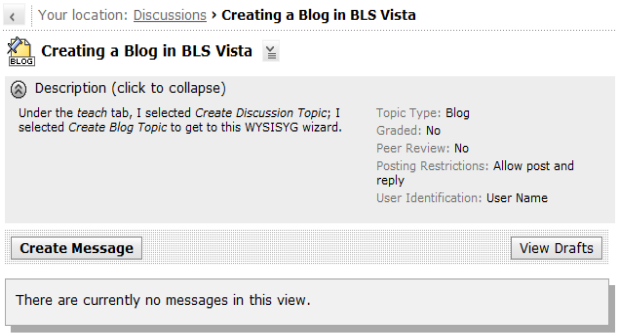
Description

Blog - a contraction of the term *web* ***log*** - is a type of website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. *Note*: UMMS policy discourages un-moderated and stagnant blogging on the UMMS website.



UMMS users may use the BLS Vista/WebCT *discussion board* feature to create a *closed* blog; only course members are able to interact with the BLS Vista blog.

For a UMMS *in-house* blog, that can be viewed by anyone who has a *umassmed.edu* email account, use the UMMS licensed Content Manager System feature.

New Content Manager Accounts If you do not have rights to access the system, send an email to the help desk and request information on using the UMass Medical School Content Management System.

Contact UMMS HelpDesk

To create a *public* blog, use *Blogger* or *WordPress* - two reliable and accessible online blog creation and management applications.

General Strengths & Weaknesses

…can enhance the learning experience by allowing students to post additional information and or sites…discovered that add to course content… and can be a way to *keep the discussion going during non-class times.* The blog transcript is an archive of discussion occurring outside the classroom.

UMMS users consistently report a concern that faculty will incorporate the blog medium simply because it exists, rather than as an enhancement to curricula events.

Peer Resources

Melissa Fischer
Mary Hawthorne
Suzana Makowski
Lyn Riza
Carrie Saarinen

UMMS Information Services Support

UMMS IS supports both the BLS Vista discussion board blog and the Content Manager System (CMS) blog feature, with certain restrictions.

- Registration-based, the *BLS Vista blog is available only to members of a particular course*, including teaching faculty, course directors, and course designers who have participated in a BLS comprehensive training workshop. Anyone registered for a course, and has an internet connection, can read and contribute to a BLS Vista blog.
- UMMS users must participate in a UMMS Information Services run CMS workshop before obtaining access privileges necessary to create a blog.

Contact UMMS HelpDesk for more information on access to these features

note: UMMS does *not* support the use of other applications or products such as e-Blogger (Blogspot) or Wordpress.

For more information:

- E-Blogger (*Blogspot*) web site
- *WordPress* Blog web site

Wikipedia contributors. Blog. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. November 30, 2009, 16:37 UTC. Available at: *http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Blog&oldid=328824472*. Accessed December 15, 2009.