

What is a podcast?

A podcast is a collection of media files distributed over the Internet via a feed, usually for playback on a computer or a mobile device like an iPod. When you subscribe to a feed, you're subscribing to the podcast—the whole collection of files that get delivered to you. Generally, a podcast refers to audio, like a recorded lecture or radio-type show, but it can also refer to video. The latter is more typically known as video podcasting or vodcasting.

Podcasting can be done in a number of ways, but one of those ways is to insert these media files into a blog post. Hence the terms “audioblogging” and “videoblogging.”

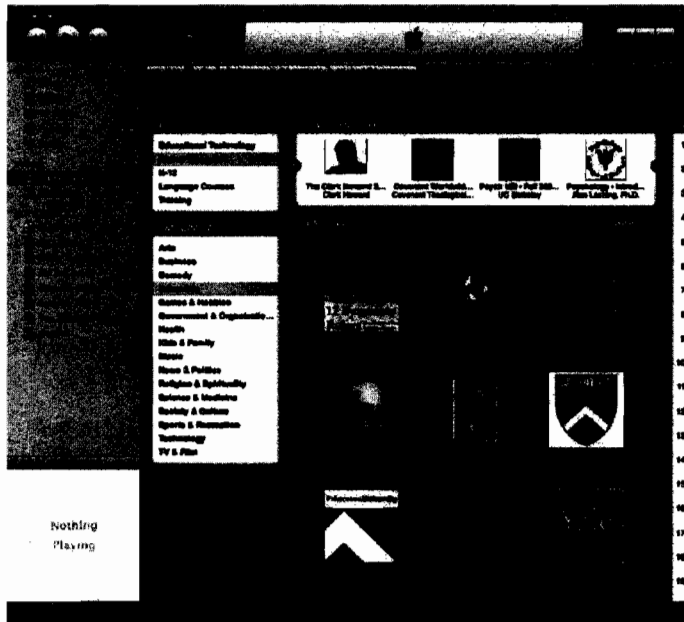
Podcatchers

Like blogs, a podcast feeds can be delivered to users via aggregators. However, standard feed readers won't accept audio and video files, so a media aggregator, or podcatcher, is needed to subscribe to, view and listen to podcasts in one location. These aggregators download the media files for you, allowing the user to simply hit “play” once they're downloaded. Popular (and, again, free!) podcatchers include:

iTunes (apple.com/itunes)

Fireant (getfireant.com)

Democracy Player (getdemocracy.com)



Why use podcasts in coursework?

- Engage multiple learning styles
- Increase digital literacy
- Enhance active, cooperative, and integrated learning
- Provides supplements or blended solutions to traditional coursework
- Can integrate the course and learning into student's daily lives