

# EWS Library Guides

## Volume 1: Using Digital Media in the Classroom

By Heather Nodler, Librarian, The Emery/Weiner School



### What is digital media, and why should I use it?

We live in an era of unprecedented creative potential. The ability to author, edit and publish original works using digital media tools, sometimes referred to as Web 2.0 (e.g., creative software, social media tools, communication/collaboration tools, the Web) affords educators many opportunities to expand their assignments into new dimensions. In the classroom, the hands-on and multi-modal qualities of digital media encourage students to become more media literate, i.e., critical consumers and creators of media. They also accommodate various learning styles.

### Here are a few approaches you might consider:



- **Digital Storytelling** – Students use computer-based tools (software for image manipulation, video editing, audio recording, and web publishing), to tell stories. Digital stories typically contain some combination of digital images, text, recorded audio narration, video clips, and music. They can be personal narratives, recounting of historical events, or reviews of cultural products like books or films.



- **Podcasting** – Podcasting is a means of creating audio or video recordings and publishing them on the Web, so that they can be accessed on demand. It is similar in concept to TV/radio, but available at the individual's convenience. People create podcasts on every topic under the sun, from politics, to gardening, to popular culture, to personal fitness and personal narratives. Due to the ubiquity of the personal media device (iPod, iPhone, Palm Pre, MP3 player, etc.), people can listen to or watch podcasts in just about any setting—at home, at the doctor's office, on the jogging track, in the car—You name it.



- **Blogging /Web Publishing** – "Blog" is an abbreviated version of "weblog," which is a term used to describe web sites that maintain an ongoing chronicle of information. A blog is a frequently updated, personal website featuring diary-type commentary and links to articles on other Web sites. Blogs range from the personal to the political, and can focus on one narrow subject or a whole range of subjects.

Many blogs focus on a particular topic, such as web design, cooking, sports, or mobile technology. Some are more eclectic, presenting links to all types of other sites. And others are more like personal journals, presenting the author's daily life and thoughts.

Some blogs are formatting for journalistic writing, with multiple columns. Others allow you to publish content in bite-sized pieces or multiple media.

**Generally speaking (with exceptions), blogs tend to have a few things in common:**

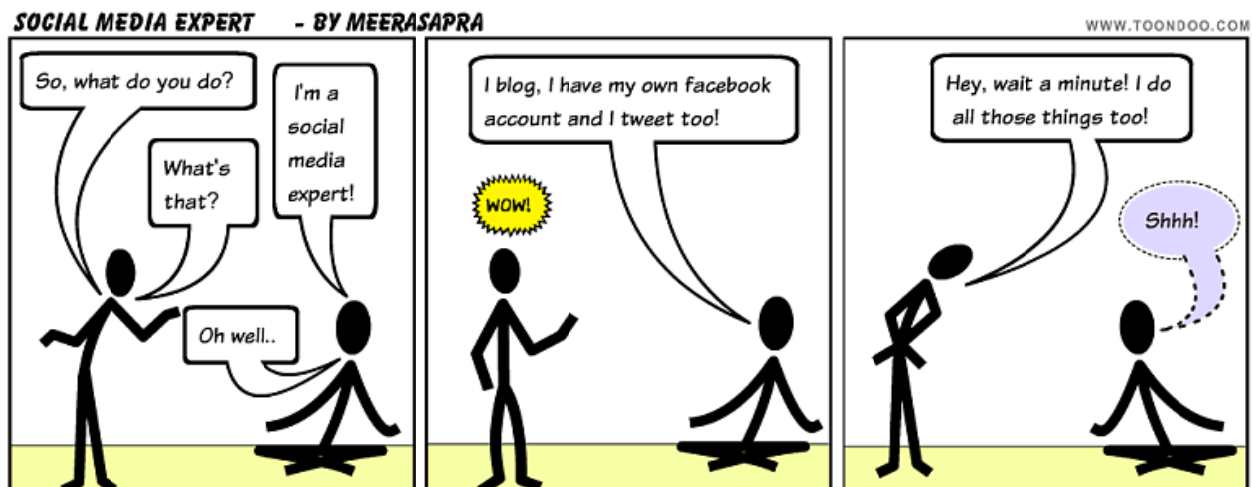
1. A main content area with articles listed chronologically, newest on top. Often, the articles are organized into categories.
2. An archive of older articles.
3. A way for people to leave comments about the articles.
4. A list of links to other related sites, sometimes called a "blogroll".
5. One or more "feeds" like RSS, Atom or RDF files.

- From [http://codex.wordpress.org/Introduction\\_to\\_Blogging](http://codex.wordpress.org/Introduction_to_Blogging)



- **Social Media** – Social Networking/Bookmarking: "...web-based services that allow individuals to (1) construct a public or semi-public profile within a bounded system, (2) articulate a list of other users with whom they share a connection, and (3) view and traverse their list of connections and those made by others within the system. The nature and nomenclature of these connections may vary from site to site." From "Social Network Sites: Definition, History & Scholarship." <http://icmc.indiana.edu/vol13/issue1/boyd.ellison.html>

Examples include Facebook, MySpace, LastFM, LinkedIn, Digg, Reddit, Delicious, and to some extent, Twitter, although that is typically classified as a "micro-blogging" tool.





## Teacher Resources:

- **The Educational Uses of Digital Storytelling** - University of Houston site with introduction, how-to guides, examples, and links to other resources. <http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/>  
**Also, check out their subject pages on:**
  - **Podcasting** - <http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/podcasts.html>
  - **Blogs** - <http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/blogs.html>
  - **Wikis** - <http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu/wikis.html>
- **The Center for Digital Storytelling** – “An international not-for-profit community arts organization rooted in the craft of personal storytelling. We assist youth and adults around the world in using media tools to share, record, and value stories from their lives, in ways that promote artistic expression, health and well being, and justice.”  
<http://www.storycenter.org/index1.html>
- **The Elements of Digital Storytelling** – A project of the University of Minnesota School of Journalism and Mass Communication’s Institute for New Media Studies.  
<http://www.inms.umn.edu/elements/>
- **Book Trailers** – Includes basic guide & examples. <http://www.squidoo.com/booktrailers>
- **Digital Booktalk** – Project from University of Central Florida with sample student-produced book trailers. <http://digitalbooktalk.com/>
- **In a World...Where Books Are Hyped Like Movies** – NPR article about book trailers.  
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=94481566>
- **Darcy Pattison’s List of 43 Book Trailer Sites** - Exhaustive list of links.  
<http://www.darcypattison.com/marketing/book-trailers/>
- **Poducate Me** – Everything you ever wanted to know about podcasting & more.  
<http://www.poducateme.com/guide/>
- **Blogs for Learning** – Project at Michigan State University “designed for students and instructors who are interested in the theory and practice of blogging within an educational setting. The goal of Blogs for Learning is to provide information and resources as to the technical, legal, and pedagogical aspects of blogging in the classroom.” <http://blogsforlearning.msu.edu/about/>
- **Commoncraft’s “In Plain English” Series** – Three-minute videos with humorous introductions to new concepts, especially in digital media. Topics include blogs, wikis, RSS, Twitter, the Web, social media, and more. <http://www.commoncraft.com/>
- **Twelve Essentials for Technology Integration** – Guide to some of the most popular tech tools for classroom use. Click on link at: <http://www.freetech4teachers.com/>
- **Read, Write, Think (NCTE) Lesson Plan Index** – Writing-focused lesson plans with an abundance of lessons incorporating digital media. <http://www.readwritethink.org/lessons/index.asp>

## 10 of the Web's Most Popular Digital Tools for the Classroom

 <p><b>Animoto</b> – Easily produce videos from images and audio/video clips.  <a href="http://animoto.com/">http://animoto.com/</a></p>	 <p><b>VoiceThread</b> – Create voice-narrated slideshows.  <a href="http://voicethread.com/#home">http://voicethread.com/#home</a></p>
 <p><b>Ning</b> – Social networking site. Similar to Facebook, but you control your network.  <a href="http://www.ning.com/">http://www.ning.com/</a></p>	 <p><b>Wikispaces</b> – Create free course wikis (group-edited webpages).  <a href="http://www.wikispaces.com/">http://www.wikispaces.com/</a></p>
 <p><b>TeacherTube</b> – Good examples. View and upload media, including book talks.  <a href="http://www.teachertube.com/">http://www.teachertube.com/</a></p>	 <p><b>WordPress</b> – One of the Web's most popular and free blog and CMS (webpage) platforms. Many different themes and widgets. <a href="http://wordpress.com/">http://wordpress.com/</a></p>
 <p><b>Twitter</b> – Microblogging site.  <a href="http://www.twitter.com">http://www.twitter.com</a></p>	 <p><b>YouTube</b> – View and upload videos.  <a href="http://www.youtube.com/">http://www.youtube.com/</a></p>
 <p><b>Tumblr</b> – Stream-of-consciousness blog application. Great for art projects.  <a href="http://www.tumblr.com/">http://www.tumblr.com/</a></p>	 <p><b>Work. Online</b>  <b>Zoho</b> – Manage projects and collaborate online.  <a href="http://www.zoho.com/">http://www.zoho.com/</a></p>