

Call for Proposals

Exposing the Sole of the Academy with Web 2.0 - Computers and Writing Online 2008

February 22-26, 2008

Conference Co-Chairs: Dr. Michael Martin, University of Wisconsin – Stout and Dr. Mialisa Moline, University of Wisconsin – River Falls

Conference Co-Chairs Michael Martin and Mialisa Moline seek synchronous and asynchronous presentations that address a wide area of scholarship focusing on issues surrounding Web 2.0 in academia such as copyright, authorship, identity, ethics, aesthetics, rhetoric, governance, privacy, and ourselves. Successful papers for this online conference should focus on the ways Web 2.0 affect academic society and culture, examined from a perspective of how people are linked together through Web 2.0 as they construct knowledge.

The conference co-chairs are specifically interested in the proliferation, potentiality, and power shifts created by the end users of Web 2.0 tools like Wikis, blogs, podcasts, and social bookmarking (among others) and the ways those tools affect how we write with and are written by technology.

In particular, the conference will examine how and why a reach for “radical transparency” might benefit the academy. The move into Web 2.0 and its focus on collaboration, sharing, trading information, as well as a building of knowledge radicalizes end users into new and (mostly) positive perspectives of those who reach for that transparency. We seek papers that reexamine shifts in concepts of self and image, in issues of power, in potential, and the issues surrounding Web 2.0 listed above.

Presentations from scholars in all disciplines who are working on the intersection of Web 2.0 and the academy are welcome. Papers need not focus only on issues of writing instruction, in spite of the name of the conference, to be considered. Successful submissions will be papers that demonstrate a critical awareness of how cultural meaning is instantiated through and by the use of technology.

NOTE ABOUT THE CONFERENCE: The academy faces Web 2.0 as students, faculty, researchers, and administrators engage in writing with technology, and as they collaborate and share in the building of knowledge. Michael Wesch, an Assistant

Professor of Cultural Anthropology at Kansas State University, offers a poignant glimpse of the role of Web 2.0 in daily lives through his video, "Web 2.0. The Machine is Us/ing Us," (<http://tinyurl.com/2v4ob8>). As academics employ the technology and its applications to the classroom and research, we must, as Wesch suggests, rethink several key concepts.

Recent management practices in industry push commercial interests into online presences that reach for a "radical transparency" (Thompson). Can this model of radical transparency benefit the academy? Should it? If so, how? Let's face it, Web 2.0 has infiltrated the academy and is here to stay. Consideration of how it affects the society and culture of the academy merits reexamination.

In the interest of conforming conference site to conference theme, Web 2.0 applications will be used for this online conference as extensively as possible. A conference Wiki, blog space, a facebook group, an e-mail list, a gvisit map, and other appropriate Web 2.0 services conference attendees wish to add will offer multiple platforms from which conference attendees may present.

For both asynchronous and synchronous events, texts (equivalent to approximately eight pages in length) will be due in .doc, .rtf, .pdf (or a hypertext equivalent) by Jan. 20, 2008, and placed on the computersandwriting.org website for pre-conference reading by Feb. 1, 2008. Discussions will follow during the conference period. The conference will be held February 22 through February 26, 2008.

One page conference proposals due to martinm@uwstout.edu by midnight, October 1, 2007.

Works Cited

Thompson, Clive. "The See-Through CEO." *Wired*. Mar. 2007. 19 May 2007
<http://www.wired.com/wired/archive/15.04/wired40_ceo.html>.

Web 2.0. The Machine is Us/ing Us. Dir. Michael Wesch. 2007.