

# Using Web 2.0 Resources

## What is Web 2.0?

Web 2.0 is the term used for web based applications that allow more interaction and collaboration between users. Examples of Web 2.0 technology are blogs, wikis, podcasts, RSS feeders and interactive websites, such as YouTube and SecondLife. These resources can be searched for information that you can use for papers and projects.

## How to search blogs

There are a few websites that facilitate blog searching. Two of them are Technorati (<http://technorati.com/>) and Google Blog Search (<http://blogsearch.google.com/>). These sites work just like a traditional search engine, except that they exclusively search blogs.

## How to search wikis

Wikis are websites that allow users to collaboratively edit and add content on a certain subject or topic. Some wikis are searchable using search engines, such as Google or Yahoo. There is also a new search engine, Qwika (<http://www.qwika.com/>) that only searches Wikis.

## How to search podcasts

There are search engines that specifically search Podcasts and videos. A few of these are, Everyzing (<http://www.everyzing.com/>) which also searches video, Podscope (<http://www.podscope.com/>) which searches for words and phrases spoken during a podcast, PodcastNet (<http://www.podcast.net/>) and Podcast Alley, (<http://podcastalley.com/>) which contain searchable indexes of podcasts.

## How to search for videos

Searching for videos is similar to searching for any other media on the web. However, there are a few search engines that are designed to search for videos. Blix (<http://www.blinkx.com/>) and Google video (<http://video.google.com/>) are two options.

## How to set up your own RSS feeder

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeders scan blogs, online newspapers or other web pages that are programmed to support RSS. The RSS feeder will alert you when a blog or other media you have subscribed to via the reader has been

updated. There are a variety of RSS feeders that are free. Some of them include: Google Reader (<http://www.google.com/reader>), NewsGator (<http://www.newsgator.com>) and FeedReader (<http://www.feedreader.com/>).

### **How to evaluate a blog, wiki, podcast or video for legitimacy**

When using blogs, wikis, podcasts or videos found on the web, there are specific questions you should ask before using the information in a paper or project.

- Who created this page?
- What is the scope of this page?
- What is the content of this page?
- Why do you think this page was created?

For more information on evaluating information you have found on Web 2.0 sites, as well as other web resources, please see the handout, *Evaluating Information Found on the Web* which is found at this address:

<http://www.usfca.edu/library/handouts/evaluatinginfontheweb.pdf>

### **Information on citing electronic resources**

When using information found on the web in a paper or project it should be cited according to the style your professor recommends. Some information on using style guides for electronic sources can be found at:

<http://www.usfca.edu/library/research/documentingsources.html>