

DU Learning Guide

Introduction to Blogs

"I can record my life and thoughts – and tell the world, if I like."

What's it all about

A "Blog", short for "web log", is like an online diary. You can choose to keep it private, share it with friends, or publish it to the whole world. The tools for creating a blog are free and are an easy way to produce your own website. Several people can contribute to a blog, handy for clubs or friends and family who can exchange news and keep in touch.

A blog can contain photos, video clips or music. Many people use them to share links to their favourite websites with friends.

Blogs are very popular with young people and lots of celebrities and politicians have their own blogs, but you don't have to be young or famous to have one. Two of last year's Silver Surfer of the Year Runners-up have their own blogs. It is estimated that a new blog is created somewhere in the world every 5 seconds!

Try this

You won't be able to set up your own blog in a short taster session, but you can see an online demo as follows:

- Type www.blogger.com into the address bar of your browser
- Press **Enter** to display the Blogger home page
- Click on the link **Take a Quick Tour**
- When you have read the next page, click **Continue**
- Keep clicking **Continue** until you get to the page **Get Started**, where you will be invited to **Create a Blog**.
- If you'd like to create your own blog, see the Guide **Set up a blog**.

More websites to explore

Ask Geriatric

www.askgeriatric.com

This is the website of Peter Oakley, 79, who has a video blog on YouTube.

Not Dead Yet

<http://judithtaylor.blogspot.com/>

Blog from Judith Taylor, Silver Surfer of the Year Runner-up 2008.

Twitter

<http://twitter.com/>

A "micro-blogging" site that enables people to post short messages (less than 140 characters) via mobile phones etc.

Yahoo 360

<http://360.yahoo.com>

Another popular blog site, part of the Yahoo! Package.