



ONLINE PROCEEDINGS



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ISBN: 978-979-011-660-3

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POSTER PRESENTATION

TEACHERS' ROLE IN UTILIZING SAFETY BLOG FOR CHILDREN

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(email: muktiamini@mail.ut.ac.id. **sub theme: Methodology and Technology**)

Abstract

Nowadays internet has rapidly developed. In the past, only certain people have access to internet but today internet belongs to everybody, including children. Internet literacy among children occurs for some reasons: the cost of surfing becoming less expensive, more diverse facilities provided, and the tendency of teachers in schools to provide a task that requires children to open the internet. One of available services on the internet is blog. A blog is a site created by someone to put his ideas in cyberspace and can be read by all people who access them. A lot of companies provide blog facilities for free and this situation has encouraged people, including primary school children, to utilize the facilities. In order to follow the latest technological development, teachers can utilize the blog facilities to accommodate students' creativity. However, a blog is also vulnerable to various negative impacts of the Internet, such as pornography, sadism, racism or planned deception and crime online. The impacts become worse if the internet is use by the children who are in immature physically and psychologically because children tend to imitate unusual behaviors that is negative. Therefore, children need help from educators, including teachers, to be able to utilize the internet safely. Before disseminating and implementing the use of blog for children, teachers must first acknowledge the intricacies of making the blog and the steps necessary to anticipate the negative impact of the internet. This paper provides a comprehensive understanding about the use of blogs that need to be noticed by educators in order to make blog safe for children.

Key words: *internet, blog, negative impact*

INTRODUCTION

Blog as one of the media to write on the internet facility is growing rapidly. But all this time blog is functioned as the outpouring media to write daily notes by most of the blogger (the term for users of the blog). Though blogs can be enabled more than that. Especially blog is not only interested adults, also children who use blogs to pour ideas and feelings.

Blog not only personally beneficial to children, but also can be used for education, because blogs can be used as a medium of teaching and learning activities. Therefore, teachers are also required to be able to master the utilization of this blog so it can transmit to their students.

Unfortunately, not all teachers or school prepared to enter teaching with the Internet. There are several obstacles that are found, such as: the lack of ability of teachers to use the Internet as a

source of learning, Internet costs are still relatively expensive, inadequate attention on the learning via the Internet, and inadequate supporting infrastructure for certain regions (Soekartawi, 2003 in Saleh, 2008). In terms of school readiness on this internet, Saputra (2009) states that there are still many schools in Indonesia that has no internet. This is because the school's capacity factor in the cost burden of the internet access. Whereas at school the students have been taught about the theory of internet usage, so for high school students who do not have internet connection they have to go to internet shop in the environment are very limited. Eventually the students were forced to spend money on internet.

Therefore, there needs to be special effort to popularize the use of internet in schools, including in terms familiarize teachers with the Internet (such as by utilizing blogs) so that the teachers can share their knowledge on their students.

DISCUSSION

A. Definition and Importance of Blog

Blog is short for weblog. The term was first used by Jorn Barger in 1997 to refer to the personal website of a group that is always being updated regularly and contains links to other websites that they find interesting along with their own comments. Cory Doctorow (in Raharjo, 2009) imposes limits that the blog is a web page, a collection of discrete information called posts. These Posts are arranged in the order reversed. Each post is uniquely identified by an anchor tag <a>, and marked with a permanent link that can be referenced by others, who want to link the post.

Blog is a record of travel in the person on the internet, i.e., links to websites visited and considered attractive. Blog then grow in accordance with the wishes of the bloggers, and become much more attractive because the bloggers do not usually forget to write comments, personal opinions and even express their sarcasm on the link they make.

Furthermore, blog is develop, no longer contain the links but the form of writing from blogger, can be thoughts, feelings, to what he does everyday. Blog seems to be an online diary, the difference is only a blog created to read other people while ordinary diary to read by you.

Today, many people use blogs because it is easy to create. To create a blog, a person does not have to understand the various programming languages, because many free blog providers that can be used instantly without requiring specialized expertise in the field of computer programming language. One company blog providers are now widely used is the blogger.com. This service was launched in August 1999 by Silicon Valley Company called Pyra Labs. Since then, the numbers of bloggers are very much because the blogger.com creates easy ways to create a blog (Ariefzuhud, 2009).

Blogs have several advantages, as follows. First, publishable, which means that information can be directly deployed with easy, inexpensive, can be read anywhere and by anyone who access the Internet. Second, findable, which is easily found through search engines, because

you can search by subject, author name, or both. More and more people visit the blog mean that blogs are increasingly popular. Thirdly, social, because of an interesting conversation on the topic switches from one site to the web site, so that bloggers who have similar interests can build cross-region network or the news. Fourth, viral, meaning that the information would spread more quick and wide through blogs than printed media. Fifth, syndicable, meaning that the content is rich and varied easily shared by anybody and a variety of information easily available through the blog. Sixth, linkable, because every blog has a link to another link, to have access to tens of millions of people who visit the blog every day (Susilo, 2008).

Related of beneficial blog for learning, the blog is a very effective medium for transferring knowledge; seek information, communication and discussion. Teachers can easily transfer their knowledge to students without meet in front of the class (Saputra, 2009), so hopefully through the integration of blogs in teaching, the clock-face between children and teachers will increase. Thus, learning can take place with a simple and efficient, because the intensity of lesson can be run without being limited time and place.

In addition discussions were recorded in comments facilities can be additional reference for the readers of the blog. This differs from the activity of discussions in class that is rarely documented; discussion in the blog will always be stored and can be viewed and read at any time (Gora, 206).

In particular, for the students among other useful blog to provide extra reading practice, as an online journal, lead children to other learning resources at other sites, motivate students to write through a process, and provide for collaborative activities for children (Ekawati , 2009). Through blogs students can write whatever they enjoy, edit and publish at any time, to exchange ideas with friends both inside and outside the classroom, even abroad. Blogs can also be equipped with pictures, music, and video which will surely enhance the creativity of children.

For teachers, blogs can be used to write the course to be conveyed and can be viewed by of which are online. If there are students who are less understood, they can discuss via email or chat (Saputra, 2009). Discussions can also be done through blogs, because in every article that uploaded, comment facility will normally be available. So teachers can use blogs as communication channels. Through blogs, teachers also can archive the duties of every student in their own blogs, so do not worries about the job file will be lost.

Discussions through blogs by teachers can be expanded with fellow teachers, prospective teachers, education analysts, the people who care about education, intellectuals, etc. For example, the teacher as a blogger can write a problem that was found in the school. To find the solution he can invite friends to respond the problem. Actually, without inviting, the blog will be read by someone else and they will probably write a comment or solution. Furthermore, a blogger can choose solution which best suited to solve these problems. Conversely, for visitors' blog, he'll know the problem is presented and can see the comments and solutions, indirectly the teacher as blogger have also helped others in an effort to improve the quality of education especially for the nation itself and also the world (Saputra, 2009).

How to integrate the use of blogs within the learning activity? There are two scenarios that can be used. First, teachers can use blogs to display information on lessons, teaching materials ready for download, a list of hyperlinks as a reference of the students, and giving them work. Furthermore, students can visit the blog to read information about the subject matter, download teaching materials and provide questions and comments on the available information, so the information will run a two-way and interactive, not only from teacher to students, but also from students to teachers. The second scenario, teacher gives the task to the students orally, and the task of teachers was also written in the blog in question. To collect the task, the student should write down their duties in their respective blogs. Teacher assessment is done by visiting their blog, and then gives comments on the task shown in these blogs. In this way, students not only responsible for the content of tasks for the teachers, but also responsible to all the readers who are spread all over the world. The second scenario is in addition to educating and introducing the students to write using the Internet, also be able to boost the school's name in cyberspace and train student to share their knowledge with other people (Gora, 2006).

B. Practical Steps to Make Blog

Nowadays there are many company providers (servers) that provide free blogging service. Free blog service that is often used a lot of people now include blogger.com, wordpress, and multiply. In addition there are still some other server like grouksoup, EditThisPage and velocinews (Ariefzuhud, 2009). Each server has its own advantages and disadvantages. Among the companies that server, www.blogger.com is the most widely used because of the development steps quite easily, also free.

For education field also has free blog services edublogs (<http://edublogs.org>), i.e. a free blog service which is intended for educators, librarians, writers, researchers and laboratory. Blog dedicated to professional educators has many features in the latest version (Gora, 2006).

Media facilities contained in this blog varied, not just text, images and hyperlinks and files only. Edublogs services for example, provide the facility to incorporate video and animation media into every posting made. Video content included are videos that have been hosted in the video hosting service YouTube, GoogleVideo and i-movie. While the animated format that can be entered in the form of Flash animations (*.swf) and Macromedia Director (*.dcr). Even a variety of plug-in, for users of WordPress blog engine that allows teachers to supplement his blog with polling facilities, survey and photos gallery (Gora, 2006).

In this paper will discuss the steps to develop a blog with blogger.com servers only. In detail, the steps set up a blog are as follows (RidwanAZ.com; Susilo, 2008).

1. Create an account for registration.
After the site opens, click Create a Blog, and follow the instructions in it. Blank to be filled include: an email address, password, display name, word verification and acceptance requirements. After all filled in, click 'CONTINUE'. Email address and password have been included should not be forgotten because it will always be asked if blogger will fill in or edit the writing.
2. Give name / identity blog

After a successful first step, we will be asked to create a blog name (blog title), description of the blog, and blog address. This is the default address if we use the blogger.com blog as a server. Fill in the name of the blog as we want. If the address is to use two or more words, give the dash with a dot (.) Or underline (_) because spaces at the sign of the Internet can not be used. This address can be a full name, class name, school name, or any identity we want to write. View this identity is www.blogname.blogspot.com.

Sometimes, we want the blog address was already used by another person so that we can not use anymore. To find out if the blog address already used by another person or not, click the 'check availability'. If have not used anyone, then below it will appear in green text that reads 'This blog addresses available'. If the address is for sure, click 'continue'.

3. Choosing a design (template) blogs

The next step is to choose a design blog. In this case the server is already providing a variety of design template, and we just choose one of the many existing designs. Click one of the desired designs. Design is also still possible modified at any time if desired.

4. Fill out the various menus are available

After the design is created, we need to learn (by clicking) the various menu options available such as: how to see the script, inserting new posts, change design templates, upload images/photos/music, layout, editing manuscripts we publish a simple manner similar to Microsoft Word facility (bold, tilted letters, etc.), and others.

After the teacher can make blogs, the teachers are expected to educate students to master the steps above to make a blog.

C. Negative Impact of Internet and the anticipation

As one of the facilities on the internet, the blog will also deal directly with a variety of negative impacts from the internet. Especially for children, the impact of the Internet has become more dangerous because children are still in their level of growth.

Noor (2006) wrote that based on research Finkelhor, Mitchell, and Wolak from Online Victimization in June 2000, six out of ten teens receiving electronic mail or instant messaging (IM) from strangers, where 63% of them admitted to respond under the received message. The same study also said one in five adolescents reported having experienced sexual harassment or at least intimidated, in the same year when the study was conducted. The number is expected to increase with increasing number of internet users among adolescents.

Considering the range of negative impacts from the Internet, need to do any effort to protect Internet users, especially children to avoid these negative impacts. The school is expected to take part in protecting children from internet abuse.

One of the parties at the school were often associated with students are teachers. The role of teachers in schools is necessary to always guide their students in order to use the internet properly at school. Sometimes teachers need to also be friends with their students in a variety of social networking site that is currently popular (facebook, friendster), using either real name or a pseudonym (Purbo, in bluefame forums, 2009).

Therefore, to protect the students from negative impact on internet, teachers can do a series of efforts: seeking children using the Internet with teacher supervision, placing computers in the space that is easy to control, provide guidance when a child opened the internet, studying the means of communication and information content offered by the Internet, gives understanding to the children not to respond any email or private chat from people who are not known, affirmation to the child not to provide personal data to strangers, ask the child to immediately close the inappropriate site, ask to children not to be planning meet someone they have just met on the internet, learn and understand the risks faced if the child is communicating with strangers on the internet, define clearly and plainly about the rules of Internet usage, affirming the child to do not download material significantly form of illegal material, routinely perform all software updates for security, told the child to be wary of spam e-mail, teach children to make several different electronic mail addresses for various purposes, remind children to avoid open a web link that is informed by the sender is not known, and remind children to avoid giving the email address to anyone (Donny BU et.al., 2009).

CONCLUSION

Blog as one of the facilities on the internet can be used in learning and very useful for both students and teachers. Through blogs, the students will get many benefits such as providing extra reading practice, as an online journal, lead children to other learning resources, motivate children to write, and deliver collaborative activities for children. Therefore it is necessary for teachers to master the use of blogs, which begins with understanding the way of making the blog. Steps to make a blog consisting of: creating an account for registration, naming a blog identity, chooses a template blog, and fill in the various menus are available.

But teachers also need to remember that the blog as part of the Internet have negative impacts. Teachers can do a series of efforts to protect the students from that: seeking children using the Internet with teacher supervision, placing computers in the space that is easy to control, provide guidance when a child opened the internet, studying the means of communication and information content offered by the Internet, gives understanding to the children not to respond any email or private chat from people who are not known, affirmation to the child not to provide personal data to strangers, ask the child to immediately close the inappropriate site, ask to children not to be planning meet someone they have just met on the internet, learn and understand the risks faced if the child is communicating with strangers on the internet, define clearly and plainly about the rules of Internet usage, affirming the child to do not download material significantly form of illegal material, routinely perform all software updates for security, told the child to be wary of spam e-mail, teach children to make several different electronic mail addresses for various purposes, remind children to avoid open a web link that

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TEACHERS' ROLE IN UTILIZING SAFETY BLOG FOR CHILDREN

by: Mukti Amini

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THE DANGEROUS OF INTERNET FOR CHILDREN

- The main danger: pornography, violence, racial intolerance Information
- Research from Finkelhor, Mitchell & Wolak of Online Victimization (2000):
 - 6 of 10 teens teenagers receive an email or IM from a stranger, 63% of reply it
 - 1 from five teenagers experience sexual harassment / intimidation
- Romy S. Wahono (2007): 60% access the internet is to porn sites, 70% of them carried the child/adult

DEFINITION OF BLOG

- ❑ Cory Doctorow web page, a collection of discrete information called posts. Post are regulated by reverse order. Each post is marked with a permanent link that can be referred by others.

THE ADVANTAGES BLOG FOR LEARNERS

1. Extra reading practice
2. Reference an online journal
3. Lead to other learning resources
4. Motivate to write
5. Provide collaborative activity
6. Exchange ideas with friends all over the world
7. Enhance the creativity of children (through insert images, music, and video)

THE ADVANTAGES BLOG FOR TEACHERS

1. Write down the subject materials
2. Discussion forums and child-teacher communication (comments facility).
3. Archiving task each child (on the blog kids) more secure
4. Expansion network discussion among teachers, teacher candidates, education observers, intellectuals, and so on. Helping others in solving problems for visitors to the blog

ALTERNATIVE METHOD USING BLOGS IN EDUCATION

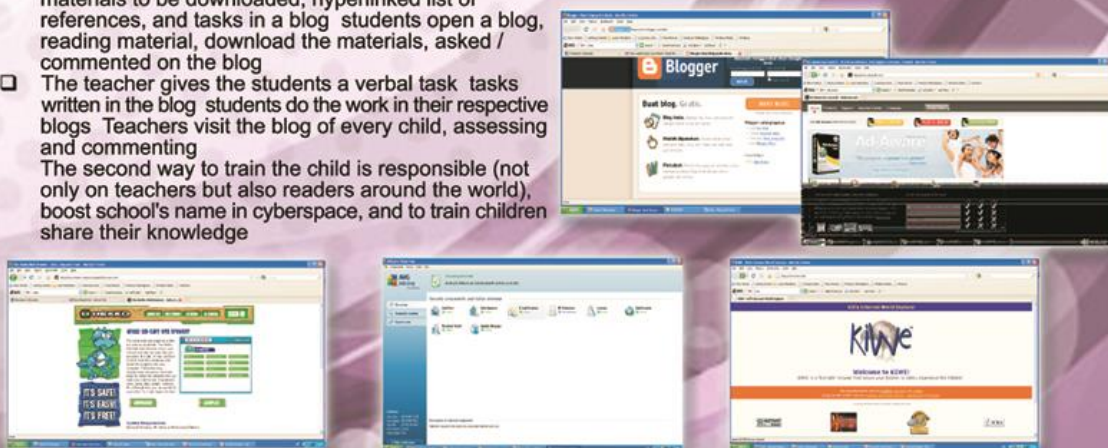
- ❑ Teacher lesson featuring information, teaching materials to be downloaded, hyperlinked list of references, and tasks in a blog students open a blog, reading material, download the materials, asked / commented on the blog
 - ❑ The teacher gives the students a verbal task tasks written in the blog students do the work in their respective blogs Teachers visit the blog of every child, assessing and commenting
- The second way to train the child is responsible (not only on teachers but also readers around the world), boost school's name in cyberspace, and to train children share their knowledge

PREVENTING THE CHILD ABUSE ON THE INTERNET

1. Seeking students using the Internet with teacher supervision
2. Put the computer in the room that easily monitored
3. Provide guidance when the child opened the internet
4. Study the means of communication and information content offered by internet
5. Give understanding to the children not to respond to any electronic mail or private chat from an unknown person
6. Give affirmation to the children not to provide personal data / family to an unknown person
7. Asked the children to immediately leave the inappropriate site
8. affirm to the child not to be careless planning immediately meeting with someone whom they know on the internet
9. Learn and understand the various risks faced if the child is communicating with an unknown person on the internet
10. Define clearly and plainly about the rules using internet
11. Telling the children not to download material actually is illegal material
12. Learning and installing security software
13. Routinely updates all software for security
14. tell the children to be aware of spamming email
15. teach children to create different email addresses for different purposes
16. remind children to avoid opening the site links that are informed by an unknown email sender any person.
17. remind children to avoid giving an email address to

CONCLUSION

1. Blogs can be used in educational and useful for both teachers and children
2. Internet has both positive and negative
3. Schools / teachers should facilitate the use of the internet safer for children with a variety of preventive measures



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Important Dates (Tentative)

- Full paper submission deadline: 1 August 2011
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- Parallel Session
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Opportunity

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