



Dr. Strangepost; or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Blog

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Why a Blog?

- To deliver timely and relevant information to patrons
- To counter a “If it’s not on JSTOR, it doesn’t exist” mentality
- To be in line with department expectations for increased use of technology
- Curiosity



“...to close the US-Soviet blogging gap...”

History & Construction

- August 2007 – present
- “Damn the torpedoes!
Full speed ahead!”
- Construction
- “Continuous Process
Improvement”



Adm. David Farragut, USN

Take a Tour!

<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/pannone/>

The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the address bar displaying <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/pannone/>. The page title is "Robbins Library Notes" with the subtitle "All about philosophy resources at Harvard and beyond." The main content is a blog post titled "Dealing with Information Overload" dated August 28th, 2008, by Jason Pannone. The post text discusses information overload in the digital age and includes a link to an article by Sarah Houghton-Jan. A sidebar on the right contains navigation links like "Welcome", "About Me", "Bibliographic Instruction", and "Contact", along with search and category filters. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the Start button, several open applications including an email client and PowerPoint, and the system clock showing 10:22 AM on 9/24/2008.

Robbins Library Notes
All about philosophy resources at Harvard and beyond.

Dealing with Information Overload

August 28th, 2008

Good morning, readers!

Information overload has become one of the defining features of the Digital Age. Too many e-mails, voice mails, text messages, RSS feeds, electronic resources, journals, books, lions, tigers, and bears – oh, my!

If you are feeling overwhelmed – and goodness knows I sometimes feel this way – this article by Sarah Houghton-Jan, “Being Wired or Being Tired: 10 Ways to Cope with Information Overload,” might pique your curiosity.

A hat-tip to “American Libraries Direct” for this link.

Share and Enjoy:

Posted by Jason Pannone Filed in Technology
No Comments »

- Pages
 - Welcome
 - About Me
- Bibliographic Instruction
- Contact
-
-
- Categories
 - Select Category
- Archives
 - Select Month
- Associations
 - American Philosophical Association (APA)
 - Association for Symbolic Logic
 - Harvard Philosophical Psychology Lab

Sample Posts

- **Database Overviews**
 - **JSTOR** (<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/pannone/2007/08/07/database-overview-jstor/>)
- **Bibliographic Instruction**
 - **Bibliographic Instruction Page**
(<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/pannone/welcome/bibliographic-instruction>)
- **Reviews of New Materials & Notifications of Items of Potential Interest**
 - ***Oxford Handbook of Continental Philosophy***
(<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/pannone/2008/04/22/the-oxford-handbook-of-continental-philosophy/>)
 - **New Journal Issues** (<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/pannone/2008/07/14/new-issues-of-inquiry-and-philosophy-and-phenomenological-research/>)
- **Pontifications about Technology and Research**
 - **Is Google Making Us Stupid?** (<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/pannone/2008/07/24/is-google-making-us-stupid/>)
- **Humor**
 - **The First IT Call** (<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/pannone/2007/08/14/humor/>)
 - **Reason Bran** (<http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/pannone/2008/04/14/reason-bran-part-of-a-nutritious-breakfast-of-philosophical-humor/>)

Evaluation

- Overall, a mixed success.
- Success
 - ❑ Timely, more interactive outreach to patrons
 - ❑ Delivering bibliographic instruction
 - ❑ Offering a variety of resources and media
 - ❑ Improvement in writing
 - ❑ Connections in and beyond Harvard community
- Areas for Improvement
 - ❑ Getting people to read/comment
 - ❑ Increasing number of visits
 - ❑ Learning more about blogging



Merlin: The Electronic Wizard,
Parker Brothers, 1978
Photo © 2006, Keith Pomarkis



Ongoing Challenges

- Daily posting
- Relevancy
- Marketing
- Being a “Public Face”

Lessons Learned

- Blogging is hard work!
But it is also a lot of fun.
- Get initial buy-in
- Give yourself room to fail
- Experiment
- No Regrets



“Yee-hah!”



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