

Becoming a Blogger | Step-by-Step Instructions

Starting your very own blog can appear to be a daunting task, but it's actually very easy. If you can use email, you can maintain a blog. Trust us! Use these step-by-step instructions to start your own blog. Please let your instructors know if you have any questions. And remember, the most important thing is to have fun while you're learning!

To see an example of a blog and to get more information, visit the class blog: www.splclasses.blogspot.com

Create Your Own Blog using Blogger.com

1. Open your web browser and navigate to www.blogger.com. This is a free, popular blog host owned by Google. It's very easy to use and it's a good choice if you're a beginner with computers and the Internet.



2. If you already have a Google account, sign in at the top of the page using your username and password. Complete the steps to sign up for a Blogger account and skip to step #4. If you do not yet have a Google account, click on the “Create Your Blog Now” link (look for the big orange arrow).
3. Complete the form to “Create a Google Account.” This account can be used to sign into other Google services. Click continue.
4. Give your blog a title and a blog address (url). Click continue.
5. Choose a template by clicking on the circle underneath the template you want to use. Don't worry, you can change your mind later and choose a different template. You can also go into your settings to customize your colors. Click continue.
6. You're all set to get started with your first blog post! Click the “Start Posting” link and write your first post. Don't forget to give your post a title. Click “Publish Now” to make it public! Congratulations! You are now one of the millions of bloggers on the planet!

Becoming a Blogger | Glossary

Archives: A collection of previous posts published on a blog, usually browsable by year and month.

Blog: Short for "web log". A public website with posts or entries ordered with the most recent first. Posts may come from one or more individuals and often share a common theme. In most blogs, the most recent entries posted are made available for syndication via RSS feeds. Comments and archives are also common features.

Blog host: A website that allows someone to create and maintain a blog. Free and popular blog hosts include Blogger.com, Wordpress.com, Weebly.com, Livejournal.com, Xanga.com, and Vox.com. Blog hosts will provide a web address for your blog,

Blogger: A person who maintains a blog. Also the name of a popular, free blog host (see www.blogger.com).

Bloggng: The act of creating and posting on blogs.

Blogsphere: The totality of weblogs or blog-related websites. Used to describe the world or community of blogs and blogging. Blogs are densely interconnected with bloggers reading, linking to, referencing, and posting comments on other blogs. As a result, the interconnected blogs have grown their own culture.

Blogroll: A list of recommended links in the sidebar of a blog, often linking to other blogs.

Comments: Enables readers to leave their remarks on a blog entry. An important characteristic of blogs is the interactivity made possible by comments.

Dashboard: The backend of a blogging account, it is the page with controls, tools, settings, and functions.

Entries or Posts: Individual articles that make up a blog.

Feeds: When a blog is created, it should automatically come with a feed to people can subscribe to the blog. Feeds are RSS/XML documents containing headlines and descriptions used for web syndication. Also called a channel, news feed, content feed, xml feed, rss feed, or web feed.

Permalink: A link to a specific blog entry or post.

Podcasting: Audio content is delivered via an RSS feed presenting a downloadable or streaming mp3 file.

Readers: An application that reads many RSS feeds on behalf of one or more RSS subscribers. Most RSS readers are also RSS aggregators, but with a few exceptions. Firefox reads RSS files, but does nothing more than compile the items in a menu tree. Therefore, it is an RSS reader, but not an RSS aggregator.

RSS or "Really Simply Syndication": A format for delivering regularly changing web content. Many news-related sites, personal blogs, and other websites syndicate content as an RSS feed to the public.

Sidebar: One or more columns along one or both sides of a typical blog's main page. Often contains a list of links (blogroll), recent posts and comments, archives, and tags or categories.

Tags: Labels or keywords used to collect similar posts. Helpful when someone wants to see blog entries related to a specific topic.

Trackback: A system by which a ping is sent to another blog to notify that their article has been mentioned.



Skokie Public Library Technology Classes

Blogs: Typical Layout and Components

1. Header → Skokie Public Library Computer Classes

2. Post/Entry title — most recent up top → Miss a class?

3. Embedded multimedia (e.g., images, videos, slides, music, etc.) →

4. Author stamp → posted by Skokie Public Library at 1:12 PM

5. Date stamp → WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2007

6. Links to other websites → [Google Reader](#), [Technorati](#), [Google Blog Search](#), [Eatweb Portal](#), [Blogpulse](#)

7. RSS Feed → Subscribe now (RSS)

8. "About me" or profile → About Me

9. Additional sidebar features (page elements) → Do you have a computer at home?

10. Blogroll or recommended links → Blogroll

11. Comments make the blog interactive and promote discussion → 0 comments

12. Labels/tags/categories to help organize entries → Labels

13. Archive of previous blog entries by month → Blog Archive

(See back for full descriptions)

What's in a blog?

(See screenshot on the other side)

1. **Header:** Most blogs will have a banner or image of some kind at the top of the blog. This header will usually contain the title of the blog and a short tagline.
2. **Post/Entries:** The main content area of most blogs contains posts or entries from the author. These are usually arranged with the most recent entries at the top of the page.
3. **Multimedia:** It is possible to upload and embed images, digital photos, video clips, and other multimedia in blogs.
4. **Author stamp:** Blog posts usually have an author stamp to indicate who wrote them. Most blogs are authored by a single person, though it's becoming more common to find blogs authored by multiple people.
5. **Date stamp:** Blog posts usually indicate the date and time they were written.
6. **Links:** Providing links to other websites is a common practice of bloggers. Usually links are underlined or in a different color from the rest of the text to indicate there is a link available.
7. **RSS Feed:** Blogs usually come with an RSS feed so readers can subscribe to the blog's content using an RSS reader. Most blog hosts automatically generate an RSS feed for every new blog.
8. **About Me/Profile:** Most bloggers will provide a brief profile or "about me" page to tell readers about themselves. Some bloggers choose to be anonymous while others are happy to reveal their real names and detailed information about themselves.
9. **Sidebar Features:** Most blogs come with at least 1 or 2 sidebars. These sidebars are used for links to archives, a list of tags or labels, blogrolls, polls, and other things. Sidebar features are sometimes referred to as page elements, badges, or widgets.
10. **Blogroll:** Most blogs will offer a list of recommended links. These are usually related to the subject of a particular blog and/or simply links that the author finds worthy of a visit.
11. **Comments:** The interactive nature of blogs comes from the ability of readers to leave comments on specific blog entries. This promotes a discussion of a particular topic. Some blogs allow anonymous comments while others require people to provide an email address and name in order to leave a comment. It is up to the author to set the moderation settings.
12. **Labels/Tags/Categories:** Blog entries are often categorized with tags in order to organize things for blog authors and visitors.
13. **Archives:** Most blogs provide a way for readers to go back and read older entries. Archives are often browsable by year and month.



Skokie Public Library

5215 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60077
847.673.7774 / 847.673.7797 fax
www.skokieliibrary.info

Skokie Public Library Trustees:

John Graham, President; Diana Hunter, Vice President/President Emerita; Dayle Zelenka, Secretary; Susan Greer; Zelda Rich; John M. Wozniak
Director: Carolyn A. Anthony