
BPSD Technology Publication

What are Students Doing Online?

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As teachers and parents, we would like our students using the web for research. We want it to be a place for them to find information. How are students really using the web? The majority of student time on the web is spent adding content or viewing content created by their peers. This is part of the Web 2.0 phenomena.

Web 1.0 and Web 2.0 Explained

When the Internet was developed and for many years after it remained a “read only web” because only those with expert knowledge could add to the content on the web.

Many sites on the web are now “read/write”. These are known as Web 2.0 tools. You no longer have to be an expert to add content to the web. Web 2.0 sites include such tools as blogging sites, wikis, photo and video sharing sites, podcasts, and chat rooms. There are more and more interactive sites being added weekly.

Web 1.0 vs Web 2.0

Some Web 1.0 Tools and Characteristics include:

- Netscape and Internet Explorer as Web Browsers
- Read/Download – Could not easily write to the web
- Access to Information – It is all about access to information
- Websites – difficult to create and maintain
- Technical skills were important
- Students are the Audience

Some Web 2.0 Tools and Characteristics include:

- Firefox – as a web browser with lots of functional plug ins available
- Google – way more than just a search engine. Click on the more button on the Google web page to see what I mean. They even have a built in word processor and spreadsheet for sharing information.
- Not about Windows vs Mac
- Read AND Write
- Websites easy to create – Blogs/Wikis
- Technical skills NOT important
- Students have an AUDIENCE
- It’s all about COLLABORATION

Web 2.0 is not a thing. It is a buzzword...a state of mind...it's about giving students a voice and allowing them to create and share beyond the classroom walls.

Some examples of Web 2.0 tools

Social networking sites

Sites that allow users to post any content and communicate with friends.

Piczo	http://piczo.com
My Space	http://myspace.com
Friendster	http://www.friendster.com/

Video and Picture Sharing

Sign up for a free membership and start publishing.

You Tube	http://youtube.com/
Flickr	http://flickr.com/

Communication Tools

Communicate via text/voice/video

MSN Messenger	http://get.live.com/messenger/overview
Skype	http://www.skype.com

Social Bookmarking

Share your web bookmarks with the world

Delicious	http://del.icio.us/
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Wikis

Sites that allow users to collaborate on a website

Wikispaces	http://www.wikispaces.com/
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Blogs

Discussions, sharing of ideas

Blogger	http://www.blogger.com
ClassBlogmeister	http://classblogmeister.com/
Word Press	http://wordpress.com/
Bloglines	http://www.bloglines.com/

Google Services

Docs, spreadsheets, and other tools

Google Services	http://www.google.ca/intl/en/options/
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For Students Only...Not

These sites are not just for students. Go to any site and create an account. Add your own content. Look for ways to use Web 2.0 tools to your advantage. Check out this wiki of a northern Manitoba teacher: <http://studying Societies at jhk.pbwiki.com/>

A good place to start might be Wikispaces. You or your students could add content and have online discussions.