

Blogging

What's a Blog?

A blog is a collection of links, photos, thoughts, news, or other writing or imagery published by an individual or organization.

Why Blog?

- Share information
- Network around the world (I have blog followers in the UK, Portugal, and Germany!)
- Collaborate with others
- Solicit feedback on an idea or project

How do I blog?

1 Decide what to blog about

- Libraries
- Your pets
- Cooking
- Your life
- Your hobbies
- Or anything!



3 Invite your friends or colleagues (and me!) to follow your blog

Email the URL of your blog homepage.



Word Press – click "visit site" from the dashboard and copy the URL from that page – mine is

<http://somcak.wordpress.com/>



Blogger – click "view blog" and copy the URL from that page – mine is <http://somcaksjourney.blogspot.com/>

2 Set up a free blog account

(These are the two I showed you)



<http://wordpress.com/>



<http://www.blogger.com>

4 Put your blog on your homepage

Go to <http://feed2js.org/index.php?s=build> and put in your RSS feed source (instructions on the site), answer some questions, and click "generate JavaScript." Copy and paste the JavaScript to your homepage. Voila! Your blog is now on your homepage!

5 Update, Update, Update!

Share your thoughts, links, and pictures on your blog. The more often you update your blog, the more likely you will have dedicated readers and commenters. For more blogging tips, got to

<http://listsgalore.blogspot.com/2009/05/blog-it.html>.



RSS Feeds

What's RSS?

Really Simple Syndication – It allows a user to follow a blog without having to go to the blog's URL.



Why use RSS?

- To stay up to date with library news
- To follow important trends
- To find government reports as soon as they're released
- Share information
- Network

Where do I start?

Start with a feed reader....

RSS Feed Readers (the three feed readers I showed you)



Google Reader – <http://www.google.com/reader/>



Feed Reader – <http://www.feedreader.com/>

 Feed Demon – <http://www.newsgator.com/Individuals/FeedDemon/Default.aspx>

Then visit my compilation of Library Blogs at <http://somcak.wordpress.com/library-blogs/>

(a page on my blog) and start following some blogs!

Doesn't it take a lot of time to follow all of these blogs?

Nope! I follow over 400 blogs and I'm able to read them all in about 1-2 hours a day. Obviously, I'm not reading every post, but mostly headlines. If you're only reading 10-20 blogs, even if you're reading every post, it should take less than 30 minutes a day. And 30 minutes a day is easy if your job depended upon it! My suggestion is to start with my top 8 blogs for a few weeks, then go back and start adding a few at a time. You'll be surprised at how easy it is!

