

Publishing Content on the Web

Web Publishing Tools: Educational Features Comparison

Decision Factors	Web Pages (basic)	Weblogs
Purpose	Traditionally used in educational settings to organize and deliver course information, content, and limited interaction in the form of a course Website or instructor's Home Page. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively static content 	Designed for quick and easy publishing of personal & professional commentary by non-technical users. Can be used as a kind of portal site for collecting and syndicating links to course content, comments, and learning objects. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly updated content – series of daily entries associated with links to other Web resources
Educational Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Display information – course, research, projects; links to interaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge / community building Writing tool, ePortfolios, and journaling
Typical Set-up and Publishing Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Request account Login/Set up site preferences & permissions (easy) Design Web pages off-line with Web authoring tool, then upload to a server using FTP or SSH 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Request account Login /Set up site preferences (very easy) Create, edit, and publish online using plain text <ol style="list-style-type: none"> uses simple templates to control display of chronological ordered commentary & links
Ease of Use	MODERATE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> authoring, and FTP 	EASY -- to set-up and maintain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Template based HTML not necessary Many advanced features built-in
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WYSIWIG authoring Hypertext document Forms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collaborative authoring easy cross-linking and RSS content syndication e-mail notification archive and search content
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Familiar public access to Web pages Better for conveying large files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy to regularly update Easy for visitors to contribute Easy to dynamically generate content Scales well -- large groups or small teams ADA compliancy built-in
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard Web pages require a multi-step updating process Advanced features hard to implement Must build ADA compliancy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult to display complex graphics Plagiarism/copyright issues Information authentication, validation, and integrity
Sample Course Web Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internet Literacy: http://classweb.gmu.edu/montecin/249-s04/ Communications/Journalism http://mason.gmu.edu/~sklein1/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geology http://jade.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/lora/ Humanities http://jade.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/boris/ History: http://history120.blog-city.com/
Who to Contact	GMU supports MS FrontPage, Dreamweaver, and Netscape Composer. Request server accounts and Web page authoring training at: irc@gmu.edu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GMU provides Weblog tools through its Townhall collaborative software. Request an account at: http://townhall.gmu.edu nonGMU Weblog tools (free & pay) http://www.lights.com/weblogs/index.html