

CHAPTER 2: WEB RESOURCES

Social Networking

MySpace is an online community that lets you meet your friends' friends. The site also offers direct links to musicians, bands, and celebrities via their MySpace blogs.

www.myspace.com

Facebook is a social utility that connects people with friends and others who work, study, and live around them.

www.facebook.com

For a list of updated notable social networking Web sites from A to Z by type, search “list of social networking sites” on Wikipedia.

www.en.wikipedia.com

Web 2.0

YouTube features user-generated and journalistic video clips. Search YouTube for visual primers on the meaning and implications of Web 2.0.

www.youtube.com

This site offers a very comprehensive index of all the latest Web 2.0 applications, gadgets, widgets, and services. Find what you need to enhance your blog or Web site.

www.go2web20.net

Creating Blogs

Express yourself with a free blog and intuitive, customizable software.

<http://wordpress.com>

Free hosting, software, and support will get you started blogging in minutes.

<http://blog.com>

Reading Blogs

Discover what's popping now from some of the best blogs on the Web.

www.technorati.com

Search blogs by subject and keyword across the Web.

www.icerocket.com

Sample Blogs by Online Learners for Online Learners

Learn about going back to school online from real online students enrolled in online degrees.

<http://community.elearners.com/blogs>

This blog gives advice on earning a college degree through distance education.

<http://thedistancelearner.com>

Search posts from students and teachers blogging about distance learning. Go to the homepage to search for other terms.

<http://wordpress.com/tag/distance-learning>

Online education isn't just studying; you have to eat too. This blog indexes the after-hours establishments and services available to late-night learners and other night owls.

www.eastbayinsomniac.com

Social Bookmarking

Social Bookmarking is a way for Web 2.0 users to store, classify, share, and search Internet bookmarks. These lists can be accessible to the public by users of a specific network or Web site. Try sharing your favorite links with your classmates with one of these Web sites or services.

<http://reddit.com>

<http://del.icio.us>

<http://digg.com>

Sharing Photos

Photos give you a glimpse into diverse cultures you may not have experienced. Photo-sharing networks differ as vastly as blogs—from personal candid to feats of photojournalism. Start sharing photos online and put faces to your classmates.

www.flickr.com

www.snapfish.com

www.photobucket.com

Self-Publishing

You can have custom mouse pads printed for the class or turn your latest research project into a slick, coffee table book. Consider the uses for such publishing tools for your online education, or just make a T-shirt for kicks.

www.cafepress.com

www.blurb.com

www.zazzle.com

Webcasting

Web 2.0 has brought broadcasting ability to the masses. You can record and publish your own video and audio broadcasts. Explore some of the following services.

www.youtube.com

www.apple.com/podcasting

www.live365.com

Establishing Identity

Create an animated avatar to make your online interactions more personal and expressive.

www.meez.com

Resize any picture online to create a custom signature or avatar for use on forums.

www.shrinkpictures.com

Online Etiquette

Online etiquette (sometimes called “Netiquette”) refers to a code of conduct for use in e-mail and forum postings. Mind your manners by following the tips suggested on this site.

www.dont-be-a-twit.com