



Leading the Way

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Wikis For Technology Leaders



Jenny Conklin presents at the Wikis for Technology Leaders workshop held on August 15th, 2008.

Wikis are quickly becoming popular tools in education, but the concept is still new to many administrators and teacher leaders. The Wikis for Technology Leaders workshop was created and offered in response to feedback from EETT participants who expressed a desire for hands-on training on Web 2.0 tools and 21st Century skills. The focus of this workshop was to explain wikis and the ways in which they can enhance education.

Approximately 30 administrators and teacher leaders attended the workshops held on August 6th and 15th at the Erie1 BOCES Education Campus. Because the focus of Erie 1 BOCES' EETT grant project is Leadership, the workshop was structured in such a way as to provide technology leaders with a model to turnkey training to their respective staff. In this train-the-trainer atmosphere, technology leaders learned for themselves how to use wikis, and also learned strategies for conducting staff development training.

The workshop was divided into five modules. Module One provided a brief introduction to wikis, including definitions, real-life applications, and uses in professional learning communities. Module Two looked at essential criteria for a successful wiki, while Module Three looked specifically at wikis in education. During Module Four, participants created their own wikis using Wikispaces.com. To model

best practice, the coordinators differentiated the instruction based on experience and preference. Participants who labeled themselves as "beginners" were led step-by-step through the activities. Those with more advanced skills met in a separate area to share and collaborate, and others chose to work individually. By Module 5, which focused on evaluation, all participants had created and modified a wiki.

In the desire to support turnkey training, the EETT Coordinators created the entire workshop on a wiki. All EETT participants are free to use the Workshop Wiki at their districts or schools to facilitate staff development. The organization allows technology leaders to customize future workshops; they can choose to present all modules, choose the one(s) that best fit a need, or separate the modules into five mini-workshops. To access the Wikis for Technology Leaders wiki, visit <http://sites.google.com/a/e1b.org/erie1eett>. Participants were also provided with a workbook that included space to plan and make notes, black line masters of key documents, and resources to assist with training and integration.

The Wikis for Technology Leaders workshop will be offered again this fall, and more workshops centered on Web 2.0 tools and 21st Century skills are being developed. Please look for announcements, as all dates are to be determined. The EETT Coordinators are also available to conduct staff development trainings at your site; contact Shannon Logan or Jenny Conklin for more information.

Test Your Knowledge

Can you define the following terms?

folksonomy

tag cloud

widget

blogosphere



Turn to page 2 for answers.

As a building principal, when it came to technology integration, it was important that I modeled the behavior I wanted the teachers to emulate. It was important that if I promoted interactive webpages, that I developed one and kept it updated. Likewise, a review of the literature and our own action research allowed us to make gains that were aligned with our mission and goals.

From "The Top 10 Great Things Technology Leaders Do" by Frank Rudnesky, Ed. D. 7/2008

A Glossary of Web 2.0 Terms

Still confusing wikis and widgets? Use this glossary to navigate through the world of Web 2.0.

Aggregator: Web-based software and applications that allow users to view information from the sites, blogs, podcasts, etc. they subscribe to (via RSS or another kind of feed). Aggregators can be entire pages (like My Yahoo or iGoogle), or be integrated into a larger site.

Blog: The shortened version of "weblog." This is a kind of web page that allows the owner to post and publish information to the web, and viewers to respond to postings.

Blogosphere: The collective term for all blogs.

Folksonomy: Web 1.0 was based on "taxonomy," in that editors and computers controlled and organized the web. With Web 2.0 came the ability for regular "folks" to impact and organize the web through the use of "tags" (see below). Folksonomy means the organization of the web by the people.

RSS: Stands for Really Simple Syndication or Really Simple Subscriptions. If you want to be kept up-to-date with the latest information from your favorite web site, blog, podcast, etc., you can "subscribe" by clicking the RSS symbol.

Social Bookmarking: Just like traditional bookmarking through a web browser (like Microsoft Explorer), web-based social bookmarking tools allow you to save and organize the addresses

For more information on the changing language of technology, check out the Spring 2008 edition of *Converge Magazine*, which focuses on Strategy and Leadership for Technology in Education. www.convergemag.com

(URLs) and descriptions of web sites, blogs, etc. Social bookmarking, however, allows users to save those links to the web, which means can be accessed on any computer.

Social Media: Web-based mediums that are used to promote and facilitate online social interaction, such as through the sharing of content, ideas, music/video, and bookmarks. Blogs, wikis, podcasts/vodcasts, social bookmarking, and social networking sites are all social media.

Social Network: The use of a web-based tool to connect to friends, colleagues, or even strangers. The most popular social networking sites are MySpace and FaceBook, but other sites, such as Ning and LinkedIn, provide for a more professional social network. Users can connect with individuals with similar interests to share ideas and resources.

Tag: A label or keyword given to an item/content found on the web, such as a blog post, web page, photo, or video. Tags are determined by individual users to organize and classify the item/content, and this makes it easier to search and share. Multiple users can tag a site in multiple ways; see "tag cloud" below.

Glossary cont. on page 4

Top 10 for Technology Leaders

The key to successful technology integration, according to middle school principal and author Frank Rudnesky, Ed.D., is to create a community of leaders. "Your leadership success increases exponentially by the number of leaders you create within your organization... In times of education bashing and dwindling resources, we must acknowledge that our most valuable assets are our human resources."

In his article "The top 10 Great Things Technology Leaders Do", Rudnesky outlines additional steps leaders can take to facilitate technology integration in their schools.

- 1. Raise the Bar** - "Just enough" is not good enough, argues Rudnesky, and that applies to leaders as well as teachers and students.
- 2. Set Goals** - If goals are clearly articulated, they are much easier to reach.
- 3. Never ask anyone to do something you would not do** - If you expect your staff to integrate technology, go through the training yourself. You do not have to be an expert at everything, but good leaders, says Rudnesky, "get their hands dirty."
- 4. Lead by example** - Do yourself what you expect others to do.
- 5. Create a Team** - Human resources are the most important, and utilizing the strengths of a team will greatly benefit your organization.
- 6. Think outside the box** - Think about your curriculum, "ask the question, 'What can I do differently with technology that will bring the students to higher and different levels of learning?'"
- 7. Empower** - make others — teachers and students — active, integral members of technology integration.
- 8. Have integrity** - Expect, model, and reinforce ethical, responsible technology use.
- 9. Treat people better than you want to be treated** - Support others the way you would want to be supported when trying something new and difficult.
- 10. Have fun** - Technology offers possibilities for enhancing education in effective, FUN ways. Have fun while learning to implement it.

Rudnesky, Frank, Ed.D. "The Top Ten Good Things Technology Leaders Do." *Educator's eZine*. 1 Jul 2008. <http://www.techlearning.com/story/showArticle.php?articleID=196605276>



Web 2.0 Tool Spotlight: Social Bookmarking

Among Web 2.0 tools, social bookmarking is perhaps the most convenient. Like traditional bookmarking using a browser (such as saving "favorites" in Microsoft Explorer), social bookmarking allows users to save and organize lists of

access, organize, and save bookmarks.

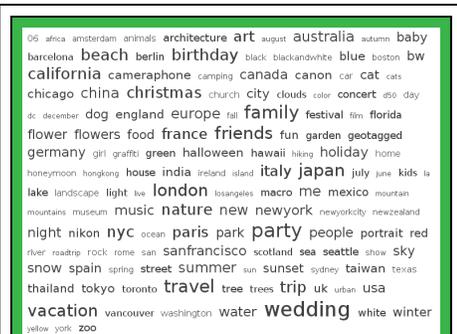
Social bookmarking services allow for more than storage of saved websites. As social networking has become both more popular and more advanced, individuals can now share saved sites with others, receive updates on websites other people are tagging, comment on, and rate websites.

Bookmarks are usually organized and categorized by tags, or keywords/terms assigned by an individual. The assignment of tags is informal and personal to each user; whereas one person might tag a website with a keyword such as "volcanoes," another person might tag the same page "report" or "natural disaster."

Many bookmarking services will display a tag cloud (such as the one to the left). The tag cloud will display all tags the user has assigned saved web pages. By clicking on a tag, the user will be able to see all pages saved with that tag.

There are several social bookmarking services that offer free accounts. Perhaps the most utilized by EETT participants is [Delicious](#), recognizable by its checkerboard logo. Delicious accounts are free, as are downloadable browser buttons that make account access and tagging easy.

Remember that we have set up a Delicious tag specific to our group. If you find sites you would like to share with others, assign them the tag **erie1eett**. That way, we can all contribute to an ever-expanding list of bookmarks.



An example of a tag cloud

This image was found on Wiki Commons, a site that serves as a storehouse for reusable, freely-licensed media. Visit the site at <http://commons.wikimedia.org>

favorite sites. Social bookmarking, however, is web-based, which means users can access their bookmarks from any browser, on any computer. These services work much like e-mail; an individual registers for an account, and then logs on with a user name and password to

Suggested Reading and Resources from the Wikis for Technology Leaders Workshop

The following links are active. Click on the name of the resource to open the page on your internet browser.

Websites

- ◆ [Wet Paint's Wikis in Education](#)
- ◆ [Pb Wiki's Education Whitepapers](#)
- ◆ [Using Wikis in Education](#)

Articles and Blog Posts

- ◆ ["Four Letter Words: How Wiki and Edit are Making the Internet a Better Learning Tool"](#) by Stewart Mader
- ◆ ["My Brilliant Failure: Wikis In Classrooms"](#) by heather
- ◆ ["Lessons Learned from Classroom Wiki Use"](#) by Dr. Harry Grover Tuttle
- ◆ ["Teaching, Learning, and Other Uses for Wikis in Academia"](#) by Jude Higdon

Examples of Wikis in Classrooms

- ◆ [Wikispaces Educational Wikis](#)
- ◆ [Welker's Wikinomics](#)
- ◆ [Mrs. Atwood's Wiki](#)
- ◆ [Arbor Heights Elementary School](#)

Videos

- ◆ [21 Days to Wiki Adoption](#)
- ◆ [Common Craft Video: Wikis in Plain English](#)
- ◆ [Blogs vs. Wikis: A Fictitious Debate](#)

How-To Information

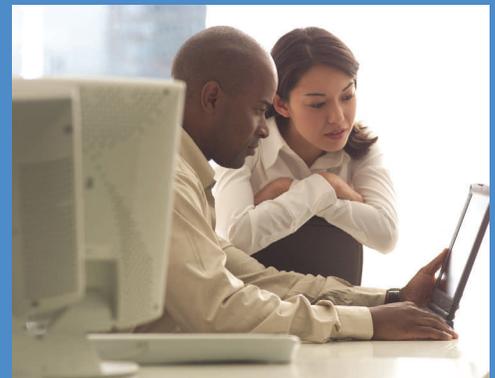
- ◆ [Wikispaces Instructional Videos](#)



These links are provided for your information and convenience. By clicking on a link, you will be leaving this document. Please be aware that, while we make every effort to evaluate all of the sites to which we link, we cannot endorse nor be responsible for the content provided on those sites.

Free Social Bookmarking Tools

- **Delicious**
<http://delicious.com>
- **Blinklist**
www.blinklist.com
- **Later This**
www.laterthis.com
- **Furl**
www.furl.com



UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Second in Our Series of Face-to-Face Workshops:

Building 21st Century Schools

September 25th, 2008

8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus



Workshop Highlights

Top Web 2.0 Tools for Leadership

Connectivity has a tremendous impact on the way leaders will, and should, communicate. This segment of the workshop will provide leaders with an understanding of Web 2.0 tools and provide hands-on practice with several powerful tools that should be part of their leadership communication strategy.

Engaging Staff & Students: Using Web 2.0 Tools for Global Collaboration

How do we promote the knowledge, skills and sense of urgency for 21st Century teaching and learning among all teachers in our schools? As the physical and virtual worlds converge to become the 'real world' of teaching and learning, virtual exchanges, online mentoring and other Web-based environments will play increasingly important roles in educational reform. Participants will learn valuable lessons for designing and leading global collaborations.



A Glossary of Web 2.0 Terms, Continued from Page 2

Tag Cloud: A visual representation of all tags given to an item/content found on the web, such as a blog post, web page, photo, or video. Tags will appear in different sizes; the larger the font size, the more popular the tag. (See picture on next page.)

Web 2.0: A term coined to recognize the changing nature of the web. In the past, individuals mainly used the web to publish or receive information. With "Web 2.0", individuals are using the web as a medium to interact with, share, and collaborate on the content. The tools that allow for this are the social media: blogs, wikis, pod/vodcasts, etc.

Widgets: Small, re-usable piece of software code, or more simply, anything that is embedded into a website (such as videos, podcasts, calendars, calculators, site-trackers, etc.)

Wiki: A form of website that allows users to control and edit the content. Wikis allow for asynchronous collaboration, and are especially useful in project planning and development.

Sources: http://www.web2fordev.net/glossary_of_web.html and <http://www.collaboration20.com/wiki/show/Web%202.0%20Glossary>

Speaking a Common Language

Common Craft Provides Explanations "In Plain English"

Search for Web 2.0 tools in Google or YouTube, and you are sure to come across a video created by Lee and Sachi LeFever. The husband and wife team that make up the entire staff of the company Common Craft describe themselves as "passionate people." Their product? Explanation.

Common Craft has produced numerous videos that are, according to a description by LeFever, "short, simple, and focused on making complex ideas easy to understand." They have taken on such complex ideas as blogs, wikis, social media, RSS, podcasting, and photo sharing. Each video is approximately 4 minutes long, and provides an in-depth, clear explanation of the topic using a whiteboard-and-paper style they refer to as Paperworks.

While individual and site licenses are available for purchase, the videos are free to those who wish

to use them for non-commercial purposes. To access the videos, visit their website at

www.commoncraft.com and click on The Common Craft Show.

These video explanations are highly recommended as tools for technology leaders to use during staff development. The format and delivery are informal and friendly, and create a sense that even the most foreign technologies are approachable.



An example of a video produced by Common Craft. To view videos, visit their [web site](http://www.commoncraft.com) and click on "Common Craft Show" at the top of the screen.