

Using a Blog to Engage Students in Literature Search Skills Sessions

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York University

Canadian Engineering Education Association
Conference
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THE KEY TO MAKING A SUCCESSFUL BLOG IS BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR READERS.

I THOUGHT IT WAS "MAKE YOUR UPDATES GOOD SO PEOPLE WILL WANT TO READ THEM."

WE'LL DISCUSS CONTENT GENERATION IN PART THREE.

AWESOME! I LOVE CONTENT.



<http://xkcd.com/741/>

Agenda

- The problem
- The solution
- Blogs as an educational tool
- My IL blog
- Assessment

The problem

- How to create a platform for the material I present in Information Literacy / Literature Research Skills sessions
 - Text & visual instructions
 - videos
 - links to online resources & tools
- How to make the material I talk about and demo easily findable to students after class
 - Including following up with me for questions

- To massively oversimplify, librarians have two broad approaches to this problem:
 - Paper handouts
 - Static web pages (incl. PPT)

Finding a solution?

- Already using web pages maintained with Frontpage
- Looking for something a bit easier to maintain
- Scalable, shareable, open, social
- Cooler & sexier
- Heather Berringer presentation at OLA in 2007 gave me an idea...

Blogs as an educational tool

- Independent of institution-run software
- Interactivity can draw in shy students
- Extend discussion outside class time
- Promotes a learning community among students
- Disseminate course materials quickly and easily
- Students are comfortable with blogs & other web technology
- Students enjoy being part of "cutting edge"
 - From Kirk & Johnson
 - 1,2,3 Blog: The use of weblogs as an effective and efficient knowledge management tool in the classroom (<http://delaney.typepad.com/files/kirk-johnson-swam-2010-proceedings-1-1.pdf>)

Andrew Eckford on blogs

I would argue that the blog is as close as one can get in social media to the lecture: a blog post sets out a particular thesis, and permits an organized discussion on that thesis.

-Andrew Eckford

<http://andreweckford.blogspot.com/2010/02/social-media-and-modern-day-classroom.html>

My IL blog

<http://yorku.ca/yul/cse>

Research Resources from John@Steacie

For CS, Engineering, Natural Science, STS and other students at York University, Toronto

[Home](#)[Computer Science Resources](#)[Engineering Resources](#)

Contact John



John is offline
leave a message

Type **here** and hit enter to send an offline message.

edit nickname: [meeboguest404526](#)



[get meebop](#)



Steacie New Books

- Science and Technology Apr. 1-10
- Physiology Apr. 1-10
- Physics Apr. 1-10



ENG1000 Engineering Design Research Session

Posted in November 4th, 2009








by [jdupuis](#) in Engineering, Research Sessions

FREE Citation Management Software





- **RefWorks** site ([Login](#)) can help you manage your footnotes & bibliography on the web. Easy to use, interfaces directly with MS Word to create footnotes & bibliographies
- For off campus use, get the York group code [here](#).
- [FAQ](#) and Instructions for [various databases](#)

Research Sessions








- NATS 1820 Molecules and the Mind
- STS 3730 Science, Tech & Modern Warfare
- STS 3740 Life Sci & Modern Society
- ENGN 4000 Engineering Design
- CS Grad Students
- NATS 1760 Science, Technology and Society
- NATS 1745 History of Astronomy
- NATS 1840 Science, Technology & the Environment (May 08)
- NATS 1880 Life Beyond Earth
- NATS 1840 Science, Technology & the

-  Medicine Apr. 1-10
-  Mathematics Apr. 1-10
-  Engineering Apr. 1-10
-  Earth Sciences Apr. 1-10
-  Computing Apr. 1-10
-  Chemistry Apr. 1-10
-  Physiology Mar. 1-10

Blogroll

-  Computer Science Pathfinder
-  Engineering Pathfinder
-  ITEC Pathfinder
-  Steacie Library Homepage
-  York University Libraries

Categories

-  Computer Science
-  Engineering
-  General
-  General Science
-  History
-  Natural Science
-  Research Sessions
-  ...

- [Networks tutorial](#)
- Plan B: [various style guides](#) & [Landmarks Citation Machine](#)



General Information

- **Scientific publication cycle**
- **Peer review:** researchers validating each others work before publication
- Kinds of documents:
 - **patents:** government granted license to an invention
 - **standards:** agreed upon methodology: ie 802.11
 - **journals:** research results presented in a periodical/magazine. Peer reviewed.
 - **trade literature:** discipline-specific magazines. Not Peer Reviewed.
 - **conference proceedings:** research results presented at a meeting. Often peer reviewed, but not always.
 - **technical report:** description of a solution to a specific problem. Not peer reviewed.
 - **books**
 - reference: encyclopedias, tables, data collections, properties
 - manuals: lab methods, programming languages, operating systems
 - monographs: general topics
 - **technical specifications:** how a device or component works, ie circuit diagrams
- **If you're not sure how to get started on your project, come to Steacie.**

My topic: cars that drive, navigate and park themselves!

-  SOCI 4930 Sociology of Science & Technology
-  STS 3500 The Global Information Society
-  HUMA 1905 Dangerous Visions, Brave New Worlds
-  NATS 1810 Energy
-  NATS 1870 Understanding Colour
-  STS 3561 History of Computing
-  COSC 6490 Concurrent OOL
-  ENGN 1000 Engineering Design
-  STS 3725 Science & Exploration
-  BC 1800 Science & Controversy

Steacie on Twitter

-  SteacieLibrary: #Yorku Prof. L. Packer writes about the importance of bees to our rich food selection in his new book Keeping the Bees: <http://bit.ly/adGN2k>
-  SteacieLibrary: RT @YUResearch: York's #space

- intelligent and transportation

- **Google Books Search** — can be helpful in finding books for more obscure topics or books that have significant sections that are useful.
- Some helpful books for this assignment:
 - Wiley Encyclopedia of EEE — TK 9 W55 1999 ref section

eBooks

There are a couple of ebooks packages that are relevant to engineering

- **Books 24 x 7 Engineering Pro** — massive engineering ebook database, something for every project
- **Safari** — nearly 200 technology ebooks on software, operating systems, programming languages
- **Synthesis** — more advanced ebooks on topics like biomedical engineering, antennas, image processing

Articles

- Journal & conference articles give cutting edge, peer reviewed information on most topics
- Some searches:
 - automated highways
 - intelligent vehicle
 - automatic car sensor
 - car navigation gps

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 - car navigation gps
 - car sensor navigation
 - car sensor collision
 - car sensor parking
 - automobile navigation automatic
- **IEEE Xplore** — general engineering full text database
- **Scholars Portal** — good general source for mostly full text articles. Choose Technology Option
- **Expanded Academic** — good general source, mostly full text
- **ABI/Inform** and **Business Source Premier** — business databases, mostly full text. Both have terrific coverage of scitech issues
- **NASA Technical Reports Server** — great resource on NASA missions, not everything is available in full text
- **Science.gov** — search portal for the US Government
- **Engineering Village** (with Inspec & Compendex): advanced article search engine
- **Canadian Newstand & Lewis Navis Academic** — full text of many Canadian &

Hello John Dupuis



Available

Sign off

What are you doing?

jdupuis

dupuisj@gmail.com

John Dupuis

+ Sign on to more accounts...

The Meebo Notifier lets you close your browser and get message previews on your Windows desktop. [Learn more](#)

9:00 AM

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Hide this

meeboguest404526



[16:53] meeboguest404526: hi, can you help me find some information for my eng 1000 project?
[16:53] jdupuis: what's your topic?
[16:54] meeboguest404526: GPS automotive navigations systems
[16:54] jdupuis: are you looking for books or articles?
[16:55] meeboguest404526: i already found some really cool stuff in books 24x7 but i was wondering if you had some article suggestions?
[16:56] jdupuis: how about trying IEEE Xplore <http://www.library.yorku.ca/eresolver?id=435>
[16:58] jdupuis: with a search like "gps navigation system car"

[16:58] jdupuis: that's great! thanks!



meeboguest404526 is online (21257099 minutes)

Buddy List



Search your buddy list...

recent rooms (1/1)

jdupuis's room

Buddies (0/1)

Contact John (2/2)

meeboguest404526

meeboguest435636

meebo me (7/15)

meeboguest143335

meeboguest16426

meeboguest189959

meeboguest391707

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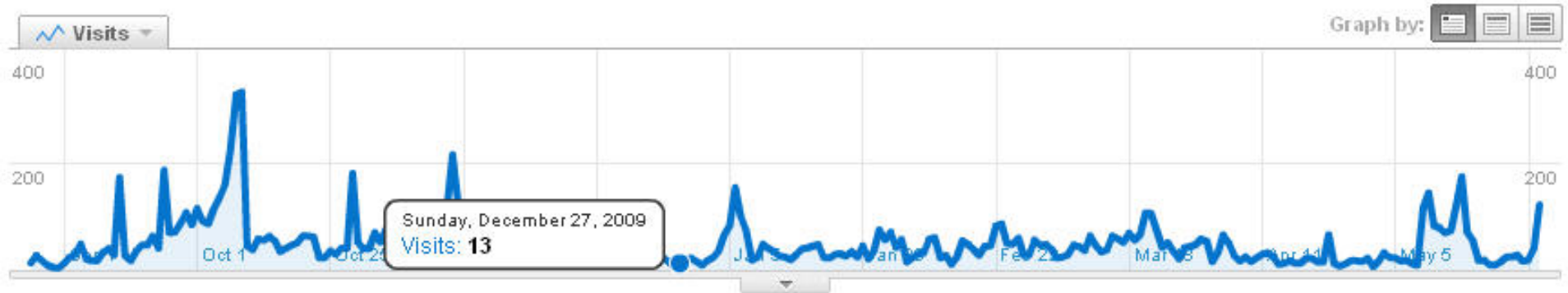
xieshuingbo14@hotmail.com

Assessment

- Statistics
 - Sept 2009 to May 2010
 - 24K pageviews, 16K unique visits
 - Most popular page: 4200/2700
 - ENG 1000: 176/128
- Advantages
- Challenges

Dashboard

Sep 1, 2009 - May 31, 2010 ▾



All posts

Top Traffic Sources

Sources	Visits	% visits
google (organic)	8,221	61.09%
(direct) ((none))	2,831	21.04%
search (organic)	404	3.00%
library.yorku.ca (referral)	324	2.41%
webct.yorku.ca (referral)	213	1.58%

Keywords	Visits	% visits
nats 1840	1,667	18.98%
nats 1760	569	6.48%
sociology computer science	252	2.87%
nats 1745	220	2.50%
nats 1810	214	2.44%

Top Content

Sep 1, 2009 - May 31, 2010



Eng 1000 post only

Top Content

Sep 1, 2009 - May 31, 2010



Nats 1840 post only

Advantages

- Good stats
- I become scalable
- Students find it easier to find me
- Students can use these pages for other courses
- Profs can link from Moodle, web pages, etc.
- Stats can help understand usage
- Meebo is a cool, dynamic classroom tool
- Blog page is easily Googled
- Pages are easy to create
- Content is reusable & remixable

Challenges

- Unanticipated uses
- Am I scalable right out of a job?
- Meebo can be distracting in class
- Blogs and other social networks/media are open -- comments, trolls, spam....

Contact

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<http://scienceblogs.com/confessions/>

<http://friendfeed.com/johndupuis>

<http://twitter.com/dupuisj>

<http://www.facebook.com/john.dupuis>

IL Blog: <http://www.yorku.ca/yul/cse/>

This presentation: <http://tinyurl.com/dupuisceea10>