

Welcome to "ITS Technology Tips," where we bring you some useful information about the technology here at Loyola and effective ways to use the technology. Remember to visit the weekly [Tech Tips Blog](#) for the latest tips and the [Technology Tips Archive](#), to find all Tech Tips in PDF format, categorized for easy access.

Decoding Tech Lingo: The Language of Blogs, Vlogs, and Wikis!

Technology is evolving at a rapid pace and it is hard to keep up with the changes in language. Do you feel lost in the latest tech lingo when you read the newspapers today? Are you tired of feeling like you might as well be using a slide rule when you see these terms? In this week's technology tip, we'll help you decode some of this technology lingo and take the mystery out of these words.

Blogs

A blog is an online journal that is updated frequently for the public. The term is a blend (or our preferred term: portmanteau) of the words web and log. The authors of blogs are called bloggers. Blogs often are about a specific subject, such as politics or news. But often they are just someone's personal ramblings, thoughts, and opinions about the world. Blogs typically combine text and images and many links to other web pages and media. To find a blog, check out [technorati.com](#). It is the largest directory of blogs that is organized by topic and popularity. Popular blogs include: [www.dailykos.com](#) (politics), [pinkisthenewblog.com](#) (pop culture), <http://www.lessig.org/blog/> (technology), and <http://www.boingboing.net/> (mass media). It is now very easy to make a blog with free tools [Blogger: Create your Blog Now -- FREE](#), [Xanga.com](#), and [LiveJournal.com - Start a Free Blog / Journal Today](#), which might explain why everyone seems to have a blog these days!

Vlogs

A vlog is a video blog (yes, a portmanteau of video and blog) that uses video as the primary content instead of text. To find a vlog, visit the vlog directory on [Vodstock.com](#). Vlogging is rising in popularity, a trend that is attributed by many to the release of the Apple video iPod. You can check out more vlogs on [Vlogmaps](#). Unfortunately, we can't give you a website that tells you where people find all the time to do all of this vlogging and blogging.

Wiki

According to [Webopedia.com](#), a wiki (based on the Hawaiian term for "quick") is a collaborative web site that "comprises the collective work of many authors." A wiki allows users to freely edit, delete, and add content on the web. Wikis are interesting because content can be modified in real-time. A story you worked on for days might be completely changed and modified and possibly even deleted just minutes after you upload it. Anyone who participates in a wiki needs to understand this basic wiki principle. A thick skin and ability to take artistic/creative criticism is absolutely necessary to participate in the culture and collaborative spirit of a wiki. Otherwise, you might not have a lot of fun hanging out on a wiki. [Wikipedia](#), the collaborative encyclopedia, is probably the best and most well-known example of a wiki. Wikis recently have been gaining popularity among educators as a way to support collaborative student projects and promoting team activities. Examples of wiki-based projects that have been used in classrooms include wiki discussions, collaborative web pages, collaborative writing projects, and online journals. The [Holocaust Wiki](#) is an example of a wiki created in an AP history class.

Examples:

Wikispaces.com: Make your own wiki here!

WikiTravel.org: This is a "project to create a free, complete, up-to-date and reliable world-wide travel guide."

Writingwiki.org: If you're not ready to fully participate in a wiki, but just want to play around and experiment to see what it's about, visit this site.

Folksonomy

A "folksonomy" is an open-ended labeling system that enables users to tag and categorize web pages, photographs, and links with labels called "tags." Two popular examples of websites using folksonomy tagging are flickr.com and del.icio.us. del.icio.us is a "social bookmarking, social software site for storing and sharing web bookmarks." Users "tag" their bookmarks with keywords to allow for easy categorization. flickr.com is a website for sharing and storing your digital photos. Users upload their pictures and tag them with labels so others can search by category for their pictures. For example, if you enter "Eiffel Tower," you will be able to see all pictures that have been submitted and tagged with "Eiffel Tower" by users. You can also tag your picture with specific names, so friends can find your pictures easily.

That's our technology tip for this week. If you have found the information helpful, please drop us a line at Training@luc.edu . If you'd like to go back to our archive of technology tips, please visit us on the Web at <http://www.luc.edu/its/techtips.shtml>.