From Blogs to Journalism

- **From newspapers to:**
  - ➢ **News**
  - ➢ **Internet**
  - ➢ **Blogs**
  - ➢ **Databases**

MY HOBBY:
MISPRONOUNCING WORDS

YEAH, DID YOU SEE WHAT HE SAID ON HIS WOBSITE?

| ...HIS WHAT?

WOBSITE. |

... I THINK YOU MEAN "WEBSITE."

WHY DON'T YOU WRITE ABOUT IT IN YOUR BLAG?
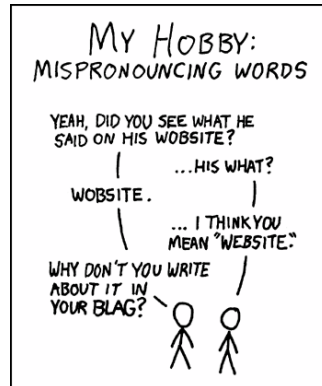
What is a blog?

- *The Power and Politics of Blogs*, Drezner and Farrell, 2004
- **Weblog, minimal editing, updated, reverse chronological presentation, hyperlinks to other sources**
  - ➢ **Blogs: how to create? Where? How many?**
  - ➢ **How do you find out about blogs?**

- **RSS/ATOM**
  - ➢ **Really simple syndication, see also IETF!**
  - ➢ **It's just text, a protocol, and software**

Blog Statistics and Details

- http://www.ebizmba.com/articles/blogs
  - ➢ **TMZ, 8 million monthly visitors**
- http://truthlaidbear.com/TrafficRanking.php
  - ➢ **Gizmodo: 1.9 million/day**
- http://www.alexa.com/
  - ➢ stats for huffingtonpost.com

GIZMODO

THE HUFFINGTON POST
THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER: NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

Blogs and Politics

...local community groups recently became more adapted to interactive and deliberative forms of Internet tools such as blogs, wikis and e-forums. These web technologies, so called web 2.0 applications, increase democratic access to e-government and broaden the opportunity for online political and civic engagement

Toward a model of political participation among young adults: the role of local groups and ICT use

Digital Natives meet Civics/Democracy

Talk of a "digital generation" or people who are "born digital" willfully ignores the vast range of skills, knowledge, and experience of many segments of society. It ignores the needs and perspectives of those young people who are not socially or financially privileged. It presumes a level playing field and equal access to time, knowledge, skills, and technologies. The ethnic, national, gender, and class biases of any sort of generation talk are troubling. And they could not be more obvious than when discussing assumptions about digital media.

http://tinyurl.com/6c6ebx

Think Globally, Act Locally

Many of us (self included) are actively working to become global citizens. Often, this means that we know more about what's going on in Darfur or Georgia than we do about what decisions are being made at our school board. Don't get me wrong - being a global citizen is really important. … We always bitch and moan about the state of the union, but too often, we forget about the importance of local communities. They matter. And being an informed citizen really matters. Democracy isn't about presidential races. It's about engaging in civics at all levels to make society a better place. It's about knowing who's running, what they stand for, and how they will make your community a better place.

dana boyd: http://tinyurl.com/69wjxv

Political Blogosphere in 2004

Weblogs may be read by only a minority of Americans, but their influence extends beyond their readership through their interaction with national mainstream media. During the months preceding the election, there were several cases in which political blogs served to complement mainstream media by either breaking stories first or by fact-checking news stories. [Swiftboat, Bush/National Guard]

The Political Blogosphere and the 2004 Election: Divided They Blog
Lada Adamic and Natalie Glance

Citations as a measure of "good"?

- Google Scholar as a metric for "academic goodness"?
  - ➤ Like Nielsen or …
- *The Power and Politics of Blogs*
  - ➤ Drezner and Farrell, 2004, cited by ?
- *Toward a model of political participation ...*
  - ➤ BJ Kim, A Kavanaugh, M Pérez-Quiñones, 2007, cited by ?
- *Generational Myth*
  - ➤ Siva Vaidhyanathan, 2008, cited by?
- *Blogging and political information: truth ...*
  - ➤ Munger, 2007, cited by ?
- *The Political Blogosphere of 2004: Divided They Blog*
  - ➤ Adamic and Glance, 2005, cited by ?

What is the Blogosphere?

- Who reads blogs, why do they read them?
  - Political blogs? Professional blogs?
  - What about the Duke lacrosse case?
  - What about lawyers, judges, …
  - What about Computer Scientists (or …)

- Do we read things we already agree with? Do we send links/articles etc that:
  - Resonate with our beliefs?
  - Make us happier than we were before?
  - Make as madder than we were before?

Do blogs change political landscape?

- Economist 2002: "Mainstream media was initially blind to [Lott's] remarks perhaps because it is used to such comments. But the 'blogosphere' – websites of opinion and news, first known as weblogs – denounced the remarks vigorously, and would not let up, finally forcing others to take notice."
- Dan Rather and CBS
  - George Bush, National Guard
- Porkbusters: rightwing, leftwing, libertarian
  - Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act

Blogs, Culture, Power

- "New technologies, emphatically including the Internet, are dramatically increasing people's ability to hear echoes of their own voices and to wall themselves off from others"

  Cass Sunstein, republic.com, 2001

- "…the common culture of widely shared values and knowledge that once helped to unite Americans of all creeds, colors, and classes no longer exists. In its place, we now have a "balkanized" group of subcultures whose members pursue their separate, unshared interests in an unprecedented variety of ways."

  Terry Teachout, Commentary, 2005

Does YouTube affect campaigns?

- George Allen and macaca reference
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9G7gq7GQ71c
  - But YouTube may be changing the political process in more profound ways, for good and perhaps not for the better,… will the last shreds of authenticity be stripped from our public officials…In short, will YouTube democratize politics, or destroy it? (New York Times, 8/20/2006)
- http://www.expertvoter.org/

Future of Journalism

- **Citizen Journalism**
- **Computational Journalism**
- **Watchdog Journalism**

10,000 WORDS
where journalism and technology meet

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www.techpresident.com (11/5/09)

The New York State Senate's new Open Legislation portal launched this morning, meant as an upgrade to this. Among the new features on this beta version of Open Legislation: the dead-simple Google-like search interface you see above, and, thanks to the advent of permalinks, the ability for Google to actually crawl and serve up the site.

Beyond that, the new portal has an assortment of options for tracking and pulling structured legislative information, either via API or data feed (XML, CSV, and JSON). What's more, there's built in commenting, so you can make your opinion known.

## www.techpresident.com (9/12/08)

- **We make the mistake of treating the Net as if it were a medium. But it's more like a world than a medium**

I think it's fair to say this is the real deal: a piece of voter-generated content, made by a pro but not a political hack--you can call him a pro-am--that is entering the national consciousness via the small-n network called the internet

- > **Dear Mr. Obama: 6 million views**
  - > http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TG4fe9GlWS8

What is the future of journalism?

- **poynter.org**
  - > **Becoming a journalist**
- **Clay Shirky**
  - > **When it's technologically boring is when it becomes socially interesting**

- **Oakland Crimes**

Oakland crimespotting

HERE COMES EVERYBODY
CLAY SHIRKY
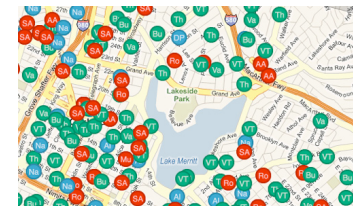
Wisdom of crowds, prediction markets

● ... under the right circumstances, groups are remarkably intelligent, and are often smarter than the smartest people in them ... when our imperfect judgments are aggregated in the right way, our collective intelligence is often excellent

Surowiecki, Wisdom of Crowds, quoted by Munger

● How do these work, legally, socially, technically, ethically?

  ➢ http://www.intrade.com or http://www.biz.uiowa.edu/iem/

What is Computational Journalism?

In all these areas the algorithms will surface data and ideas to be further explored by reporters. These are tools to supplement rather than substitute for efforts by reporters. *These tools will essentially involve data mining in the public interest.* Though the phrase computational journalism carries for some the suggestion of robotic reporters, it is really through the interaction of practitioners in the fields of computer science and journalism that tools will be developed that will be used by reporters to discover new stories.

Report from James Hamilton

From data to information: visualization

● http://www.opensecrets.org/

● http://vizlab.nytimes.com

● http://fundrace.huffingtonpost.com/

● Is this journalism? Is it reporting? Does it make sense/information from aggregate data?

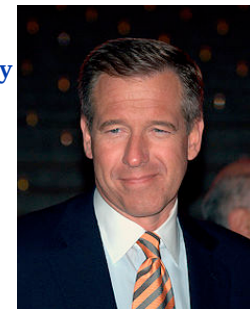## View from the trenches?

"You're going to be up against people who have an opinion, a modem, and a bathrobe," said Williams. "All of my life, developing credentials to cover my field of work, and now I'm up against a guy named Vinny in an efficiency apartment in the Bronx who hasn't left the efficiency apartment in two years."
Talk at NYU, 2007