creating community through blogging

a cross-disciplinary research cluster
at the university of washington
sponsored by the simpson center for the humanities

For Immediate Release

Contact: Matthew James Vechinski
Cell phone: 206.852.6395
Email: matthew@uwblogs.org

RESEARCH GROUP AT UW LAUNCHES ONLINE BLOGGING COMMUNITY
Public is Invited to Participate in Collaborative Blogging on New Web Site

On October 5, 2006, Creating Community Through Blogging launched an experimental community space to study emergent practices of blogging by hosting multi-authored, interconnected blogs on its own web site. Individuals and groups from the University of Washington and the larger community are invited to read and contribute to this unique blogging interface at http://community.uwblogs.org.

In particular, Creating Community Through Blogging is encouraging university, student, and community organizations to try blogging as a means of simultaneously communicating within their groups and with a larger audience. It has also begun advocating that instructors integrate the use of multi-author blogs to foster a sense of community in the classroom and to help the classroom connect with publics outside the university.

Two graduate students at the University of Washington, Honni van Rijswijk (English) and Matthew James Vechinski (English and Textual Studies), came together in late 2005 to create the project now called Creating Community Through Blogging. Through the generous support of the Simpson Center for the Humanities at the University of Washington, the project is moving forward as a cross-disciplinary research cluster for the 2006-2007 academic year. The premise of Creating Community Through Blogging is that blogging creates practices and texts that can produce multiple connections within the university and between the university and the wider community. Considering the weblog as a medium with its own techniques, audiences and methods that enable conversations across disciplines, the group will explore how blogs challenge conventional paradigms of research, how blogging relates to pedagogical practices, and how blogging develops sites for public humanities.

During the 2006-2007 academic year Creating Community Through Blogging will host a series of workshops and reading groups that will focus on issues related to blogging and facilitate collaborative exchanges between the university and larger community through the use of blogs. These activities will lead up to a one-day conference in April 2007 to encourage reflection on the year's activities and map out future directions for blogging as community practice.

If you would like more information on this project or to schedule an interview with Matthew James Vechinski and Honni van Rijswijk, please contact Matthew at 206.852.6395 or matthew@uwblogs.org.

creating community through blogging

a cross-disciplinary research cluster at the university of washington
sponsored by the simpson center for the humanities

contact information

Web site: http://community.uwblogs.org
>   About the project: http://community.uwblogs.org/about
>   Conditions of use policy: http://community.uwblogs.org/policy

Email: info@uwblogs.org
>   hvr@u.washington.edu (Honni van Rijswijk)
>   mjvechin@u.washington.edu (Matthew James Vechinski)

upcoming reading groups

"Blogging and Pedagogy"
Co-sponsored by Practical Pedagogy
Tuesday, October 31 at 5:30pm in Communications 202

How can blogging be used effectively in the classroom? We will discuss experiences with using blogs in the classroom as a way to develop the classroom community, as well as thinking about ways we might use blogs to connect the classroom with communities outside the university. We will look at pedagogical and practical issues to consider if you are thinking about using blogs in the classroom for the first time. Readings TBA.

Topic TBA
Wednesday, November 15 at 5:30pm in Communications 202

advisory committee

"Measuring Success"
Monday, November 20 at 5:00pm at Espresso Vivace Alley 24, 227 Yale Ave N

The advisory committee will meet to discuss ways of evaluating the project's outcomes to determine where we need to invest time, effort, and money to make CCTB self-sustaining and viable beyond our initial year of support from the Simpson Center. Please talk with Matthew or Honni about joining the advisory committee. RSVP for this meeting by emailing Matthew at mjvechin@u.washington.edu.

possible future reading groups and workshops

"Blogs and Textuality." An investigation of what makes blogs a unique textual form. How do blogs function as archives? What are the consequences of the dynamic nature and impermanence of blogs? How do blogs frame authorship and readership? What is the value of the blogosphere alongside print and other media?

"Blogs as Research." A discussion of the role of blogs as a form of academic discourse. Can or should blogs be used as scholarly or reputable texts? Do or should blogs form an acceptable means of presenting research? Are blogs acceptable as academic sources? What are the effects of pushing the limits of "academic discourse" in these ways? How are these conversations shaped across the disciplines?

"Blogs and Politics." How have blogs become an important site for political discussion and dissent? How are dominant and non-dominant groups using the form, and what is the relationship of the form to mainstream media and political fora?

"Blogs and Identity." How is identity negotiated in the blogosphere? How do blogs push against identity categories? How do they assist in the formation of communities based on factors other than identity, or in the formation of identity-based coalitions?

possible university-community collaborations

Blogs have the potential to reach a variety of public audiences—we can speak to other academics, local non-academic communities, and wider specific audiences or general public audiences. How can blogs be used to forge connections between the academy and the wider community? To whom do we want to speak and for what ends? How can wider publics be addressed, and what is the potential for collaboration on specific projects?

"Empowering Bloggers." Exploring how blogs can give a voice to and provide a means of reflection for groups that are marginalized or often misrepresented, such as youth, those with HIV/AIDS, and multiracial populations.

"Identity Politics and the Blogosphere." Capitalizing on how blogging can create common ground within identity groups like the queer community while at the same time valuing individual voices, which furthers possibilities for advocacy and activism.

save the date: year-end conference

Friday, April 13, 2006 at the Simpson Center for the Humanities

Participants and invited guests from the greater Seattle area (from universities, other community institutions, or the community at large) will lead discussions on issues related to blogging in several small, concurrent panels, drawing from their experiences with Creating Community Through Blogging. We will invite one speaker from out of state to facilitate a

plenary discussion to culminate the conference by pointing to future directions concerning the intersection of blogs and community.

To offer your input on our selection of scholars who would make appropriate invited speakers at this conference, please visit our WebQ survey at: http://community.uwblogs.org/survey
The survey will close at the end of day this Friday, October 6.

get involved

Become a site monitor: We need folks to monitor site requests, reported problems, and the help desk.

Share your technical expertise: Our blogging interface will require updates and maintenance by folks proficient in MySQL and PHP coding.

Help organize a reading group or workshop.

Help with publicity and outreach.

blogging and pedagogy

Tuesday, October 31 at 5:30pm
Communications 202

Cosponsored by the practical pedagogy colloquium

Web site: http://students.washington.edu/pedagogy
Email list: http://mailman.u.washington.edu/mailman/listinfo/prac_ped

guiding questions for our discussion

What are the various uses of blogs? What can be achieved through the use of blogs in the classroom? How do blogs compare with and complement other texts, online resources, or means of participation in the classroom? What are the advantages and disadvantages of using blogs, either anticipated or experienced?	How can blogs be effectively integrated into courses to fulfill learning goals or enhance pedagogical practices? How can blogs build classroom community and/or extend its boundaries?

about creating community through blogging

Website: http://community.uwblogs.org
- About the project: http://community.uwblogs.org/about
- Why blog?: http://community.uwblogs.org/why
- How to use the site: http://community.uwblogs.org/how

Email: info@uwblogs.org
Join our email list by sending an email to subscribe@uwblogs.org

Next event: Investigating University-Community Blogging
Wednesday, November 15 at 5:30pm in Communications 202

> Blogs have the potential to reach a variety of public audiences—we can speak to other academics, local non-academic communities, and wider specific audiences or general public audiences. How can blogs be used to forge connections between the academy and the wider community? To whom do we want to speak and for what ends? How can wider publics be addressed, and what is the potential for collaboration on specific projects?

Save the date: Year-end conference on April 13, 2007

Matthew James Vechinski (mjvechin@u.wa), cofacilitator

Website: http://community.uwblogs.org

About the project: http://community.uwblogs.org/about
Why blog?: http://community.uwblogs.org/why
How to use the site: http://community.uwblogs.org/how

Email: info@uwblogs.org
Join our email list by emailing subscribe@uwblogs.org

From the CCTB web site: why should classrooms blog on this site?

Instructors can easily set up a blog for their students in their course to do any one or more of the following:

- Extending class discussion outside the normal boundary of class time
- Completing short assignments online
- Reflecting on experiences
- Keeping notes and records
- Sharing resources (web links, books and articles, etc.)

In addition, students who blog are writing for more than just their instructor. They write for their fellow classmates and their posts on the Creating Community Through Blogging system have the potential to reach anyone on the web.

Instructors may find a blog useful for:

- Posting assignments
- Writing before class previews or after class reflections
- Keeping notes and records
- Sharing resources (class documents, web links, books and articles, etc.)

blogs in comparison to other electronic forums (E-Post, email list, etc.)

- Categories, dating and sorting
  - ○ Comments subordinated to post
- Constructions of authorship and audience
- Voice (personal, collective, informal…)
- Level of intrusion
  - ○ Visiting site, RSS, "subscribe"
- Mandatory or organic? Preliminary step or an end in itself?

symposium and public poster session

Creating Community Through Blogging is organizing a symposium for Spring 2007 where invited bloggers from the Seattle area will discuss their experiences blogging collaboratively so that the group can learn from their successes, setbacks, and aspirations and discover new strategies for forging university-community collaboration through blogging.

The symposium, titled "Experiencing Communities: Bloggers' Perspectives," will provide the group's advisory committee and other university stakeholders with food for thought when they decide how to sustain the Creating Community Through Blogging project beyond its temporary status as a Simpson Center-sponsored research cluster. A public poster session following the symposium will showcase local blogging initiatives and innovative blogging practices and provoke interdisciplinary discussions on the weblog as a medium.

Seating for the symposium is limited and will be allotted on a first come, first serve basis. Register online at http://community.uwblogs.org/symposium. We will treat all registrations as firm commitments to attend the event in its entirety. Registered participants will be our guests for midday luncheon at the Rock Bottom Restaurant in downtown Seattle and will be provided with all-day parking free of charge at the Seattle Public Library's underground garage.

about the project

The premise of Creating Community Through Blogging is that blogging creates practices and texts that can produce multiple connections within the university and between the university and the wider community. Considering the weblog as a medium with its own techniques, audiences and methods that enable conversations across disciplines, the group will explore how blogs challenge conventional paradigms of research, how blogging relates to pedagogical practices, and how blogging develops sites for public humanities. Through the generous support of the Simpson Center for the Humanities at the University of Washington, the project is moving forward as a cross-disciplinary research cluster for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Creating Community Through Blogging launched an experimental community space to study emergent practices of blogging by hosting multi-authored, interconnected blogs on its own web site, community.uwblogs.org. This academic year CCTB will also host a series of information sessions, roundtable discussions, workshops and reading groups that will focus on issues related to blogging.

experiencing
communities bloggers'
perspectives

a symposium and public poster session

organized by creating community through blogging

session panelists:

Senior News Writer for the Seattle newspaper The Stranger _ erica barnett

dylan wilbanks _ Seattle Metroblogging coauthor

Capitol Hill Seattle neighborhood blog coauthor _ justin carder

derek young _ author of the Tacoma blog Exit133

Interactivity Editor for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer _ don smith

honni van rijswijk _ matthew james vechinski _ CCTB

schedule of activities

10:00 - 10:30	Registration and set-up
10:30 - 11:20	Symposium Session #1: blogging as public service
11:30 - 12:20	Symposium Session #2: bringing bloggers together
12:30 - 1:30	Luncheon at Rock Bottom Restaurant in downtown Seattle
1:40 - 2:30	Symposium Session #3: blogging and place
2:30 - 3:00	Wrap-up and preparation for poster session
3:00 - 4:00	Poster session open to public

creating community through blogging

is a cross-disciplinary research cluster sponsored by
the Simpson Center for the Humanities
at the University of Washington

http://community.uwblogs.org/about

info@uwblogs.org

description of symposium sessions

Each of the three symposium sessions will feature two local bloggers as speakers who will open the discussion by giving a 10-minute talk about their experiences related to the topics described below.
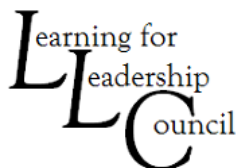
blogging as public service How do blogs serve communities and foster collaborative practices? Is this achieved through interface design or posting strategies? How can we make sense of more "organic" community formation? Our invited bloggers from local media outlets will talk about how blogs have supplemented how they serve their communities of readers and provided a forum for readers to interact and shape journalistic content.

bringing bloggers together Blogs were once conceived as online personal journals whereas today blogs are rarely isolated but unified through blogging interfaces, multi-user platforms, aggregators, or simply hyperlinks. How does networked blogging give rise to new potential for the blog as a medium? Coauthors and designers of multi-user blogs will discuss how their sites frame and facilitate communication among and between individuals and communities.

blogging and place As online forums that describe real-world issues and events, blogs have always had a relation to place. More and more blogs are reflecting how they are geographically situated and not mere figments of nebulous cyberspaces. This session will feature presentations by guests who write for blogs discussing news and events pertaining to specific locations in the Puget Sound region.

For the final poster session, local bloggers will be available to talk with individuals about their blogs and experiences, and answer questions about related issues.

Learning for Leadership Council

SIMPSON CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES

University of Washington | College of Arts & Sciences | Communications 206 | Box 353710
Seattle, WA | 98195-3710 | Tel 206.543.3920 | Fax 206.685.4080 | www.simpsoncenter.org

experiencing communities: bloggers' perspectives

a symposium and public poster session

organized by creating community through blogging

panelists

erica barnett _ Senior News Writer for The Stranger weekly newspaper

justin carder _ Capitol Hill Seattle neighborhood blog coauthor

don smith _ Interactivity Editor for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer

dylan wilbanks _ Seattle Metroblogging coauthor

derek young _ author of the Tacoma blog Exit133

cctb advisory committee members in attendance

phil edwards _ The Information School, UW

dennis saxman _ Member HIV Positive Community

honni van rijswijk _ Department of English, UW

matthew james vechinski _ Department of English, UW

participants

paul andrews _ Media, Crosscut.com

lynne baab _ Department of Communication, UW

rick barrett _ Seattle Community Council Federation

barbara clements _ Non profit education blogger

d.a. clements _ Lecturer at The Information School and UW Extension

kathleen dickenson _ Software Product Management, UW Extension

lloyd douglas _ Cascade Neighborhood Council

hua han _ Department of Anthropology, UW

kathy gill _ Department of Communication, UW

liza javier _ KING5.com

paige morgan _ Department of English, UW

diane novak _ Fremont Neighborhood and Arts councils

jentery sayers _ Department of English, UW

michael schamens _ MSN

rex sorgatz _ Fimoculous.com

jenny stoffel _ Department of Germanics, UW

john tulinsky _ The Information School, UW

linda wagner _ Simpson Center for the Humanities, UW

Saturday, april 28, 2007

seattle central library

1000 4th avenue, seattle, wa _ level 4

howard s. wright family & janet w. ketcham meeting room

schedule

10:00 - 10:30
registration and set-up

10:30 - 11:20
blogging as public service

don smith _ Interactivity Editor for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer
erica barnett _ Senior News Writer for The Stranger weekly newspaper

How do blogs serve communities and foster collaborative practices? Is this achieved through interface design or posting strategies? How can we make sense of more "organic" community formation? Our invited bloggers from local media outlets will talk about how blogs have supplemented how they serve their communities of readers and provided a forum for readers to interact and shape journalistic content.

11:30 - 12:20
bringing bloggers together

dylan wilbanks _ Seattle Metroblogging coauthor
honni van rijswijk _ matthew james vechinski _ Creating Community Through Blogging

Blogs were once conceived as online personal journals whereas today blogs are rarely isolated but unified through blogging interfaces, multi-user platforms, aggregators, or simply hyperlinks. How does networked blogging give rise to new potential for the blog as a medium? Coauthors and designers of multi-user blogs will discuss how their sites frame and facilitate communication among and between individuals and communities.

12:30 - 1:30
luncheon

Rock Bottom Restaurant, 1333 Fifth Avenue
(Exit on Level 3. Go three blocks north on Fifth Avenue, crossing Spring, Seneca and University.)

Pasta buffet with your choice of Chicken Genovese, Pasta Carbonara, or Baked Italian Penne (vegetarian option). Served with choice of mixed greens tossed in balsamic vinaigrette or caesar salad and your choice of beverage.

1:40 - 2:30
blogging and place

justin carder _ Capitol Hill Seattle neighborhood blog coauthor
derek young _ author of the Tacoma blog Exit133

As online forums that describe real-world issues and events, blogs have always had a relation to place. More and more blogs are reflecting how they are geographically situated and not mere figments of nebulous cyberspaces. This session will feature presentations by guests who write for blogs discussing news and events pertaining to specific locations in the Puget Sound region.

2:30-3:00
wrap-up and preparation for poster session

3:00-4:00
poster session

Panelists will be available to talk with individuals about their blogs and experiences, and answer questions about related issues.

about the project

The premise of Creating Community Through Blogging is that blogging creates practices and texts that can produce multiple connections within the university and between the university and the wider community. Considering the weblog as a medium with its own techniques, audiences and methods that enable conversations across disciplines, the group will explore how blogs challenge conventional paradigms of research, how blogging relates to pedagogical practices, and how blogging develops sites for public humanities. Through the generous support of the Simpson Center for the Humanities at the University of Washington, the project is moving forward as a cross-disciplinary research cluster for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Creating Community Through Blogging launched an experimental community space to study emergent practices of blogging by hosting multi-authored, interconnected blogs on its own web site, community.uwblogs.org. This academic year CCTB will also host a series of information sessions, roundtable discussions, workshops and reading groups that will focus on issues related to blogging.

parking reimbursement

If you requested parking at Seattle Public Library's underground garage, your folder will contain a parking voucher that you must present to the attendant as you leave. You will need to pay $10 for all-day parking, which would normally be $24. Be sure to get a receipt when you pay the attendant. This receipt must be submitted to the Simpson Center for the Humanities: use the enclosed addressed, stamped envelope and the expense statement form. The Simpson Center will issue you a check for the cost of parking and mail it to the address you indicate on the form.

Thursday, May 24 _ 3:30 - 5:30
Communications 226, University of Washington Seattle campus
final talkback

Join us for our last event of the year where we will collectively consider the future of the Creating Community Through Blogging project. Please share your feedback on the research cluster's activities this academic year and your ideas for new directions in collaborative blogging.

invited panelists

erica barnett _ Senior News Writer for The Stranger weekly newspaper

Erica Barnett is a staff writer for Seattle's alternative newsweekly, the Stranger, where she covers City Hall and transportation, writes a weekly politics column, and serves on the paper's editorial board. Before she came to the Stranger in 2003, Barnett was a staff writer for Seattle Weekly, where she covered transportation, housing and city politics. She also has a blog: www.ericacbarnett.com.

Barnett moved to Seattle in 2001 from Austin, Texas, where she was a senior news editor and columnist for the weekly Austin Chronicle. She has also written for the Texas Observer, Dallas Observer, and the Oklahoma Gazette, among others. A native of Houston, Texas, Barnett graduated from the University of Texas at Austin.

justin carder _ Capitol Hill Seattle neighborhood blog coauthor

Justin Carder and his wife Kristin are the J and K of CHS: Capitol Hill Seattle -- a site about the day to day dramas in one small part of the city's signature neighborhood. CHS covers everything from the coming and going of neighborhood businesses to which traffic circle has the prettiest daffodils.

Justin has worked for Microsoft since 1996 when he began his (short) career as a reporter for the freshly launched MSNBC. He is currently senior planner for Microsoft's Project Gatineau, a free Web analytics service slated for release later this summer.

Justin received his bachelor's degree in journalism from San Jose State University. He is originally from a small town in Northern California where he read the San Francisco Chronicle every day and grew up wanting to be Herb Caen.

don smith _ Interactivity Editor for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer

Don Smith is interactivity editor of seattlepi.com, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer's website (seattlepi.nwsource.com). He brings more than three decades of community news experience to the website, serving in earlier roles as reporter or editor at newspapers in big cities like Seattle and Dallas and small towns such as Pullman, Washington, and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. He's been leading the Seattle P-I's efforts for a little more than a year to develop an interactive community for readers online.

Besides "Soundoffs" and "Forums" which provide that experience for more than 1.5 million page views a month, he has recruited reader bloggers to fill niches in topics the paper wouldn't otherwise reach into. Some are part of the websiter's "Webtowns" a neighborhood-by-neighborhood community he originated on the site several years ago. But other reader blogs gather communities around topics of interest, such as news about Seattle schools from the perspective of a parent, comic book collecting, commuting by bus, or the dating scene. Together with staff blogs on topics ranging from the Seattle Mariners, Microsoft and aerospace to the art scene, the environment and parenting blogs now draw more than a million page views a month to the site. And they are among the most rapidly expanding audiences of the website.

dylan wilbanks _ Seattle Metroblogging coauthor

Dylan Wilbanks has been a contributing writer to Seattle Metroblogging (seattle.metroblogs.com) since 2005. Metroblogging is the world's largest network of city focused blogs, with over 700 bloggers covering 54 cities on four continents (and one online world). The Seattle team currently has ten writers on staff; new bloggers are selected via invitation or through open calls during the year.

By day, Dylan is the web producer for the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. He has been a professional web geek for over eight years, specializing in web standards and accessibility issues. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado in Environmental Conservation and has never used it vocationally.

He lives in Seattle with his wife and rampaging preschool daughter. In his spare time he assuages his masochistic streak by attending Mariners games, and he blogs personally at clientandserver.com.

Dylan likes nectarines.

derek young _ author of the Tacoma blog Exit133

Derek Young is the founder and editor of exit133.com – a website dedicated to the open discussion of urban planning, civic engagement, real estate, historic preservation, and the arts in Tacoma, Washington.

Derek is a partner in Exit133 LLC, a marketing and strategic planning company currently focusing on issues of downtown development in Tacoma. He is a founding board member of Historic Tacoma and a partner in Orangeslices.com, a co-rec sports team management website launched in 1999. Derek generally discourages the baking of pecan pie, greatly disdains fake window shutters, and enjoys biking in the rain. Before jumping into Exit133 full time, he spent ten years as an IT project manager and contract negotiator in the corporate headquarters of a major northwest company.

Derek holds a bachelor's degree in Biology and Politics & Government from the University of Puget Sound and is currently pursuing an MBA from the University of Washington -Tacoma.

creating community through blogging panelists

honni van rijswijk _ Creating Community Through Blogging and Department of English, UW

Honni van Rijswijk is a graduate student in English at the University of Washington. Her work focuses on the area of Law and Literature. She has been using blogs to teach undergraduates, workshop writing ideas and stay in touch with friends for three years. In a previous life she was a lawyer.

matthew james vechinski _ Creating Community Through Blogging and Department of English, UW

Matthew James Vechinski is a PhD candidate in the Department of English and PhD Program in Textual Studies at the University of Washington. He studies British Modernism, metafiction and the novel, and textual theory. His interest in blogging as a medium intersects with his community-based pedagogical practices and his research on the role of authorship, design, and intentionality in twentieth-century literature.

CREATING COMMUNITY THROUGH BLOGGING
Outcome Model Form of Evaluation

I. CONDITIONS/NEEDS

1. No shared UW blogging platform exists, so students, faculty, and staff interested in blogging must use commercial alternatives with limited visibility or create their own blogs, which takes considerable technical know-how. There is no mechanism for bringing together UW bloggers and bloggers from the surrounding community.

2. Students, faculty, staff, and community members often blog anonymously or pseudonymously, reducing the visibility of their blogging and preventing networking along real identities and interests.

3. Blogs written by students, faculty, staff, and community members, as well as other frequently used online forums like email lists and message boards, are often isolated and self-contained and reach a small and particular audience.

4. In the humanities, blogs are usually regarded as inferior texts that are overly personal and not analytical. The potential of blogging *as a medium* is rarely explored.

5. Despite a variety of digital technologies available to students, faculty, staff, and community members, there is not a recognized online forum for cross-disciplinary communication and communication between the community and the larger community.

6. Students, faculty, staff, and community members belong to various digital communities and have various user accounts spread across those communities, which fragments and compartmentalizes identities and publics.

II. GOALS

1. Multi-user blogging will become an important ongoing collaborative practice at the UW and in the surrounding community.

2. Students, staff, faculty, and community members will associate multi-user blogging with the potential for real world visibility and networking along real identities and interests. The effect will be more local than online communities such as Facebook.

3. Students, staff, faculty, and community members will associate multi-user blogging with the potential for communication within groups and for communication with other groups and individuals, beyond small and particular audiences.

4. Students, staff, faculty, and community members will learn how blogging can be a useful and critical medium and how blogs can be useful and critical texts for scholars and students in the humanities.

5. Students, staff, faculty, and community members will adopt multi-user blogging as a means of facilitating cross-disciplinary and university-community collaboration.

6. Students, staff, faculty, and community members will appreciate the complexity and diversity of users' identities and interests established through multi-user blogging. There will also be greater "carry-over" effects into academic and professional domains, as well as social domains (and connections between these domains).

III. ACTIONS → IMPACT

1. Launch, promote, and sustain a multi-user blogging interface that is open to the university community and community at large

Activities →	Outcomes →	Impact
Interface will consist of multi-author blogs that any user can request to join		
Interface will require users to blog under their real name		
Features that connect multi-user blogs with other multi-user blogs on the system		
Interface will require each individual to create one user account that will be linked to all their activities		
Users will have customizable personal profiles		

2. Promote/explore blogging as a pedagogical practice

Activities →	Outcomes →	Impact
Workshop on pedagogy and blogging		
Host classroom blogs on blogging interface		

Promote collaboration between classroom blogs and other blogs on interface		

3. Promote/explore blogging as a means of communication for organizations and interest groups

Activities →	Outcomes →	Impact
Host organization and interest group blogs		
Educate community on differences between online forums for communication within and between groups		

4. Promote/explore blogging as university-community exchange

Activities →	Outcomes →	Impact
Actively facilitate issue-centered blogs that include coauthors from a variety of institutional locations and the public at large		
Connect classrooms and university organizations with community members and groups		

5. Promote/explore how blogging constructs identity in a multi-user community

Activities →	Outcomes →	Impact
Expand customizable user profiles on the site		
Promote blogs that blur the boundaries between personal/academic/social		
Workshop on the potential for blogs to give voice to populations		

6. Promote/explore blogging as a research practice

Activities →	Outcomes →	Impact
Workshop on blogging practices related to research		
Explore how collaborative research is enabled by multi-user blogs		

7. Hold a conference on blogging practices in April 2007

Activities →	Outcomes →	Impact
Invite community bloggers and explore local blogging practices		
Assess impact of research cluster's activities		
Provide an opportunity for virtual coauthors and collaborators to meet in person		