

# Teaching Web 2.0 to Student 1.5: Effective Methods for Introducing New Information

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## Problem Statement

### Background:

Recent reports indicate that today's youth are avid users of Web 2.0 tools. However, SCSU librarians noted that while students regularly use Facebook, MySpace, and YouTube, they seemed less familiar with blogs, podcasting, social bookmarking, wikis, and RSS. To verify this disconnect, librarians administered a survey on Web 2.0 awareness.

### Survey results:

- YouTube (93%), Wikipedia (93%), and Facebook (91%) usage was high
- Few students (20%) had listened to a podcast
- Flickr use (17%) was also low
- **No one** had ever used an RSS reader

### Problem:

The fact that SCSU undergraduates were less familiar with Web 2.0 tools than the national surveys reported, along with an increased prevalence of Web 2.0, raised a concern among librarians that students were using these resources without knowing anything about them.

### Our response:

- Use credit courses to introduce Web 2.0 concepts and applications
- Identify tools to discuss
- Utilize various teaching methods
- Modify lessons as necessary
- Consider applications for library instruction

## Teaching Techniques

Librarians used a variety of methods for introducing these resources to students, including short PowerPoint presentations and YouTube videos.

### Mini lesson outline:

- Overview of Web 2.0 tool
- Example of tool in action
- In-class activity
- Evaluation of information

## In-Class Activities

### Flickr library tour

- In groups, students take pictures of library features
- Practice tagging using the Google Image Labeler (<http://images.google.com/imagelabeler/>)
- Upload and tag the pictures they took

### Social bookmarking

- View "Social Bookmarking in Plain English" YouTube video
- Open a del.icio.us account and tag a few Web sites

### Podcasting

- Listen to Oertelt podcast at <http://kvsc.org>
- Evaluate podcast using "Stick it in Your Ear: Keeping Current with Podcasts:"

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