR: of blogging?

BeeD: so we spend about 2 to 3 classes warming up really

VanceS: I've got to bring in another avatar, the p/u blocker is preventing me from keeping the thread here

BeeD: but discussing in English about material they read

NinaTL: Well, Grace, we often say that blogging expands the audience for students' writing

RitaZ: exactly, Nina

NinaTL: And if you can get people in other countries to respond to and comment to what your students write, it should be very motivating! (not is my case this semester, but previously it has been)

RitaZ: it's not only the teacher who reads what they write now

GraceTR: Oh, I see.

VanceS: Shall we introduce writingmatrix?

NinaTL: Since you teach Spanish, you might arrange with Nelba or Rita or someone to teaches EFL to Spanish speakers to do an exchange

GraceTR: That would be interesting--my students are beginners though.

DeE: is it the writing version of readingmatrix?

NinaTL: Their students could read your students' blogs in Spanish and respond in Spanish, and your students could do the same in English

NelbaQ: sure, Grace. I would love to help you with your Spanish classes.

GraceTR: I think my students would enjoy that.

RitaZ: tandem project that is, yes, Nina

NinaTL: How old are your students, Nelba?

VanceS: writingmatrix is a way of connecting students taking advantage of tagging

NinaTL listens to Vance

NelbaQ: 16/18 years old

RitaZ: but my stds are advanced, not beginners

SasaSi listens to Vance

Vance2Gst20 joined the room.

DeE listens writingmatrix

VanceS: sorry had to bring in vance2 so he could get urls on the laptop

NinaTL: Welcome to Vance's alter ego

VanceS: writingmatrix is at http://writingmatrix.wikispaces.com

VanceS: Sasha, Rita, and Nelba are on the project

VanceS: and its purpose is to enable students with a certain interest to find each other

VanceS: we called the project by a unique identifier, writingmatrix

VanceS: and we ask students to tag their blog entries writingmatrix

NinaTL: So the audience is students, not teachers? Students of English?

VanceS: right

BeeD: sorry to interrupt

VanceS: go ahead bee

BeeD: just adding the url to what I give stds for the warm up

BeeD: http://www.beewebhead.net/Evo05/student.htm

VanceS: I'm so happy to be opening this on my laptop

BeeD: ok..this was all

VanceS: ok, well this technique I was describing uses 3 tools

VanceS: technorati, bloglines, del.icio.us and blogging of course

VanceS: and tagging the blogs

VanceS: so for example, Rita and Nelba and Sasha have their students write about their interests and if they want in on the project tag their entries writingmatrix

NinaTL: Then what?

VanceS: Others in the project then go to http://www.technorati.com

VanceS: try it now, there is a blog search tool there

NelbaQ: yes, but I am having problems with my tagging. My blog or posts do not appear in technorati

RitaZ: Technorati is a blog searcher

VanceS: that's what we want to discuss today actually

VanceS: how technorati works

BeeD: I have posted some links in the folder at the top for further information

BeeD: but would like you to tell us about how you did it

VanceS: so if you visit http://www.technorati.com

NelbaQ: One of the questions is : do we have to get registered in technorati or not?

SasaSi: I have registered

VanceS: in the green search tool

BeeD: I have claimed my blog(s)

NelbaQ: yes, and Rita. but not Vance

VanceS: write in writingmatrix

DeE: I am on it

VanceS: and pull down in blog posts

VanceS: where it says in tags

VanceS: and search

RitaZ: I did get registered but got same results as Nelba, in some cases

VanceS: and what do you see

NelbaQ: I can see Doris' blog

NelbaQ: and Sasha's

VanceS: yes, Doris is a 5th member of the team

VanceS: now I am signed in on the computer I'm using now

VanceS: it so happens

NelbaQ: But I cannot see mine :((

VanceS: let me try it from this one and see if it's different

NinaTL: I didn't register but was able to search blogposts and blog directory

NelbaQ: Hey, I have found my blog by my name!

VanceS: ah on this other computer I am not signed in

VanceS: cool Nelba

NinaTL: Maybe I had already registered some time ago and forgot?

NelbaQ: but not my writing matrix

NelbaQ: it is one I have for children

NelbaQ: which I have never tagged . Very funny!

VanceS: I see the same on both computers, on the one I'm signed in on and the one I'm not

VanceS: did you 'claim' this blog Nelba?

NelbaQ: so getting registered does not mean anything. It is just the same

VanceS: register it?

NelbaQ: nope

RitaZ: my stds have tagged writingmatrix but none of them seem to be found

VanceS: on what page is your entry?

NinaTL: So when students get there, they read the blogs tagged writingmatrix?

VanceS: yes that's the idea Nina

NelbaQ: Are you asking me, Vance?

RitaZ: yes, Nina, and they can get connected

BeeD: tagging is what we used for Dekita as well

VanceS: yes Nelba, I don't see your blog right away

NinaTL: How does this differ from Dekita Exchange?

VanceS: we're a little confused as to how this works exactly

NelbaQ: type Nelba in the search space

BeeD: but at the time, it was still a confusing topic for most teachers who had not even started blogging

BeeD: we used the p2p tag in delicious

BeeD: to show the class blogs that were connected to Dekita

BeeD: http://del.icio.us/tag/P2P-EFL-ESL-X

NelbaQ: this is very confusing... I have found English Virtual Community

NelbaQ: my blog for writing matrix

NelbaQ: but my tag is englishvirtualcommunity, so my question is

VanceS: del.icio.us might be a later step for us

VanceS: it requires the next account

NelbaQ: how shall I tell my students to tag their posts/blogs?

VanceS: where we're at now, we blog, we tag

BeeD: writing matrix I guess

VanceS: and technorati does the rest

VanceS: but what it does we're not clear on

NinaTL: lol

VanceS: this much is working

NinaTL: How has it worked so far? Or is this just at the initial stages?

VanceS: Doris and Sasha's students are turning up in droves

RitaZ: initial stages, Nina

NinaTL: Are the students reading and responding?

BeeD: it sweeps the web and aggregates all the posts that are tagged writingmatrix

NelbaQ: Ok

BeeD: it works by posts instead of classes as we did in Dekita

NelbaQ: but I have tagged writing matrix in my blog but it does not appear

RitaZ: my stds are, they have tagged, but cannot even find their own blogs!

NelbaQ: when I type writingmatrix

BeeD: all together

NelbaQ: It appears when I type the

VanceS: exactly, that's what we're wondering

NinaTL: OK, so theoretically, students could go to technorati and search for the tag "soccer" and potentially find a lot of stuff they would be interested in reading

NelbaQ: name of the blog

VanceS: soccer would be too broad

NelbaQ: I do not understand

BeeD: this is why the unique tag should be very very unique

NinaTL: But if soccer was what they were interested in--

VanceS: it would work but you need something like Bee's p2p

RitaZ: that's it, Bee

NelbaQ: it is nearly impossible to have a very very unique tag

BeeD: exactly

NinaTL: it wouldn't turn up English learners but it might motivate them to read

BeeD: like our P2P-EFL-ESL-X

RitaZ: I've made my stds tag caeb2007, quite unique, but nothing like it comes up

NelbaQ: I do not think it might motivate them to read

NelbaQ: they feel overloaded with too much info

BeeD: have they tagged the posts?

VanceS: you could try Nina, but they can google soccer

VanceS: this technique enables them to find other students in the same safe project

RitaZ: yes, Bee, they have tagged the blogs

VanceS: although we don't know why it doesn't turn up Rita's and Nelba's

NelbaQ: Sorry, but I do not understand how to solve my problem

NinaTL: Yes, true

NinaTL: That would definitely be better for younger students

DeE says good night

DavidWe waves to De

NinaTL: Good night, De

VanceS: bye de

BeeD: thank you for coming De

SasaSi waves goodbye to De

NelbaQ: I have found Rita's blog by typing RitaZ

NelbaQ: by De

DeE left the room (signed off).

VanceS: but Nelba, your students won't be looking for Nelba or Rita Z

NinaTL: I found Rita's blog and also Sasha's by searching for writingmatrix and choosing "blog directory"

RitaZ: that's not what we need, Nelba

NelbaQ: Vance, they will look for Nelba. But my question is

NelbaQ: if I tagged "writingmatrix"

NinaTL: Can you tag an entire blog or just individual posts?

NelbaQ: why I find my blog only by typing my name???

BeeD: you sometimes get confused because you get individual posts

NinaTL: but you can search either for posts or for whole blogs

RitaZ: in Podomatic we tag the blog

BeeD: which you do not immediately recognize

BeeD: this is why we opted for tagging whole classes

VanceS: I tried Nina's trick and got Sasha's blog

BeeD: but this is not ideal either

RitaZ: my stds have opened their blogs at Podomatic and tagged them

VanceS: I presume technorati sweeps podomatic?

BeeD: and it works?

RitaZ: but are not showing up when doing the search using writingmatrix

BeeD: hmmm

NelbaQ: that is it!

BeeD: isn't the tag mispelt?

NelbaQ: pity Doris Molero is not here.

NelbaQ: She must know

NelbaQ: her blogs appear without any problem

VanceS: Rita you have to tag each post

NelbaQ: I am a bit jealous of Doris

BeeD: are you sure you have configured your blog to be pinged and was it made public?

NinaTL: Can you explain about pinging please?

NelbaQ: are you talking to me, Bee?

VanceS: Doris is online in YM

VanceS: but can't reach TI

NelbaQ: tell her to come

VanceS: Bee, what is this configuration for pinging

NinaTL: What is pinging?

NinaTL: I've read about it but it didn't stick

VanceS: ping is when one computer sends a data packet to another and checks for a response

NinaTL: Why would it do that?

VanceS: we were asking why it's important to configure for pinging and how you do that

NelbaQ: do not understand "ping"

BeeD: I am not technically minded...but I know that for your blog to be picked up by the search engines...you must make it public, open to search engines and allow pinging

VanceS: ping is what you do to test if you have an internet connection

BeeD: yes

VanceS: ok, so you make your blog open, how do you do that in blogger or podomatic?

BeeD: you have to have a look at the settings

NelbaQ: I have my blog open

BeeD: let me check mine

NelbaQ: in blogger

NinaTL: I am going to hand my computer back to my daughter, who was watching Code Lioko on YouTube

NinaTL: I will leave this window open so I will be able to read the rest of the chat later

NinaTL: Thanks everybody, see you soon!

NinaTL goes afk

VanceS: I'll open my dashboard as well

BjB: Thanks, Bee. The next Blogstreams Salon will be on June 3

BeeD: it's in the publishing tab

NelbaQ: Bye, Nina

BjB . o O (the scheduled hour is up, but you are all welcome to continue the discussion)

SasaSi: Bye Nina

BeeD: Thank you all for coming

BeeD: and if I have any more info on this I will put a link to the Tagging folder here

NelbaQ: ok

VanceS: yes, I'm not sure if we got at any solutions yet

BeeD: there was a time I used to insert code in each post

NelbaQ: Sorry, but I have not got any solution to my problem

BeeD: [tagname]

VanceS: but I'm looking at my settings

SasaSi: I've got my blog configured at send pings... I've just checked it

BeeD: oops...does not come out here

BeeD: [tagname]

BeeD: giving extra spaces here

BeeD: so the code appears

BeeD: but I do not think you need this really

BeeD: as blogger itself should do the business

BeeD: where have you been tagging?

VanceS: under what tab Sasha?

SasaSi: settings/publishing

VanceS: send pings?

SasaSi: yes

BeeD: how do you insert your tags Sasa?

VanceS: ok, Rita and Nelba, do you see that?

SasaSi: before posting posts - it's a textbox in the bottom of the newpost window

NelbaQ: I am checking and I have got send pings

BeeD: http://support.technorati.com/

RitaZ: I think I've done that, but will check

SasaSi: it says label and there you enter the tag

RitaZ: I'll contact support, yes, Bee

BeeD: read the FAQ first

RitaZ: ok

NelbaQ: I have my blog open, too

VanceS: and you are sending pings Nelba?

VanceS: of course your students would have to be doing it too

BeeD: this is a better...more recent FAQ apparently

BeeD: http://support.technorati.com/faq/forum/1

VanceS: what about your students Sasha, any idea if they send pings?

SasaSi: no idea

NelbaQ: Yes, Vance I am sending pings

VanceS: Sasha can you check for us and let us know?

BeeD: http://support.technorati.com/faq/topic/53

SasaSi: I can ask them, yes

BeeD: this is on pings

BeeD: I think you have the full explanation on what to do

NelbaQ: It is a mystery or bad luck with technorati

VanceS: and we can follow up on the urls Bee is digging up

VanceS: that last url of Bee's deals with that issue

BeeD: http://technorati.com/ping/

BeeD: and here you ping your blog

RitaZ: I'll read that in detail and try to ping again...

NelbaQ: I do not have activated "show link field"

BeeD: you have to tell technorati that your blog is out there

BeeD: by enabling the pinging in the setting area

BeeD: and by asking technorati to ping it once

VanceS: that's a good clue Bee

NelbaQ: I have already done that... but now

RitaZ: good clue, Bee

NelbaQ: there is a "claim"

BeeD: make sure your students are doing the same

NelbaQ: window which I am supposed to fill in

BeeD: you can claim the blogs that belong to you

BeeD: it's a matter of identity

VanceS: claim is if you want technorati to gather data on your blog

VanceS: which you can then access

NelbaQ: so, I have to get registered

NelbaQ: what will happen if I do not claim?

VanceS: but what we are trying to do is get students to tag posts

VanceS: and have them picked up by other students

VanceS: Sasha and Doris are out there

VanceS: Rita and Nelba aren't

NelbaQ: that is right. But I cannot ask them to tag their posts if I cannot tag mine

VanceS: and it could be just the default ping setting in their browsers

VanceS: no in their blogger settings

VanceS: or in Rita's podomatic settings

RitaZ: yep, I'll check that

BeeD: this is me on technorati http://technorati.com/people/technorati/bdieu

NelbaQ: Rita's blog appear!

RitaZ: yes, mine does show up

NelbaQ: if you type "writingmatrix" in blog directory

NelbaQ: but not mine. I am about to cry

BeeD: and there you can see my main tags

VanceS: I see that

NelbaQ: why do they have authority?

VanceS: earlier I saw only Sasha there

BeeD: I guess this is the number of people who link to them

NelbaQ: I think they appear because they are registered

NelbaQ: sorry 4 insisting on that

BeeD: I have registered and claimed mine

NelbaQ: I do not think that the # of people linked to you gives you authority

NelbaQ: because Sasha has got 6 points for authority and she has got more links than that

BeeD: well...this is their terms...not mine

BeeD: people who link to your blog

BeeD: not who you link to

RitaZ: yes, that's it, Bee

VanceS: funny on one computer I search blog directory

VanceS: by relevance

VanceS: and get only Sasha on one computer

VanceS: and Sasha and Rita on another

RitaZ: you see? That happened to me at school as well...:-(

SasaSi: I see some of my students and can't find some other

BeeD: authority means people who mention your blog in their posts I suppose

BeeD: http://technorati.com/search/beewebhead.net

NelbaQ: I understand, Bee.

BeeD: well..I suggest you register, claim your blog, make sure that it has the pinging enabled, ping technorati to tell the spiders you are there with the writingmatrix tag and see what happens in the next two days

VanceS: good advice

VanceS: thanks for taking us to another level of figuring out technorati

RitaZ: yes, Bee, will check all that, thanks!

SasaSi: I did that

BeeD: It was a pleasure Vance (I did not know it myself...lol)

RitaZ: and tell stds about it, definitely

VanceS: Sasha and Rita and I are in YM if anyone wants to join us

BeeD: I navigate these tools sort of intuitively

DavidWe: Hey, Bee, are you interested in audio - podcasts, etc?

VanceS: we can invite you to a conference, Doris is there

VanceS: I do too bee

BeeD: but it takes a session like this for me to explain it...lol

RitaZ: good results it's had

BeeD: Have a great week...I am going to have dinner...you can favourite Wide Open Spaces...lol

VanceS: thanks Bee

DavidWe waves bon soir

BeeD: See you next month at the same bat channel and the same bat hour

DavidWe smiles

NelbaQ: Thanks , Bee. See you next month!

BeeD: and drop me a mail if you need anything else

RitaZ: bye, Bee and all, thanks

BeeD: or beep me on Skype

NelbaQ: bye, everybody!

BeeD: see you

SasaSi: bye all, thanks