

## **TO BLOG OR NOT TO BLOG: INTRODUCTION TO BLOG PUBLISHING**

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### **Abstract:**

Publishing on the Web using blog software has moved from the “cutting edge” of technology to the mainstream; students and faculty are increasingly using blogs in academic settings. Blogs can be used to share and discuss information and knowledge, and to create a unique “virtual community.” This workshop will introduce faculty to blogging. Topics to be covered include the history of blogging, examples of academic blogs, a survey of blogging software and online tools (including MovableType, WordPress and BlogLines), publishing up a blog using free, simple software, and setting up a blogging system for students. The workshop will also cover blogging standards such as RSS, Atom, and Trackback. Participants will be able to practice creating and editing a blog during the hands-on session.

### **Statement of objectives:**

#### **Upon completion of this workshop, participants will:**

- Understand the history of blogging as well as current practical uses of blogging in an academic setting.
- Be able to evaluate different types of blogging software.
- Be able to publish a blog using simple, freely available software on the Web.
- Understand how to set up a blogging system for use by students.
- Understand various blogging standards, including RSS, Atom, and Trackback.

### **Statement of benefits** that will come from participation

Participants will learn how a relatively new technology can be used to enhance teaching and communication with students.

**Intended audience:** Faculty; no technology experience required.

**Prerequisite skills required (if needed):** None.

**Number of attendees that can be accommodated** (i.e., Limited to 20 attendees)

**Presenter:** Sharon Dennis is Technology Coordinator for the Midcontinental Region of the National Library of Networks of Medicine (NN/LM). As Technology Coordinator

she has been experimenting with "mix and match" audio and videoconferencing technologies to support distance education. She also trains NN/LM resources libraries on the use of video broadcasting (streaming media) hardware and software. She is also co-director of the Health Education Assets Library (HEAL) project; HEAL is a national multimedia database of publicly accessible materials for health sciences education.