

## Writing Tools

<http://www.google.com/google-d-s/b1.html>,  
<http://www.celtx.com/>, and <http://gliffy.com/>  
provide a variety of  
brainstorming, mapping, storyboarding,  
spreadsheet and diagramming tools  
for export to html web format.  
These tools make available a simple, fast,  
collaborative workspace.

## Survey Tools

Survey tools are powerful when used in  
the production of data-informed instruc-  
tion. <http://surveymonkey.com/>,  
which is licensed by FCPS,  
is a revolutionary new tool which allows  
anyone to create professional online  
surveys quickly and easily.  
Custom surveys can be published  
in minutes, and results can be viewed  
graphically and in real time.

## Image Resources

There are a lot of freely available tools  
for creating and enhancing dynamic photos  
and graphic illustrations.  
<http://picasa.google.com/>  
is a free, fast and easy software download  
from Google that helps you locate  
and organize all the photos on your computer,  
edit and add effects to your photos  
with a few simple clicks, and share your photos  
with others through email, prints, and on the web.  
Photoshop Elements 5.0  
is another great digital-imaging solution.  
<http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelwin/>



# The New Technology Toolbox



Some excerpts from  
*“Blogs, Wikis, and Other Powerful Web Tools  
for Classrooms,”* by Will Richardson

Prepared by

**Ahmed Bashshiti**

Advanced Multimedia Productions  
Luther Jackson Middle School

**There are many new technologies available that promise to change the way we do business. Here is a list of those that publish, those that manage information, and those that share content in new collaborative ways.**

## Weblogs

A weblog (usually shortened to blog, but occasionally spelled web log) is a web-based publication consisting primarily of periodic articles (normally in reverse chronological order).

Blogs are easily created, easily updateable websites that allow an author to publish instantly to the Internet from any Internet connection. They can also be interactive, allowing conversations, or information can be added to what is already published.

Weblogs are the most widely adopted tool of the Read/Write Web so far. Blogs occupy what is commonly referred to on the Internet as the blogosphere. For more information, visit [http://www.rebeccablood.net/essays/weblog\\_history.html](http://www.rebeccablood.net/essays/weblog_history.html) and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web\\_log](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_log).

## V-Blogs

A vlog (or video blog) is a blog that contains video content. The segment of the blogosphere devoted to vlogs is sometimes referred to as the vlogosphere. Some bloggers have included video content for years. However, vlogging is becoming more common as equipment becomes cheaper and supporting software and hosting and aggregation sites become more prevalent.

Both Yahoo and Google feature video sections and many MP3 players, such as the hugely popular iPod, support video.

Anyone with access to a video-capable camera or cell phone and a relatively recent computer with a high-speed connection can create a vlog and publish and distribute it online. For more information, visit <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vlog>

## Wikis

A wiki is a web application or online resource that allows users to add and edit content collectively to already published content, as on an Internet forum.

Wiki also refers to the collaborative software used to create such a website. For more information, visit <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vlog>

## Rich Site Summary or RSS

*RSS is a technology that allows educators to subscribe to "feeds" of the content that is created on the Internet, whether it's written in a weblog or in a more traditional space such as newspapers or magazines.*

*Content comes to the reader instead of the reader retrieving the content. RSS allows you to receive notification of new information (for example; subjects, keywords) that have been published and are available on the web.*

*The technology that underlies RSS is part of the backbone of the Read/Write web tool.*

## Online Photo Galleries

Publishing digital photos to the Web has gone beyond sending family and friends your photos. It means becoming part of a community of photographers sharing ideas and experiences. There is a lot of software on the market to help you publish your photos with your own unique style.

Adobe is a good place to begin. <http://www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelwin/?sdid=YOBG>

Gallery is an open source web based photo album organizer. This program shows you how to blend photo management into your own website. <http://gallery.menalto.com/>

## Digital Storytelling

Throughout history, storytelling has been used to share knowledge, wisdom and values. Digital storytelling is the modern expression of the ancient art of storytelling.

A digital story is an engaging and creative multimedia production in which people document, preserve and share memorable stories.

Images, music, narrative and voice interact to give depth and dimension to the narrative.

By using the Internet and other forms of digital distribution, including CD, DVD, VHS tape, digital stories can be seen across distances.

<http://inms.umn.edu/elements/> and [http://www.presentationzen.com/presentationzen/2007/03ira\\_glasstips\\_o.html](http://www.presentationzen.com/presentationzen/2007/03ira_glasstips_o.html)

## Podcasting

A podCast is basically radio programming that is posted on a website. It is a digital audio extension of web journals (web logs = blogs), allowing us to "write," publish and distribute to a wide Internet audience.

A podCast is produced using a computer, microphone and software. The speaker speaks into the microphone as the software copies the audio data on to an audio file on the computer. Podcasts can be downloaded to MP3 players such as iPods.

For more information, visit [http://www.podcastbunker.com/Podcast/Podcast\\_Picks/Producing\\_The\\_Best\\_Podcast](http://www.podcastbunker.com/Podcast/Podcast_Picks/Producing_The_Best_Podcast)

## Videocasting

Video podcast is a term used for the online delivery of video. The term comes from the generally audio-based podcast, and refers to the distribution of video where the RSS feed is used as a non-linear TV channel to which consumers can subscribe using a PC, TV, set-top box, media center or mobile multimedia device.

From a web server, a video podcast can be distributed as a file or as a stream.

Both methods have their advantages and disadvantages.

Downloading complete video podcasts in advance gives the user the ability to play the video podcasts offline on, for example, a portable media player.