TO BLOG OR NOT TO BLOG: INTRODUCTION TO BLOG PUBLISHING

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Abstract:

Publishing on the Web using blog software has moved from the “cutting edge” of technology to the mainstream; students and faculty are increasingly using blogs in academic settings. Blogs can be used to share and discuss information and knowledge, and to create a unique “virtual community.” This workshop will introduce faculty to blogging. Topics to be covered include the history of blogging, examples of academic blogs, a survey of blogging software and online tools (including MovableType, WordPress and BlogLines), publishing up a blog using free, simple software, and setting up a blogging system for students. The workshop will also cover blogging standards such as RSS, Atom, and Trackback. Participants will be able to practice creating and editing a blog during the hands-on session.

Statement of objectives:

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will:

• Understand the history of blogging as well as current practical uses of blogging in an academic setting.

• Be able to evaluate different types of blogging software.

• Be able to publish a blog using simple, freely available software on the Web.

• Understand how to set up a blogging system for use by students.

• Understand various blogging standards, including RSS, Atom, and Trackback.

Statement of benefits that will come from participation

Participants will learn how a relatively new technology can be used to enhance teaching and communication with students.

Intended audience: Faculty; no technology experience required.

Prerequisite skills required (if needed): None.

Number of attendees that can be accommodated (i.e., Limited to 20 attendees)

Presenter: Sharon Dennis is Technology Coordinator for the Midcontinental Region of the National Library of Networks of Medicine (NN/LM). As Technology Coordinator
she has been experimenting with "mix and match" audio and videoconferencing technologies to support distance education. She also trains NN/LM resources libraries on the use of video broadcasting (streaming media) hardware and software. She is also co-director of the Health Education Assets Library (HEAL) project; HEAL is a national multimedia database of publicly accessible materials for health sciences education.