


Government Documents and Blogs One Library's Perspective

Fall Federal Depository Library Conference &
Depository Library Council Meeting
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A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of three curved lines of varying shades of green, each ending in a small circular dot.

Definitions of some common terms

- Weblog, from the Oxford English Dictionary: “A frequently updated web site consisting of personal observations, excerpts from other sources, etc., typically run by a single person, and usually with hyperlinks to other sites; an online journal or diary.”
 - RSS (Really Simple Syndication, Rich Site Summary or RDF Site Summary) Feed: An RSS feed will provide you with all the updates to a web site.
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Why start a blog?

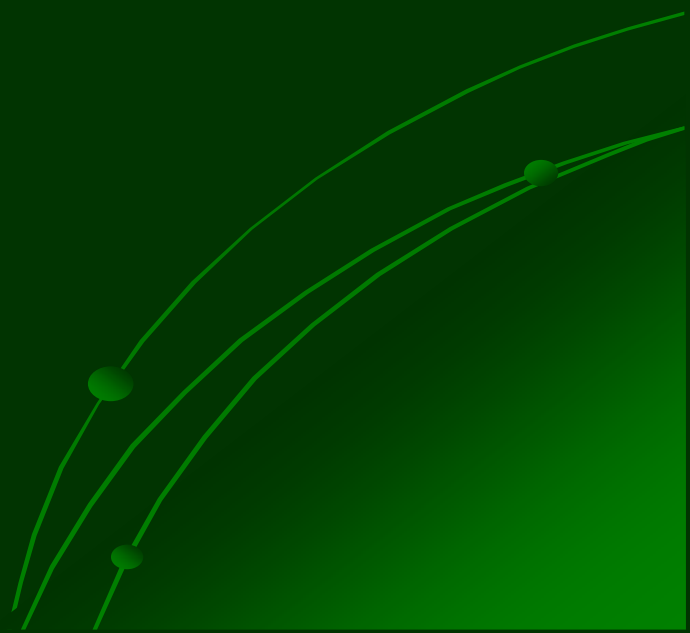
- The Pew Internet & American Life Project reports
 - 57 million adults read blogs, or approximately 38% of Internet users.
 - 12 million adults have a blog and 54% are between the ages of 18 and 29.
 - Allows for demonstration of documents:
 - Timeliness: <http://cubgovpubs.blogspot.com/2006/08/hispanics-are-largest-ethnic-or-race.html>
 - Usefulness: <http://cubgovpubs.blogspot.com/2006/10/how-many-referendums-are-there.html>
 - Interest: <http://cubgovpubs.blogspot.com/2006/05/squirrels-are-omnivorous.html>
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Starting a blog

Step 1: Choosing the software

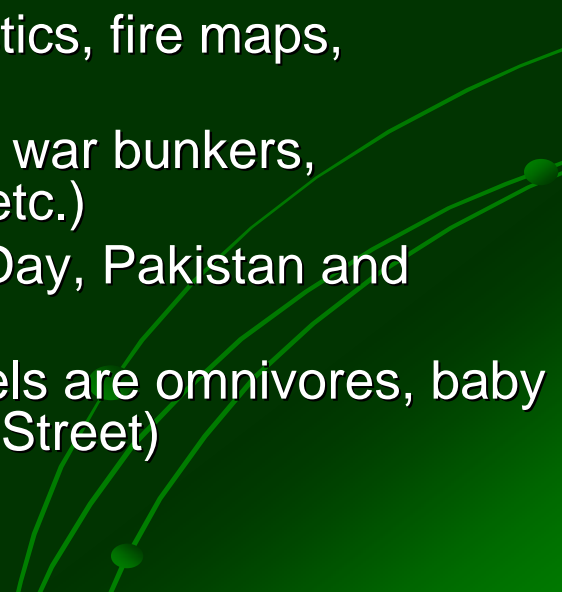
- Free blogging software:
 - Blogger: <http://www.blogger.com>
 - Bloglines: <http://www.bloglines.com>
 - LiveJournal: <http://www.livejournal.com>
 - Moveable Type: <http://www.moveabletype.org>
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Step 2: Finding Postings

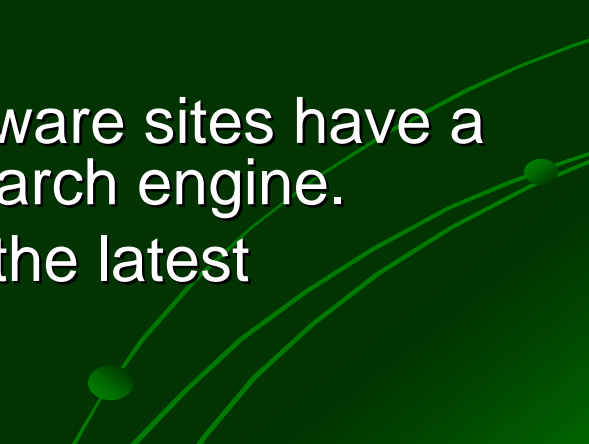
- News Reports
 - Fun Factoids
 - Interesting historical material
 - Unusual documents
 - Reference Questions
 - And....
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- A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the slide. It consists of three curved lines that sweep upwards and to the right. Each line has a small green dot placed on it. The lines are a lighter shade of green than the background.

Step 2: Finding postings (cont'd)

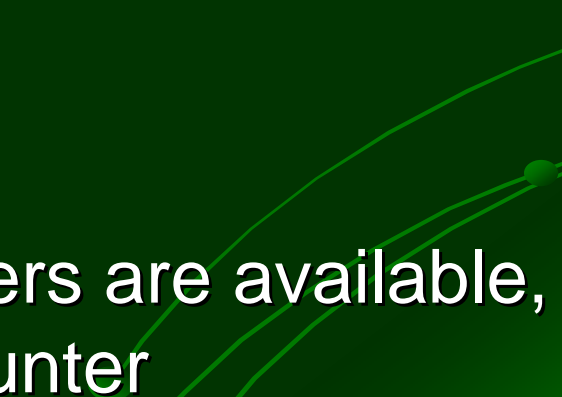
CU-Boulder postings from May-September 2006

- Serious news:
 - 72 Government in the News (US, UN, Israel, Colorado, Iran, IAEA, etc.)
 - 2 new databases
 - 2 who is this? (NTSB, Non-aligned movement)
 - Documents for fun:
 - 4 Documents on daily life (weather statistics, fire maps, transportation information, gas prices)
 - 7 historical documents (Mr. Rogers, cold war bunkers, Progressive Dunkers, Doomsday book, etc.)
 - 5 Holidays (July 4th, World Environment Day, Pakistan and India's Independence, etc.)
 - 5 Did you know? (Urban legends, squirrels are omnivores, baby names, college degrees in CO, Sesame Street)
 - Library work
 - 3 classes
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Step 3: Promotion

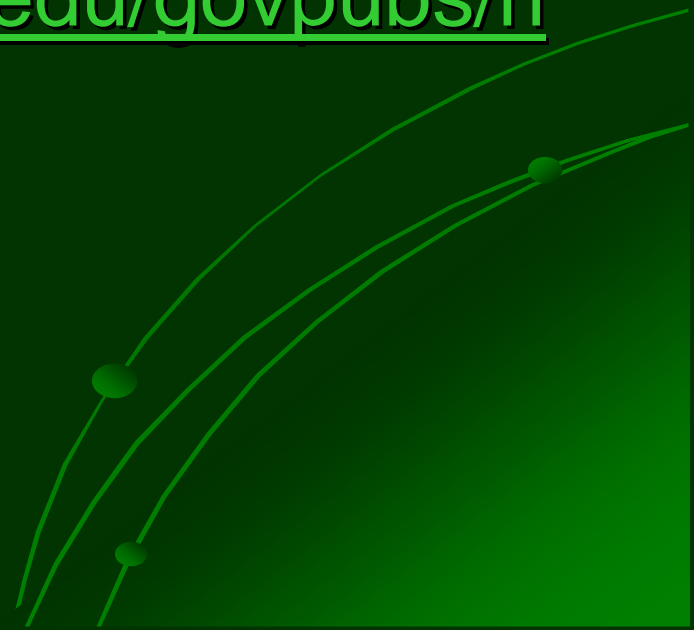
- Place the link prominently on your web page:
<http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/index.htm>
 - Use the blog in bibliographic instruction:
<http://cubgovpubs.blogspot.com/2006/04/world-regional-geography.html>
 - Get your web site indexed:
 - Blogger and many other blog software sites have a relationship with a mainstream search engine.
 - Some will let you ping the site so the latest information is available.
 - Use the blog...
- 

Checking out your site

- Who links to you:
 - Technorati-<http://www.technorati.com/>
 - Google-<http://www.google.com/>
 - Who has tagged your blog:
 - <http://del.icio.us/url/>
 - Statistics:
 - Various free statistical counters are available, such as Sitemeter or StatCounter
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Show and Tell

- Blogger: www.blogger.com
- Handout: <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/handouts/FDLPhandout.pdf>



Citations

- ““weblog,” *Oxford English Dictionary Online*, <http://dictionary.oed.com/>.
 - *Bloggers: A Portrait of the Internet’s New Storytellers*. Pew Internet & American Life Project, http://www.pewinternet.org/PPF/r/186/report_display.asp.
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