

### INTRO

A recent study found that active scholar bloggers' perceive their blogs as positively impacting their scholarly lives (for example, leading to increased visibility, and invitations to publish, present and collaborate). Further, most viewed their blogs as part of their scholarly record, with an interest in preserving their blogs for public access and use into the indefinite future.<sup>1</sup>

### BUT ...

... what about inactive scholar bloggers? While bloggers perceive both intrinsic and extrinsic impact as their blogs are still being published to and maintained, what then at the end of the blog life cycle? That is, when the blog is still publicly available but no longer actively published to? What messages, if any, do inactive bloggers' leave behind in their last posts?

### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

- Influence today, tomorrow?
- Nature of the scholarly record (persistent and cumulative)
- Functions of the system of scholarly communication (access, preservation & curation)<sup>2</sup>
- Selection and appraisal (to keep or not to keep)

### SAMPLING

- Identified 1779 blogs at source (Academic Blog Portal)
- Assessed duplicate listings, empty or 1-post blogs, and missing URLs)
- Selected **1579** for sample
- Analyzed blogs across **6** main criteria for homogeneity:
  - Public availability, language, blog type, post time/date-stamping, and blog archives
- Selected **909 (58%)** for further analysis re: activity
- Coded for currency in posting activity  
Inactive blog = no new posts in recent 3 months
- For all inactive blogs, analyzed 3 most recent posts (header, post, comments)

N=909

**556** (61%)  
ACTIVE BLOGS  
currently published

**353** (39%)  
INACTIVE BLOGS  
no new posts

"farewell" post?

**230** (65%)  
NONE

**77** (22%)  
LAST POST  
ONLY

**25** (9%)  
2ND TO LAST  
POST ONLY

### THE END IS HERE

This blog has completed its mission.

I will leave the blog up for whatever value it has. And I thank those of you who have commented and sent encouraging support. Now, it is my aim to have more time to paint and write.

### I'LL BE BACK

I'm shocked by how long it's been since I've posted on here. I've put up a few posts over at ... since I stopped posting here, but not many. I'm posting this to say that I'll soon be back! August 29, 2012 (second to most recent post: June 15, 2010)

This site is under construction and will be until I stop being lazy.

### I'M STILL HERE

... at any rate, I'm not ready to throw in the towel, despite a year of not blogging here. I've gotten too much out of it - great friends, even my current job - to quit just yet. The question is: How do I get the motivation back?

### RMA (remember me always)

There may still be some activity on this site as I back-fill some old and (for inactive blogs) posts from other blogging platforms. My goal is to eventually have this as a (more or less) complete archive of my personal blogging from early 1998 to this year.

I want to keep the site up. I would be sad if the archives disappeared. Lots of good stuff. But *keeping* the place up? ... well, we'll see.

### APPRECIATION (or not)

And, of course, my schedule will be a bit more flexible once I am free of this aged blog, this paltry thing.

Where are you man, why you are not writing anymore (from commentator)

### SEE YOU LATER (just not here)

I've begun to feel like this blog is less and less suited to my day-to-day activities. Rather than try to force it to fit, I've decided to build something new.

**A NOTE  
TACKED  
TO THE  
DOOR ...**

### REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Hank, C. (2011). *Scholars and their blogs: Characteristics, preferences, and perceptions impacting digital preservation* (Doctoral dissertation). Available from ProQuest Dissertations & Theses database (UMI No. 3456270).

<sup>2</sup> Borgman, C.L. 2008. *Scholarship in the digital age: Information, infrastructure and the Internet*. MIT Press, Cambridge, MA.

### thanks to ..

Funding provided by the OCLC/ALISE Library and Information Science Research Grant Program