

# Weblogs@upeei ?

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Contributor

As many are already aware, UPEI now has its own weblogging platform available for all students and faculty (so join up!). Weblogs (blogs) in the university setting, and any setting for that matter, are a valuable way to promote a community and learning atmosphere. How do blogs accomplish that? That's the question I asked when I first began blogging about ten months ago; I am sure many people just being introduced to blogging are asking the same question. Blogs give everyone an equal voice in an open environment; each person has the opportunity to participate in the discussions that are important to them and their community.

Therein lies the power of using weblogs as a tool for teaching: the students are able to be actively involved in discussion topics that would be impossible in a classroom setting due to time and personality constraints. Weblogs@UPEI offers this opportunity to professors and other groups to create a 'virtual' classroom, not as a substitute, but as a further way to add value to the learning experience.

Everything is changing so quickly that it is unreasonable to teach the same material to students every year. However, much of the same material can still have a relevance to the class. Weblogs allow the professor to collect and keep information from year to year as a resource for the new students; thus the students of tomorrow will have the opportunity to build on what has been learned in the past.

In comparison, students can make effective use of weblogs as a way to collect their own resources over time. Resources such as online dictionaries, thesauruses, research and other helpful tools for school and career. Plus, these resources can be easily shared and accessed by other students which creates an environment for exponential growth in learning.

But those uses for weblogs only explain the usefulness of weblogs in an academic setting. Weblogs are even more important as a tool for personal expression and a way to share content with anyone. As has been happening already, people are sharing their favourite web pages with others on weblogs@upeei. Jokes, pictures and music have all been popular content so far. So post whatever you are interested in, because chances are there is someone else in the community who is interested in the same thing as you are.

As I read over this article, I realize that it is only a cursory glance at the use of weblogs@upeei in general. So feel free to make comments on this and any other article on your own blogs and at the Cadre online.

The screenshot shows the Mozilla browser window displaying the weblogs@upeei community page. The address bar shows the URL <http://weblogs.upei.ca/community>. The page features a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, SUPPORT, USER GUIDE, COMMUNITY, WHAT'S NEW, and SEARCH. The main content area is titled "Home » Community" and shows a post by "Weblogs@upeei" dated Sat, 10/02/2004 - 17:44. Below the post, there are sections for "Content by Topic" and "Content by Group". The "Content by Topic" section lists various categories such as News, Arts, Entertainment, & Culture, Check it out, Sports, Events, PEI, Technology, Fun Stuff, UPEI, Notice Board, Web tips, Books & Learning, Suggestions & Commentary, Travel, and The Cadre. The "Content by Group" section lists "Bus241a MIS for the Information Age" and "Bus442 Networking, Knowledge, & the Digital Age". There is also a "Content by Individual" section with a "List of Bloggers". On the right side, there are sections for "RECENT ENTRIES" and "POPULAR ENTRIES".

Find or post content by topic, group, or individual. Posts can be anything, the only limitation is your imagination - societies, clubs, courses, personal, community events, social calendar, buy-sell-trade,... The list is endless.

Soon, image upload support will be included, allowing you to share a campus photo gallery. Additional features such as posting enhancements and custom templates will be unveiled as the system evolves.

The screenshot shows the Mozilla browser window displaying the "Submit personal blog entry" form. The address bar shows the URL <http://weblogs.upei.ca/node/add/blog>. The form includes a "Title:" field, a "Categories:" dropdown menu with options like "Arts, Entertainment, & Culture", "Books & Learning", "Cadre", "Check it out", "Events", "Fun stuff", "News", "Notice board", "PEI", "Sports", "Suggestions & Commentary", and "Technology". Below the categories, there is a "Groups:" dropdown menu with options like "Bus241a MIS for the Information Age" and "Bus442 Networking, Knowledge, & the Digital Age". There is also a "Groups:" field with a dropdown menu. On the right side, there are sections for "RECENT ENTRIES" and "POPULAR ENTRIES".

Speak Out.  
Joshua Arsenault