

Blogs (weB LOGS)

To navigate the blogosphere, you need the right tools. Here are several sites that make it easy to find, organize and keep tabs on your favorite bloggers:

Launched April 1, 2004, this is one of the best ways to sample and automatically subscribe to a wide range of blogs. The site tracks more than 50,000 blogs, divided into 12 categories, from movies to politics to baseball. Click on a subject and up pops a listing of short excerpts from current postings, with the most recent ones listed first. See a blog you like? Simply click on the + button to have it added to your digest, which reads like a personalized online newspaper of new posts from your favorite blogs.

www.Kinja.com

This site lets you organize your blogs in much the same way that your browser sorts its favorites. After creating a free account, you choose the blogs you want to track. There are more than 100,000 to pick from, including headlines from such mainstream sites as www.NYTimes.com, www.Slate.com and Yahoo. Each time you log in, the site informs you of how many new postings there are in your favorite blogs and lets you skim headlines. Click on a headline to read the full post. www.Bloglines.com

Regular search engines have trouble keeping pace with the constantly spewing bloggers. Enter Feedster, a search engine dedicated to indexing and finding the particular blogs you are after. Scanning more than 500,000 sources, it presents you with either the most recent posts or the most commented-on blogs (determined by analyzing how many other sites or blogs link to it), whichever you choose. Feedster also lets you save a customized search on, say, petunias and check back hourly or daily to see what the latest postings have to say about them. www.Feedster.com

Because blogs tend to be updated more frequently than regular websites, they are a great way to find out what people are talking about online at any given moment. Technorati taps into this phenomenon by listing the top 10 current events, books and general news that people are blogging about. www.Technorati.com

Created by the M.I.T. Media Laboratory, Blogdex presents the most contagious, or fastest spreading, ideas in the Web-log community. If bloggers are pointing en

masse to a posting about, say, the situation in Iraq, chances are it will come up high in the ranking. www.Blogdex.net

Voices from around the world: There are countless blogs, or Web logs, on the Internet. Some are serious, some are funny and some even rival traditional journalism. And then there are the others. If you've looked at personal blogs, you know many are trivial. Others are boring or childish. But don't judge blogging by the bad bloggers. Instead, find the good ones. Global Voices will help you do just that. As the name suggests, it features links to blogs from around the world. Read about daily life in Kenya or Hong Kong. Learn about economic issues in India. The bloggers featured on Global Voices are diverse. But the thing they have in common is they have something interesting to say.

<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/globalvoices/>

Damn Interesting is a blog that focuses mostly on science and technology topics. Don't expect a rehash of the science and technology section of the newspaper. And don't expect anything so boring as a textbook. The stories run the gamut from the bizarre to the fantastic. They're arranged by date. But if you want to browse by category, click the Categories button. Then choose your topic from the list. This is the type of site you'll probably spend hours perusing. And once you start reading, you'll probably forgive these guys for the name they chose. It might, in fact, be the only appropriate name for the site! www.damninteresting.com