



For teachers

Collaborative Publishing: Blog & Wiki

The Internet offers publishing tools, which enable people without programming knowledge the possibility to publish easily. Two tools are blogs and wikis. Blog – a short form for weblog – belongs to one publisher and offers guests the possibility to post comments. A wiki offers the possibility to everyone to contribute texts and images easily.

- The learning blog of our college refers expressly to the Internet language learning programme “English for Glass Professionals.” Posts are made by the editing teacher, referring to concrete tasks in the programme. Students usually have to comment on certain texts, podcasts, online courses, or research results. This is very easy, because no access is needed. You can reach it via the URL: <http://www.glasfachschule.wordpress.com>
- Blogging is a new cultural technique in the age of global electronic learning. As current scientific researchers (Forschungsstelle Neue Kommunikationsmedien) have found out, blogging is very effective, because according to constructivist educational theories it enables learners to construct knowledge while interacting with each other through communication. For those who are interested: “Wie ich blogge” (2005).
URL: <http://141.13.22.238/fonkblog/pdf/fonkbericht0601.pdf> (retrieved: June 5, 2006)
- A possible didactical setting for blogs: After having produced podcasts on a special topic, for instance like the tasks in lesson two in this language learning programme, each student has to comment on at least two podcast of fellow students. As a teacher you should post a text in the learning blog where you invite students to leave their comments. You can do similar settings with texts, videos, online courses or whatever you find suitable. Important is only that students get into collaborative writing.
- Very effective about blogs: RSS Feeds. These are a sort of e-mails or newsletters you don't get via your usual account, but which can subscribe to. This works for instance via Mozilla browser or feed readers. After subscription you get a shortcut on your screen, click on it and can see what's new on the blog. This offers capital possibilities for letting your students choose material they might find useful, for instance hints for methodical learning, or hints on new publications, or useful websites, or whatever. Try it out and subscribe to the RSS Feed of the glasfachschule blog!
- Similarly you can use wikis. In this language learning programme we use the online wiki provided by www.schulwiki.org There students can easily add their own texts and images. This is for instance ideal for creating a glossary or dictionary. We want to encourage students to use the wiki especially for creating a glass glossary, which is done by them also in German. With this tool they can fortify their translating abilities and add links to glass resources on the web.

