

Water resources scientists and engineers need practical tools to effectively communicate their work to a broad audience and to stay informed with ongoing political, scientific, and technical developments in the water arena. The World Wide Web and mobile computing industry offer a range of tools for bi-directional communications, including social networking, social bookmarking, blogging, newsletters, and related resources. Social networking and bookmarking websites offer the possibility for direct and indirect interaction with other water resources professionals, and open a door to joining larger groups organized by interest and cause. Blogs tend to selectively share interesting web links and articles and to express the opinions of the moderator while leaving room for followers to comment. Newsletters compile and post relevant stories from news sources around the world. Here, we present a compilation of the most influential online communication tools with water-related components. Increased adoption of these advanced communication tools by water resources professionals can facilitate the flow of information and ideas among academics, practitioners, policymakers, and lay audiences, and actively contribute new information to both technical and non-technical discussions on water. If you are not using these tools already, we highly encourage you to use this Water 2.0 Social Calendar to get online and join the #water #resources web #community. =)

October 2009

Aquafornia

Aquafornia, the one-stop site for news about California water issues, is a water news blog affiliated with the Water Education Foundation. Aquafornia covers California water news from both traditional and non-traditional news sources, presenting all sides and views of the issues, with the goal of fostering understanding of various positions and discussion towards resolution of these often controversial issues. Aquafornia follows all the latest news and commentaries on California's water, from the Klamath Basin to the Colorado River, from the Delta to the Sierra Nevada, from desalination to water recycling, and keeps you up to date on the latest statewide and regional water news and information.

Aquafornia is updated every day by 9 a.m. PST and again later in the day with late-breaking water news.

The mission of the Water Education Foundation, an impartial, nonprofit organization, is to create a better understanding of water resources and foster public understanding and the resolution of water resource issues through facilitation, education and outreach, and the Foundation values Aquafornia as the number one resource for providing important, current water information right at your fingertips.

aquafornia.com

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November 2009

Aguanomics

At Aguanomics, David Zetland discusses the economics and politics of water policy and water management in California, the US, and around the world.

David started blogging on water in June 2007, and he has written nearly 2,500 posts to date. His blog has over 1,000 readers, many of them with years of experience in the water industry. This community of academics, activists, bureaucrats, engineers, environmentalists, lawyers, politicians, and students makes Aguanomics one of the best places for a deep and sophisticated conversation on water policy.

Although some readers enjoy the cut and thrust of David's candid opinions on politics, corruption and social welfare, others enjoy his in-depth "water chats" with important figures in the water business. David has recently begun holding water chats with Australians – adding a useful comparison of ideas and experiences to a blog that often focuses on California water issues.

Aguanomics welcomes new questions and new ideas – so come join the conversation!

aguanomics.com

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December 2009

Water Numbers

The Water Numbers blog from Peter Gleick is featured as one of the San Francisco Chronicle's "City Brights" commentaries. It offers a comprehensive look at all things water, covering international and local issues, the human right to water, new technologies for water supply and use, etc. In his blog, Peter addresses a wide range of water issues through the lens of sustainability, equity, and efficiency, with special attention to the challenges of climate change, conflicts over water, and especially, solutions to the world's water problems.

In his blog, Peter Gleick lays out the threats to our freshwater resources and viable solutions to those threats, drawing from not only his experiences and viewpoint, but also by way of numbers: each post includes an important, unusual, or newsworthy "water number" as the heart of the topic addressed. With categories like water-use efficiency, bottled water, water and energy, water policy, the global water crisis, agriculture and water, and more, Water Numbers at "City Brights" is a fascinating source for real discussion of our water issues, tied to facts and research.

sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/gleick/index

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January 2010

WaterWired

WaterWired, begun in January 2007, covers all things fresh water and related topics: news, analysis, humor, and commentary. Global and USA issues are covered, including science, policy, management, hydrophilanthropy, etc. Water events such as conferences, workshops, celebrations, obituaries, new publications, videos, films, and exhibitions are announced and sometimes covered. Book and film reviews occasionally grace WaterWired's pages. The latest Tweets from the WaterWired Twitter are also available, as are links to other blogs and Internet resources. Humor and relevant quotations are liberally sprinkled throughout. Posts are written not only for the water professional but also the intelligent layperson; comments are welcomed. WaterWired is brought to you by Michael E. "Aquadoc" Campana, a professor, hydrologist/hydrogeologist, hydrophilanthropist, and inveterate WaterWired living in the Pacific Northwest who has been a keen observer of the US and global water scenes for more years than he cares to (or can) remember.

aquadoc.typepad.com/waterwired

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February 2010

WaterSISWEB

WaterSISWEB is a place for water resources professionals to share information. Scientists, researchers, students, and industry professionals can use this free website to find what is new and popular in the water resources field. It is a great place to share, store, organize, and watch the bookmarks of web pages related to water topics. Everyone can register for free and post content related to the water community and science.

WaterSISWEB is the first website of the SISWEBs (Scientific Information Syndication WEBSites) family, dedicated to the water resources field. Currently, WaterSISWEB covers different water resources categories including Fluid Mechanics, Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Planning and Management, and Miscellaneous, which contain links of the News, Articles, Papers, Videos, Images, and Others type. Users can post links under relevant categories with keyword tags to allow for easy search access, as well as rate links by voting for them. Popular entries are kept in the Top Posts section while links that users think are irrelevant or that contain false information are removed from the site after getting enough negative votes. In WaterSISWEB, links can also be sorted by region. Currently available regions include: the USA and all of its states, Canada and all its provinces, Europe, Africa, Americas, Asia, and Oceania (including their countries) and Antarctica.

watersisweb.org

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March 2010

Agency & Industry News

Water News is a daily publication of journalistic and scientific coverage of the global fresh water crisis. The breadth of Circle of Blue covers policy, politics, science, and technology related to water resources. Through a combination of front-line journalism, existing and new science and data, and innovative communication design, Circle of Blue expertly communicates the complexities of the global fresh water crisis.

waterlinkinternational.com

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April 2010

Circle of Blue

Circle of Blue aims to report and present the information necessary to respond to the global freshwater crisis. A prominent feature of Circle of Blue is their WaterNews, a daily publication of journalistic and scientific coverage of the global fresh water crisis. The breadth of Circle of Blue covers policy, politics, science, and technology related to water resources. Through a combination of front-line journalism, existing and new science and data, and innovative communication design, Circle of Blue expertly communicates the complexities of the global fresh water crisis.

waterlinkinternational.com

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May 2010

Other Influential Blogs

Water for the Ages, THIRSTY in Suburbia, Waterblogged, On Water, Random Groundwater Notes.

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June 2010

Facebook

Facebook is perhaps the most popular social networking website in the world. On Facebook, users can add friends, send messages, and update their personal profiles to notify friends about themselves. Additionally, users can join networks organized by city, workplace, and school or college. The website's name stems from the colloquial name of books given at the start of the academic year by university administrators with the intention of helping students to get to know each other better.

Different water resources groups/communities and fan pages exist on Facebook, where members share water resources links with each other. Membership is free and everyone can join.

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July 2010

Twitter

Twitter is a micro blogging and social networking service that allows members can send and receive messages up to 140 characters in length. These short messages, known as tweets, often comment on or link to recent developments in some specific industry or topic that is of particular interest to the author. Topical keywords are written in-sentence and identified by a pound sign, as in #water, #environment, or #science. Following a particular twitter member can be a great way to stay updated on current water topics with a minimal amount of time.

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August 2010

LinkedIn

LinkedIn is a free, business-oriented social networking site where people can find and maintain professional contacts. It is used by an interconnected network of experienced professionals from 150 industries and 200 countries. The purpose of the site is to allow registered users to maintain a list of contact details for people they know and trust in business. Each member maintains his or her own profile so, unlike a typical address book, LinkedIn is always up-to-date. A list of water-specific industry contacts, including their work experience and technical expertise, is never more than a click away.

Much like an industry networking event, LinkedIn lets trusted users make introductions amongst friends and colleagues. Joining special interest groups helps further establish subject-oriented business relationships. These groups often involve professional societies, alumni associations, greek affiliations, etc., and allow professionals to make new contacts, post job openings, and answer questions related to industry concerns.

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September 2010

Center for Watershed Sciences

The Center for Watershed Sciences is a unit of the John Muir Institute of the Environment at the University of California, Davis, and is dedicated to the interdisciplinary study of critical issues in watershed science. The center has a focus on the sustainable and cost-effective restoration and management of stream, lake and estuarine ecosystems, and posts relevant research and links.

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