

Webwatch

New media

For those of you who are perhaps aware of some of the new media which have been developed over recent years but have not yet tried them, here is a selection of examples that might be of interest to the water and sanitation sector.

Blogging

You probably know that a blog (from the terms web and log) is a type of website or part of a website. They are usually maintained by individuals who provide regular entries on a particular topic which can include commentary, descriptions of events, or graphics and video. Most blogs are interactive and allow others to add comments and send messages.

Sector example: Sanitation updates is a blog on sanitation maintained by the IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre and by USAID's WASHplus project. It was originally set up to promote the 2008 International Year of Sanitation and continues to provide news, information and resources in support of achieving the goal of sanitation for all. It also contains useful links to 'other WASH blogs'. <http://sanitationupdates.wordpress.com/>

Micro blogging

A microblog is similar to a traditional blog but its content is smaller in file size. Microblogs let users exchange short sentences, individual images, and video links. An example of this is Twitter <http://twitter.com/>
Sector examples: RedR UK <http://twitter.com/#!/RedRUKWater.org>
<http://twitter.com/#!/Water>

Social networking

A social network is a social structure made up of individuals or organizations, connected by common interest of some kind. Recently use of online social networking sites such as Facebook, LinkedIn and MySpace has become common.

- *Facebook examples:*

WaterSanitationHygiene (technical resources and discussion forum for those working to bring safe water sanitation and hygiene to all). <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Water-Sanitation-Hygiene/121667867856108>

- *LinkedIn examples:*

Once signed in, search for 'Sanitation and Hygiene in Developing Countries' (its purpose is to generate new links, new contacts and new ways of working together) and 'WaterAid'.

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Apps

This is an abbreviation for 'application'. It is a piece of software that can run on the Internet, on your computer, or on your phone or other electronic device.

Sector example: The World Bank DataFinder app for iphones provides 50 years of data on more than 1,100 indicators, including those related to water and sanitation for around 200 countries. It allows you to select indicators and countries and prepare tables and charts for the selected data. <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/world-bank-datafinder/id349081196>

Open source video

Sites to which anyone, once registered, can upload their own video material.

- *You Tube examples:* A very popular video sharing web site that lets anyone, including large organizations, NGOs and individuals to upload short videos for private or public viewing. Thousands of you tube videos are available on the site.

SODIS/WATSAN project introduction/ Helvetas Vietnam
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teShQTo8vZE>
 UNICEF: World Water Day
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXR4Z_NBD-E&feature=related

Habitat for Humanity Watsan Ethiopia

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-KtNdxm73M>

- *TheWaterChannel* (aims to be the main repository for video material on water and a main support and medium in promoting better water management and bringing an understanding of water issues to as many people as possible: students, educators, specialists, media professionals)

<http://www.thewaterchannel.tv/en>

In addition, theWaterChannel started a series of webinars on a variety of topics under three themes related to rural poverty alleviation. ('webinars', or web-based seminars, are presentations or lectures transmitted over the internet), <http://www.thewaterchannel.tv/en/webinar>

Flickr

An online repository containing over five billion photographs. It allows organizations and individuals to upload their own photographs to share with others.

Sector examples:

Sustainable sanitation

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/sanitation/>