Worksheet, week 5, 2007

Tasks:

Buy Serfaty's book and Bruns & Jacobs' anthology	15 min
Read Serfaty pages 1-42 and take notes as you go	3.5 hrs
Attend class Wednesday	2 hrs
Explore the Pew Internet & American Life Project site (pewinternet.org)	45 min
Attend class Thursday	2 hrs
Spend 30 minutes exploring Technorati.com. Set up an account, register your blog, choose some favourites, explore some of the most popular links it shows and see how it works	30 min
Read the Wikipedia entries on RSS, syndication and trackback	30 min
Choose a feed reader and subscribe to some feeds. Try using it daily this week.	30 min
Click on the "feed surfer" in your Wordpress blog. What is it?	15 min
Make a blogroll for your blog (click "blogroll" when logged in)	30 min
Embed a video from YouTube in your blog.	15 min
Do you like your blog template? Consider changing.	30 min
Add a widget to your sidebar	1 hr
Write a blog post with links to widgets you've installed	30 min
Write blog post 2	2 hrs
Read your fellow students' blogs. Leave comments if you have any.	1 hr
Have coffee (or whatever) with another student in the class and discuss something to do with this course (e.g. the Serfaty reading)	1 hr
Total time spent:	17 hrs

Blog post 2: Discuss how you chose the template and addons you use on your blog and how (if) they affect the way you blog. Relate this to the concepts of technological determinism that we have discussed (Chandler)

Further Reading:
Blood, Rebecca. "Weblogs: A History and Perspective", *Rebecca's Pocket*. 07 September 2000. 25 October 2006. <http://www.rebeccablood.net/essays/weblog_history.html">.

Blogs you might enjoy: kottke.org, boingboing.net, stylebytes.net, vampus.blogspot.com, francisstrand.blogspot.com

Learning outcomes

By the end of this week, you should be able to:

Explain
 what a blog is
 the history of blogs
 who blogs and who reads blogs

Discuss the relationship between blogs and diaries.

Show a peer (using a computer) how the following things work:
 Technorati
 trackbacks
 reading an RSS feed
 setting up a blog
 set up a blogroll
 add a widget to a blog