Module 1: Web 2.0: Accessible blogs and wikis

Section 1

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Abstract

In this section of the module you will be experiencing by yourself the main features in the Web 2.0, especially regarding its "blogospheric" area. In order to do so, you will create your own blog, to be used for, by means of the mechanisms of conversation, getting deeper and deeper in our main target: the sociotechnical analysis of the Web 2.0, in a try of understanding better this phenomenon and its impact.

Scenario

A well-known foundation, dedicated to the study of the social impact of the new information technologies, has hired you as an "experts committee". They want you to write a report on "The new ways of relationship and knowledge creation in the Web 2.0". As none of you are specialists on the Web 2.0, they suggest you, as a working methodology, to use in your research and debates the same tools under study.

Specifically, you will have to work in two groups. Each group will create a blog that will allow you to dive into the Web 2.0 not only as observers, but as participants too. You should use the blogs to express your opinions, findings, conversations… Summing up, the two blogs will act as a communicating space where creating new knowledge. A communicating space ready to take part in third party conversations, and interesting enough to attract other bloggers into your own debates.

You are experts, and as a consequence the foundation has decided to give you a complete freedom in your work, but at the same time they have great expectations on you. They think you are a group of analysts with high capabilities for investigation, for finding interesting materials and for showing them to the rest, and above all, for obtaining really worthy conclusions, by means of meditation and debate.

You are not expected to do a technical work, but high level engineering instead, dealing with ideas, not just bits, bytes, electrons or holes. Will you be able to meet the challenge? ☺

Strategies

You are the experts, so the foundation does not want you to work in a too directed way, apart from the previous general clues. Even so, they suggest the following steps for the development of your task:

1. Before creating a blog, it is quite advisable to visit and read some of them. You can try these, for instance:

a. antoniofumero.blogspot.com/

b. www.blogslaconversacion.com/2007/10/01/fernando-saez-vacas-participa.php

c. estalella.wordpress.com/

d. dtstrainphilosophyblog.blogspot.com/2006/12/susan-blackmore-paranormal.html

e. tiscar.com/

2. Once familiarized with the blogospheric world, next step will be to identify the main components of a blog.

3. Afterwards, it will be about time to create your own blogs. First of all, you will need to choose a tool. It might be a good idea to evaluate these ones:

   a. Blogger.

   b. Blogia.

   c. Wordpress.

   d. Blogspot.

   e. Bitacoras.com

   f. [Blogalia.http://www.blogia.com/](http://www.blogia.com/)

4. With the development platform already chosen, you just follow the steps indicated by the system, in order to have the settings of your blog perfectly adjusted.

5. You shoud spend some time customizing it, also.

6. Having reached this point, your real task begins now: you should begin to post into your blog the results of your researching, your opinions, and everything you think than can enrich the conclusions of the committee. Here you have a few links to begin with:

   a. http://www.campusred.net/telos/cuaderno.asp?rev=65

   b. www.schwall.de/dl/20030828_the_wiki_way.pdf

   c. www.susanblackmore.co.uk/SciAm00.html

Deliverables

- There will be four people in each group.
- Every group will create a blog.
- From next Wednesday on to the presentations day, you will have to post at least once a day to your blog.
  - Each post may be signed by the whole group or by a specific member.
- You will have to write at least one comment per day in the blog of the other groups, also.
  - Signed by the group or by a member, again.
- The quality of the resources found during your research and the conclusions you obtain from them will be valued. It will be very important, also, how much advantage you take from the blog and the blogosphere use: especially the debates' quality and how well you integrate third party conversations.
- During the last session of the module you will have to present in public the development and conclusions of your work.

WARNING! In your final presentations you will have to consider the work in the two sections of the module in an integrated way: while working, always have in mind to integrate both sections (blogs and accessibility) under a common roof, not treating them as independent tasks ☺

Questions

Your research and analysis may include the following topics:

- Web 2.0: the users' web.
- Knowledge creation in the Web 2.0.
- Volatility in Web 2.0.
- Accesibility in Web 2.0.