

Using blogs for learning/ Ofer Levy

Abstract

E learning and using internet for help learning are no longer unusual in the world and in Israel.

In the last years an old / new field of interest was born. The old diaries that we use to write on a paper changed for a new form and the weblog or blog was appear to the world.

In the beginning the blogs were written by few that have internet orientation but when sites like "blogger" bring the blog creation to be easy and free, the blogs become common and a grate number of them were created every day.

The huge growth of the blogs change the way we use to see them. From diary only to tool for writing and organize information.

One of the zones for using blogs was the education field. From elementary schools to universities, educators began to use blogs for diverse of assignment. Blogs that are used as a course site, blogs that are written by the all group of students in one course and personal blogs that student write as an assignment of a course.

The uses of personal blogs in education are diverse too. Students of foreign language are writing works in the new language and MBA course are using blogs for case discussions.

In research from out of Israel the blogs ware found as useful tool and student gets them in sympathy, and the use of blogs as a learning tool improve the learning skills of the students.

In Israel the use of blog as a learning tool is in his start steps and as we understand no research was written in Israel about blogs and education.

One of the fewest uses of blog in education in Israel was taking place in Bar Ilan university in Ramat Gan.

In the information science department students in MA course "organizing information" ware asked to write blog and create system for organize information.

We made our research on this course in the years 2005 and 2006.

The research we made was creating of 3 elements:

1. questionnaire that the students of 2005 were fill after the course and the students of 2006 were fill before the course and after the course.
2. we study the blogs that were written in 2005.
3. we interview 2 students.

The main question of our research was "Are blog helps students in the process of learning and if the blog have advantage from other internet tools".

This main question was divided to 3:

1. there is connection between early knowledge of blog to the use of blog in course.
2. Students will see blog as good educational tool
3. Students will see blog as good tool for organize knowledge.

Our research was strengthening the 2 and 3 assumptions. The first assumption dose not reinforcement. Student use blogs very good although most of them did not use or even aware to the blogospher.

The assumptions results are help us to understand the using of blogs in education and gave us our research conclusion that the answer to our main question is correct.

Education field can use blogs as good tool for education. Students see the blog as helpful tool they fill comfortable with blogs, even if they don't know them before. And they think that blog is good tool for organize information.

We recommend all educators to become aware to blogs and to consider were and when blogs can help them to empower there courses.

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