

Test on Web 2.0 Terminology

You have two weeks to complete the activity (Monday 15th January to Monday 29th January 2007).

You can use external sources to help you answer the s. However, your answers must all be in your own words, and not quoted from other sources.

1. Del.icio.us is an example of social software. State two other examples of web 2.0

- wikipedia
- Flickr

2. What does social software enable people to do? In answering this , give two examples of how you have used social software during this module

Social software enables people to contribute to and create a personal space on a web site. These websites then let you build a community around your space, connecting with like minded individuals. I have used ELGG for a blog, where I have talked about my views on Web 2.0 in education. Through this blog I have meet other people interested in similar topics, that I would have otherwise never have meet. I have also used del.ici.ous to post a list of tagged web sites about my research on this module. I have connected with other users through this site, sharing web links with them.

3. What is the role of RSS? In answering this , give one example of how you have used RSS during this module.

RSS or Really Simple Syndication, is used to push updated information from the Internet, directly to subscribed users, without the user having to visit the web site. I have used RSS with the Wiki we have all collaborated on. Any time a user made a change to the Wiki, my RSS client received the changes and notified me.

4. A blog or weblog is often described as an online journal. What are the potential benefits of having an online journal rather than a traditional paper based diary?

A blog is more fluid than a paper diary. You can revisit, update, edit or delete any entries with ease on a blog. The main advantage of a blog over a paper diary, is the ability to share your thoughts with whatever group of people you wish, even the whole world! You can also access a blog from any where in the world, rather than having to carry a paper diary with you.

5. Summarise what you understand by the term 'Wiki.' In answering this , describe the different ways in which you've used a Wiki during this module.

Wiki – from the Hawaiian for quick. Wiki's are a system that enables people with little or no skills in web design or coding to build a website. They are also made to be a collaborative tool, with many users working on the same Wiki. The nicest feature of a Wiki, is the ability to roll back the changes made to any previous state. As a group we have used a Wiki to share our understanding of various Web 2.0 terminologies, each working on various sections of the Wiki.

6. Many teachers already post MP3 files on blackboard for their students to login and listen to and call it a podcast. Strictly speaking, they're incorrect. How is a podcast different from a single MP3 file posted to blackboard in this way?

A podcast is an mp3 file or mp4 file that is broadcast via RSS to an RSS client. The main podcasting RSS client is iTunes. A single mp3 file posted on a web site is not a podcast, as there is no broadcasting involved. A user would have to visit the website to find the new mp3 file, whereas if it were a podcast, the user would receive a notification in their RSS client that there had been a new mp3 file posted.

7. What is social bookmarking and why are tags so important to it's use?

Social bookmarking is using web sites like del.ici.ous to store a list of web sites you find interesting. These lists have always been used in a web browser, often known as favourites or bookmarks. The difference with Social bookmarking is that your bookmarks are on a web site and other users can view them. The reason tags are so important to these sites, is because they are the basis for interaction of the society that evolves around them. Without tags, you would not be able to search for people who are bookmarking sites that are of interest to you. In essence, without tags, there would be no Social in Social bookmarking.

8. Explain what is meant by the term, folksonomy.

Folksonomy is a term that has been coined to describe the tagging of information that happens by users within Web 2.0 sites. It is a combination of two words; folks and taxonomy. Taxonomy is a word used to mean classification management. Therefore folksonomy is peoples classification management, or the process of tagging information on the Internet.