

**Title of Session:** Blogstreams Salon  
**Moderator:** Aaron Campbell  
**Title of File:** 20050710blogstreams  
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Room: Blogstreams Salon Group

**EmilyW:** We are just talking about blogging and training and stuff like that

**SusanR:** Hi Aaron

**SusanR:** hope I am not interrupting

**EmilyW:** you are not

**AaronN:** Not me

**AaronN:** This is my first time here...getting to know the place and Emily a little.

**EmilyW:** Aaron, I see you are an ESL educator, how does that fit with training?

**AaronN:** Well, I am also a teacher trainer. I am in charge of developing the professional development program of our company, and I am exploring the use of blogs in that process as well.

**AaronPC** entered the room.

**EmilyW:** that is great

**AaronN:** Yah, it is exciting, but really hard going at the moment.

**EmilyW:** how long have you been doing this?

**AaronN:** well, the teacher training has been going on informally for several years

**AaronN:** but I have recently been pushing hard at work for a more, umm, sustained effort on behalf of the company to help develop ongoing teacher training.

**AaronPC** waves to Susan, Emily, and Aaron

**AaronN:** Hi Aaron....\*waves back\*

**AaronPC**

**EmilyW:** what type of company is it?

**SusanR:** Hi Aaron

**AaronN:** It's an English school...we teach in companies, sending our teachers out to them.

**AaronPC:** Hello there

**AaronN:** Hey Emily, I just found this link...<http://technorati.com/developers/ping/blogger.html>

**AaronN:** says we can ping automatically if we are set to public in blogger.

**AaronN:** if that makes sense

**EmilyW:** oh ok

**AaronN:** So Emily, and anyone who cares to comment (Susan and Aaron ) how have you used Blogging in training or education?

**SusanR:** Hi Aaron

**AaronN:** It's an English school...we teach in companies, sending our teachers out to them.

**AaronPC:** Since 2002

**EmilyW:** I just recently started blogging

**EmilyW:** haven't used it in training or education yet

**SusanR:** Have you considered using Tapped In for training

**AaronN:** No, I haven't actually Susan. I am just getting into the system and don't really know it well yet.

**AaronN:** Aaron, how have you been using it?

**AaronPC** wonders how Aaron N uses blogs for training

**SusanR:** I have not used it for training perse, Aaron N

**SusanR** listens

**AaronPC:** I have experimented with blogs in different forms...

**AaronPC:** but recently I have been using them with my students and as a reflective space.

**AaronN:** Well so far I have been trying (not too successfully so far for reasons I'll explain later if desired) but to use a blog as a way for teachers to share ideas and collaborate on study projects for our training program.

**AaronN:** we split our team of teachers into groups, and gave each group a study topic to research and comment on in the blog

**AaronPC:** Interesting approach.

**RitaZ** entered the room.

**AaronN:** well, it sorta fell apart because of a lack of information for the teachers.

**RitaZ:** Hi, all, good day!

**AaronN:** Hi Rita

**AaronPC:** I wonder why you chose to do that with blogs as opposed to say...discussion list?

**AaronPC:** Hi Rita.

**AaronN:** Discussion list, like via e-mail?

**SusanR:** I hope to use a blog with spec ed students re reflective math journals

**AaronPC:** Well....like a threaded forum.

**AaronN:** Wow Susan...that sounds exciting

**RitaZ** listens attentively

**SusanR:** I will be working with a spec ed teacher in the junior division

**AaronN:** I have read some very interesting reports around that Susan, using blogs as reflection spaces for math

**SusanR:** with approximately 9 students..I do hope the class remains small

**EmilyW:** where have you read about that?

**SusanR:** similar to print reflective journals

**AaronN:** And Aaron PC, I guess there was no real reason why we went for the blog over thread based communication.

**AaronN:** Emily, I can't remember now, but I googled it

**AaronN:** The report was mostly around community education, like via community centers, and adult learners.

**AaronPC:** Well I think it's great that you did Aaron...because the teachers learn a skill that they can continue after training is over.

**SusanR:** I would love to see those reports, Aaron N. Are they web based

**AaronN:** Yes Susan. They were in PDF if I remember correctly.

**AaronPC:** Susan...what age are the students?

**SusanR:** grade 6

**AaronN:** Aaron PC, I agree. I also think that blogs are more, interactive and cutting edge.

**RitaZ:** I gave a pres on Blogging yesterday here at a Congress in Rosario, Argentina, to 350 EFL teachers

**AaronPC:** Wow....350?!

**AaronN:** Aaron PC, we had set up the groups so that each group would post in the form of comments to their group's study topic...does that makes sense?

**AaronPC:** Susan...what do you have them blog about?

**SusanR:** that's a challenge, Rita

**AaronN:** Wow Rita!

**RitaZ:** out of 350, only 2 said to have an idea of blogs

**AaronN:** LOL, Rita I have the same problem here in Mexico

**AaronPC:** Yes...that's very reasonable. Were there any outside participants who stopped by and gave you their 2 cents?

**AaronN:** Only one or two people know what they are

**SusanR:** Once they learn a concept..they will reflect on what exactly they learned

**RitaZ:** but at the end many many came up to me to say they would open up theirs

**AaronN:** Susan, do you interact directly with the students around their posts?

**AaronPC:** That's fantastic Rita!

**SusanR:** Have not done it yet, still in the planning stages. I would interact. They need the feedback

**AaronPC:** Was the presentation mostly an introduction to blogging in EFL?

**RitaZ:** this most disgraceful attack to London has been giving some people a dimension of what blogs are, since they are now said to be the only or best source of info

**AaronN:** Ahhh, I see Susan. Will you be the one interacting?

**RitaZ:** I showed the audience several different types of blogs to give then an idea

**AaronPC:** Do you think your students would benefit from outside participants, Susan?

**AaronN:** Rita, were you trying to promote any particular use of blogging in the EFL classroom?

**SusanR:** math experts???

**RitaZ:** (had no internet connection, had to take sites downloaded in a CD)

**AaronPC:** Nah...just random folk like us.

**AaronN:** Rita...ahhh...that is hard!

**RitaZ:** the concept of blogging for any lang learning purposes

**AaronPC:** Well...screenshots rarely fail.

**SusanR:** I will start simply!!

**GrahamS** entered the room.

**AaronPC:** Keep it simple.

**GrahamS:** Hi everyone!

**AaronN:** Hi Graham

**RitaZ:** hi, Graham! nice to CU!

**GrahamS:** nice to be here again

**AaronPC:** Hey Graham.

**GrahamS:** What's up?

**SusanR:** Was it a powerpoint presentation, Rita?

**RitaZ:** yes, Sus, but first I showed many blogs so that they would understand the concepts when I gave the theory and some descriptions

**RitaZ:** they had NO idea!

**AaronPC:** Well...Rita gave a big presentation, Susan is using blogs with her spec ed students, and Aaron N is using blogs for teacher training....and so on

**RitaZ:** its coming...;-))

**AaronPC:** What's up with you Graham?

**AaronN:** Yes, our teachers had little clue about what blogs were too.

**AaronN:** Rita, do you find that Students as well know much about blogging?

**EmilyW:** and I am using blogs to help me with my job search

**GrahamS:** not much - I started blogging with my summer school students.

**RitaZ:** no; Aaron, nobody knows. My stds, though, are taking to it and are participating!

**AaronPC:** Any good leads recently Emily?

**AaronN:** Rita, how interesting. Are your students younger?

**GrahamS:** Rita, it sounds like your presentation went well - 350 people, is that right?

**AaronPC:** Did you get them using Blogger, Graham?

**RitaZ:** 18 year olds

**EmilyW:** no

**AaronN:** Rita, ok. I am really interested in exploring blogging with my students, but they are all adults.

**RitaZ:** they are doing fine, and my other blog which is also doing well, little by little is the one i have with my CALL SIG teachers

**AaronN:** I am expecting the same level of....not knowing much if anything about blogging.

**SusanR:** I am certain many 18 year olds have their own blogs, Rita.

**GrahamS:** yes, Aaron. Here's one of their blogs:  
<http://alexa1991.blogspot.com/>

**RitaZ:** great, Aaron, so you also send them their marks through their blogs, cool

**GrahamS:** They've also prepared 2 podcasts (one about Barcelona, the other about Spanish music) for <http://www.sushiradio.com>

**AaronPC:** Excellent!

**RitaZ:** ah, would like to start doing that, Graham

**AaronN:** That's very interesting Graham, so it's like direct interaction between you and your students.

**GrahamS:** This time round, my students took to blogging easier (one even had her own blog already)

**AaronPC:** I've been posting some podcast experiments recently too - lots of fun:  
<http://e-poche.net/conversations/>

**GrahamS:** I'm trying to get them interested and leaving comments for each other, so they continue when the course ends

**RitaZ:** what do you recommend to start preparing podcasts, Graham?

**AaronN:** Hey Graham, or anyone who knows, have you had experience in doing a small group podcast? Can three or four people do it at the same time?

**SusanR:** These are quite impressive..

**GrahamS:** That looks great Aaron, I'll have to listen to them

**GrahamS:** Aaron, that's what my students have done (one group of 3 and one group of 4)

**GrahamS:** I got them to record it in class, then I edited it at home and added some music

**AaronN:** Thanks Graham. How do you do the in class recording?

**AaronPC:** Have you posted that yet Graham?

**RitaZ** likes the question

**GrahamS:** I've got a small iriver mp3 player with a built-in mic and have been using that, passing it around (it's a small group so there's no problem)

**AaronN:** And, to anyone who would like to comment, how would you go about presenting the whole idea of blogging and podcasting to adult English learners?

**GrahamS:** I sent the first one off to Nicole (at Sushi radio) today, so I'm hoping it'll be on the site next week

**AaronPC:** Oh that's the one 'traditional Spanish music'...sorry

**AaronN:** Thanks Graham. Do you do any preparation with your class before the actual recording? Like scripts etc.?

**RitaZ:** brb

**GrahamS:** wow! I didn't see that before - she's already posted it. That's great

**GrahamS:** Absolutely. I took them to see the site and listen to a sections of the podcasts first, in the computer room...

**RitaZ:** back, sorry, phone

**GrahamS:** ...then I asked if they'd be interested in making their own (they all said yes)...

**AaronPC** is listening now

**GrahamS:** ...then they sat down and decided what they'd like to do the podcasts about, and I helped them with the preparation

**GrahamS:** They scripted them and I corrected their work, then they rehearsed and finally I recorded them

**AaronPC:** How many hours did this take Graham?

**AaronN:** Graham....I am very interested in this.

**AaronN:** listens carefully

**AaronPC:** Were the music clips CC or under full copyright?



**RitaZ:** me too, would like to give it a try

**GrahamS:** That's why it's taken so long - 15-30 minutes per day for 2 weeks

**SusanR** listens intently and would like to become more familiar with podcasts

**GrahamS:** the music is all CC

**AaronPC:** Excellent.

**AaronN:** CC?

**GrahamS:** that took me the longest - tracking down CC for rumba catalana!

**AaronPC:** creative commons

**AaronN:** ahhh...I knew that.

**GrahamS:** yes, but I managed it in the end

**RitaZ:** is there a site you would advise to follow instructions as to how to start ipodding, Graham?

**AaronPC:** Are these the summer students?

**GrahamS:** They'll be thrilled tomorrow - and I'll have to get the second one to sushiradio asap

**AaronN:** So the best way to get a class into this kind of project is to expose them to it, ask them if they'd like to do one, and then work with them on preparing the cast.

**GrahamS:** <http://www.englishcaster.com/> has some useful advice on it Rita

**AaronPC** is now thinking of the possibilities for a 'music' content course in the fall....

**AaronN:** Now I'm curious, how much should the teacher get involved in the process. Like should the script be "perfect" before they actually do it?

**GrahamS:** Absolutely Aaron - it went really well that way. The same with the blogs too

**GrahamS:** Good question - I let them decide the subject, given the 4 categories of sushi radio

**RitaZ:** thanks, Graham

**AaronPC:** The great thing about sound is you can cut and splice and join as needed - just takes a bit of practice.

**GrahamS:** and then let them go to it. I was not going to add anything myself at first, and then thought if I added complementary stuff, it'd be extra listening for them when they hear it again

**GrahamS:** We'll see tomorrow how they react

**RitaZ:** brb

**GrahamS:** I'm getting better at it - Audacity is actually a great tool for that

**GrahamS:** the cutting and splicing that is

**GrahamS:** What about your podcasting Aaron?

**AaronPC:** Yeah...I constructed a scripted conversation between two people who never spoke with one another that way

**AaronN:** Graham, have you had students from other classes, comment on your projects? Like are you doing it for that purpose, or is it just for students to practice their speaking skills.

**AaronPC:** Oh...just getting my feet wet right now Graham....mostly in prep for the fall.

**AaronPC:** I really want to have my students do podcasts for the music course and also for a course on 'presentations' that I am giving.

**SusanR:** ditto

**GrahamS:** Well, I'm going to introduce the other classes to it tomorrow too, suggest some of the teachers present it to their students - that way, they can maybe generate enthusiasm and get others involved too

**GrahamS:** podcasting for presentations sounds like a great idea

**AaronPC:** Graham, we should try recording a Skype call between students from Japan and Spain.

**AaronN:** listening carefully

**GrahamS:** I'd love to do that Aaron, but Skype is out of the question at the BC at the moment

**AaronPC:** Or even better...let's get like 3 or 4 people from different countries speaking about a certain topic.....would be interesting.

**GrahamS:** great idea

**GrahamS:** Have you tried using Skype with students?

**SusanR:** We used Skype for the first time today..mostly troubleshooting to get up and running

**RitaZ:** I like that, people!

**SusanR:** the possibilities for education is limitless

**AaronPC:** Not really....just because the software doesn't exist at school.....but Bee and I tried recording a conversation through skype with a Japanese person and a Brazilian.

**RitaZ:** I had a short experience with Skype and my stds

**GrahamS:** How did that go, Aaron?

**AaronPC:** Computer crashed and we lost the file. Gave up.

**GrahamS:** What happened Rita?

**RitaZ:** but it was only text chat, we didn't manage to get the 5 of us together

**AaronPC:** Susan...do you have Skype at school?

**RitaZ:** to voice chat

**RobertWB** entered the room.

**AaronPC:** Elder Bob!

**RitaZ:** but would love to start a project with my CAE stds

**RobertWB:** Finally here.'

**RitaZ:** (post FCE)

**GrahamS:** Hi Bob

**RobertWB:** Hi all.

**RitaZ:** hi, Bob!

**AaronPC:** What is CAE, Rita?

**RobertWB:** What did I miss.

**RitaZ:** Cambridge Advanced English

**AaronPC:** Oh, IC

**GrahamS:** Another thing I came across (just posted it to my blog) that I'm excited about is the combination of del.icio.us and RSS to create a podcast feed with varied content from multiple sources

**AaronPC:** Bob...we were talking about blogs and podcasting

**RitaZ:** talking about ipodding, Bob

**RobertWB:** Oh, I am really sorry I missed it....can someone send me a whole transcrip...never mind, its in the files isn't it.

**AaronPC:** How would that work Graham?

**RitaZ:** yes, Bob, I can send it, if you want

**RobertWB:** Im doing a weekend on the last weekend of the month, on Podcasting, Videocasting and Radio at <http://knowplace.ca>

**GrahamS:** Rather than explain it again here, take a look at: <http://blog-efl.blogspot.com/2005/07/use-delicious-to-create-customised.html#comments>

**RitaZ:** will be there, Bob

**GrahamS:** That sounds great Bob

**AaronPC:** thanks

**AaronPC:** Great Bob!

**RobertWB:** That looks very interesting. I'll check it out.

**RitaZ:** again, a lot to chew and digest;-)

**RobertWB:** If you can't make it to Knowplace for any other reason, I try to set the sessions up so you can come and copy the resources...even if you don't have time to read, watch, listen or chat...

**AaronPC:** What are the dates Bob?

**RobertWB:** Copy them off and walk away if you like, but there will be some interesting stuff I promise.

**RitaZ:** very generous of you, Bob, thank you

**AaronPC:** I couldn't find them on the site.

**RobertWB:** No calendar in front of me, but it's the last Saturday and Sunday of the month.

**AaronPC:** got it

**RitaZ:** July 29 Fri

**AaronN:** Well everyone, I really enjoyed this. I need to go for now, but you all usually come here every Sunday?

**RobertWB:** Well, they erase all my stuff as soon as the weekend is over, but I have moved it over to my Moodle...so if noting else, let me know and I'll send a copy out to you or give you a key to that course on my moodle.

**RobertWB:** I just realized there were two Aarons here today.

**RitaZ:** thank you all ! for so much sharing...

**AaronPC:** lol

**RobertWB:** You can also find most of my links on my [del.icio.us/elderbob](http://del.icio.us/elderbob)

**AaronPC:** thanks everyone...I must also be on my way

**AaronN:** Yes, I can see this is going to quickly become a favorite place for me.

**GrahamS:** I'd love to have a copy Bob - I won't be here on the 29th (off to the UK for a walking holiday)

**RitaZ:** CU all next time, have a good week!

**GrahamS:** Bye Rita

**AaronN:** bye Rita

**RitaZ:** bye all

**RobertWB:** Remind me Graham, and in fact, I'll put a package together and send a file here for posterity.

**RobertWB:** Bye Rita and congrats.

**GrahamS:** that is very kind of you Bob

**RobertWB:** No problem Graham

**AaronPC:** Please do Bob...that would be wonderful

**JeffC** entered the room.

**GrahamS:** Hi Jeff

**AaronN:** Bye Graham. I really enjoy your podcasts...and thanks for your information and answering my questions. I'm sure I'll be peppering you with more down the road!

**RobertWB:** And then in the Webhead convergence, I am planning something on social networks, tagging and folksonomy.

**JeffC** waves

**RobertWB:** So that ought to be real good too.

**GrahamS:** so much going on, so little time...

**RobertWB:** So sorry I missed today's. stuff.

**RobertWB:** Yea, but that's what makes podcasting and folksonomy and linking so valuable, you can reconstruct things at a later date.

**GrahamS:** absolutely

**RobertWB:** I also have a class in the moodle on Business blogging if any one every shows an interest.

**RobertWB:** I did it for my Personal Coaching associates.

**RobertWB:** Anyway, Ill try to be on time next weekend.

**GrahamS:** I'm interested in that Bob - and I know of others who would be too

**RobertWB:** Is it ok to put links in the TI room?

**RobertWB:** Can I do that or do I need to send it to someone.

**GrahamS:** I think it'd be fine

**RobertWB:** I'll post the link to the Moodle and drop in a file of info from the Business session and the Podcast session.

**GrahamS:** if not, send the links to Bee or Aaron

**RobertWB:** No problem.

**RobertWB:** My pleasure.

**RobertWB:** Next week then

**RobertWB:** adios all.

**GrahamS:** Bye everyone!

**SusanR:** bye