



# Web 2.0 Glossary

Source: NSLC, February 2008, Updated January 2009

For additional resources on this and other service-learning topics visit the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse Website at <http://www.servicelearning.org>

---

**Blog** – Short for web log, are websites where entries are displayed in reverse chronological order. Blogs may function as personal online diaries, or provide information or commentary on a particular topic.

**Folksonomy** – A way of classifying and categorizing information on the web through collaborative means from the online community. This is also referred to as ‘tagging’, ‘social tagging’ or ‘social indexing’. Folksonomies became popular on the web with social software applications such as the photo sharing site Flickr and the social bookmarking site Del.icio.us.

**Mashup** – A mashup is a web application that combines data from two or more sources in to a single tool. There are many examples of mashups that use Google Maps and combine data from another source to create a single geographical representation of that data.

**Microblogging** – A form of blogging where users send brief text updates (often 140 characters or fewer) or media, such as photos or audio clips, and broadcast them to subscribers. Twitter is one of the most popular microblogging services.

**Podcast** – Stemming from the term ‘broadcast’, a podcast is a digital media file that is distributed over the internet and listened to on a portable media player (like an iPod) or on a personal computer.

**RSS** – RSS (Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary) is a web feed which contains a summary of content from a website or the full text. RSS allows people to automatically keep up with updates of their preferred websites without having to regularly check them manually.

**Semantic Web** – An evolving extension of the World Wide Web in which content can be expressed not only through natural language, but also in a format that can be read and used by software agents allowing for an integration and combination of data from diverse sources.

**Social Software** – A wide range of web-based software applications which allow users to interact and share information with other users. Examples include MySpace, YouTube, and E-bay.

**Social Bookmarking** – A method for users to store, organize, and search bookmarks of web pages on the Internet, as opposed to on their browser. These bookmarks are usually public but can be kept private or shared only with specific individuals or groups. One of the most popular social bookmarking sites is Del.icio.us.

**Social Networking Site** – A website that provides an online virtual community for people with similar interests or social groups. Members usually create a personal profile with biographical information and can communicate with each other online. These sites allow for users to contact friends of other members and as such expand their own network/community. “Social networking sites help people discover new friends or colleagues by illuminating shared interests, related skills, or a common geographic location.” <http://www.socialsignal.com/blog/alexandra-samuel/web-2-0-glossary>

**Tag** – A keyword or term assigned to a piece of information (such as a website, a blog entry, an image, a video clip), which describes the item and allows for the item to be classified, categorized, and searched.

**Wiki** – A wiki is a webpage or set of web pages that allows any user given access, to easily create, edit, and link content. They generally have a history function which allows one to see previous versions of edited pages. Because of these functions and their ease of use wikis are used as collaborative tools and can facilitate group work and harness collective intelligence. One of the most well-know wikis is Wikipedia.