

The Value of Web 2.0 Technologies in Continuing Professional Development

What is a blog?

Short for “web-log” a place for posting commentary and to express opinion, communicate and share ideas, concerns and solutions by engaging others in conversation and debate . . .

“Blogs are powerful communication tools. Blogs are powerful publishing tools. But blogging (the verb) is still much more than that to me. Blogging, as in reading and thinking and reflecting and then in writing, is connecting and learning”. Will Richardson - On My Mind 14 Dec 2006



Reflection

“In terms of it being a useful tool, there is nothing like having to put an idea into writing to make you really think about what it is that you are saying and thinking. Also of course, it makes you think about whether you want to expose your unique thoughts in a public arena”.

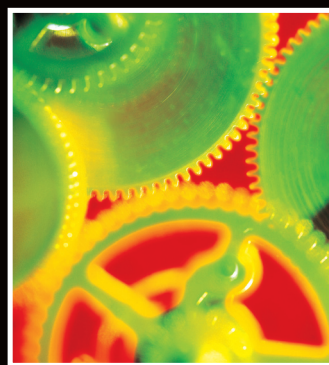
Think about the value of journals as a reflective tool - a blog is the same, but has the added value, or not, of having others read your reflections, be stimulated by these, and be able to contribute to your thoughts - so like a group reflective journal.



Networking

“The difference with the virtual world - is it's easier to find people interested in the same things as you!”

“I find the recent upsurge of interest in blogging from an OT perspective incredibly interesting - it's hard enough to find out information about the profession as it is, and hearing from people who actually work within it is a valuable way to find out what it's really about.”



CPD

Just by the fact that you have read and engaged in considering how the experience is benefitting you demonstrates a level of reflection. You have engaged in discussions with peers, reflected on the use of a tool and offered some insight into your own preferred style of learning. In doing this you have engaged in CPD activity with the blog entry as your evidence.

Providing evidence of thinking and discussion over time!



Professional issues

Blogging allows for quicker and more fluid discussions at an international level. Reviewing means that your thinking is always subject to someone's editing pen, and doing so sometimes your original intent is lost - this way you can own your material, own your thinking, and be prepared to stand by it publicly. Or . . . you can show how your thinking has altered with input from others.

*Offers critical feedback from peers!
Links to other resources!*

That first step can be daunting - write what you feel - it doesn't have to change the world, it doesn't have to be an essay - Give it a go - it may be the first step of a whole new learning experience for you - and if all else fails - it can be evidence of an aspect of your CPD to demonstrate engagement in discussion with peers both nationally and internationally!



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