

Media Musings

Media Center Newsletter

Computing Edition

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Social Picture Blogging by Johnnie Gray, Director of Media Services

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- PC or Mac? The Search for a Laptop

Pinterest

flickr

Social blogging has become very trendy. Many people have friends that mention Pinterest or Tumblr and even Flickr. Here is a rundown of some things you should know.

Flickr has been around for nearly a decade. The majority of the content is user-created and can be organized into albums and the user can allow only specific people to view the content. The interface is great for uploading batches of photos and allows you to tag and insert keywords. Flickr has a robust community, but in the past few years, users have abandoned the service for other trendier sites.

Pinterest has gained a lot of attention as people organize pictures in categories and share them out. Recipes and weddings seem to be the hottest topics. Pinterest allows you to create "boards" where you can place pictures for people to browse and get ideas. Users commonly upload items they like and do not create original content. Pinterest has a bookmarklet that allows you to pin items from any website you go to. A bookmarklet is a bookmark shortcut that performs an action – typically opening up a small window for content to be uploaded or grabbed from

a site.

Tumblr is very popular at the moment, but the user base seems to be younger than on Pinterest or Flickr. Tumblr is a blogging tool that allows for quick posts in the form of text, audio, pictures or anything encountered online. Like Pinterest, it has a bookmarklet that allows you to snatch content from another site and post. This is the most common use of Tumblr is users sharing content they like, such as their favorite Pokemon characters or pictures of baby animals.

Flickr and Tumblr has a somewhat darker side as content can be quite explicit. So if you are randomly searching for content within the sites or friend someone, you might get a surprise you weren't exactly expecting. I am still a fan of Flickr. The Library of Congress uses it as well as President Obama. Pinterest seems to be more for an audience that likes fashion, food and home ideas. Tumblr is a great blogging tool and I enjoy it as well. All three of these services have smart phone apps that work really well so you can update

content from anywhere. Of the three services, this Pinterest has more female users and less objectionable content. Tumblr is popular with teens and Flickr is popular with photographers and crafters. If you are interested in sharing content, pick the service that best suits your needs.

Here is where you can find the three photo services:

<http://pinterest.com>
<http://www.tumblr.com>
<http://www.flickr.com>

The library is now on Flickr – check us out at: www.flickr.com/photos/cnutriblibphotos/

tumblr



Discover Dario Argento in our collection—the master of Giallo!

Rm 220

Tribble Library

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Be on the lookout for new equipment for the 2012-2013 school year!

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 Explore scholarly media
<http://media.cnu.edu>

New Media

If you have any suggestions for new DVDs or CDs, please let us know. We listen to you!

Check out the new media page at <http://www.cnu.edu/media/NewMedia/index.asp>

10 Media Apps for Your Smart Phone by Erin Butterfield, Media Student Manager

Whether it's an iPhone, an Android, or some other brand, just about everyone these days seems to have a smart phone. And if you're not one of the few stuck in the Dark Ages of technology, I know you are all looking for another useful "App" (which as we all know is short for application). Here is a list of 10 media-related Apps you may not know about, but will make your life a little bit more fun, which is the point of an App, isn't it? All of these apps are available on iPhone, Android, and other smart phones such as the Windows Phone 7 and Blackberry.

I love using Adobe's program Photoshop. At work in the Media Center you will often find me sitting on a Mac editing pictures. The first App I recommend is **Photoshop Mobile**. Adobe has condensed the most important tools such as cropping, adjusting brightness, and sharpening images into this App that won't disappoint even the most advanced Photoshop user.

Speaking of pictures, try out **Pano**. This App makes it easy to take seamless panoramas with your iPhone. I've witnessed the results and it really does an excellent job of helping you line up your shots and correcting imperfections.

Moving on to social networks, we all know about Twitter, Facebook, and Foursquare. I've compiled a list of a few that you may not know about. The first is **Bambuser**, an App that lets you share live moments from your phone instantly onto the Internet. This program became popular during

the riots in Egypt, and its use has blown up since.

My second favorite App in the media sharing genre is **GetGlue**. This App is a check-in network similar to Foursquare, but instead of checking into places, this is an entertainment check-in. This community of over 2,000,000 users lets you share the movies, TV shows, and music you are enjoying as well as see what others like. Not only can you join a community of entertainment lovers like yourself and expand your entertainment database, but you can get great discounts too.

Like GetGlue, **Miso** is another entertainment check-in App. Here you can also read trivia about your shows and the cast, share quotes with Twitter and Facebook, and learn about music similar to your tastes.

Looking to connect all of your social networks, plus your favorite blogs, newspapers, and other websites? Check out **Flipboard**. This App acts as your personal magazine. In one place you can connect to all of these things at once.

Shelby.tv is an App that gathers the videos your friends are posting on social networks and compiles them into one place so you can watch them easily. This App is one step closer to being able to making it easier to, as they say, "stalk" your friends through social networking.

Do you love your Amazon Kindle, but don't want to carry it around everywhere with you? Sometimes you may find yourself between

classes with nothing to do. The Amazon Kindle App is perfect for these situations, and more importantly, it's free.

These last two Apps are for those techies out there. Want to know the quality of your Wi-Fi or the fluctuations of your 3G network? **Xtreme Labs Speed Test** is an App that does both of these, with consistent quality. It is recommended to use several speed tests for complete accuracy, such as FCC speed test, Speedtest.net, and the Cisco speed test app.

Finally, **Brass Monkey** is an App that connects your iPhone with your computer using wireless technology. This is perfect for those gamers out there who want a bigger screen for your iPhone games. You can play a game on your PC or Mac while using the iPhone as a controller. 🐒



Mac or PC: The Search for a Laptop by Kamillah Gray, Media Student Assistant

I received my first laptop as a Christmas gift in 2007. My mother said it was going to be useful for my upcoming senior year in high school, which would be spent filling out college applications and scholarships. Of course with my mindset, I was more excited about having my own personal computer, without my mother busting into the room to see what I was doing. I loved my laptop, it was mine and I could do whatever I wanted with it. It fulfilled my needs, playing endless Youtube videos, online games, and storing my many stories and photos. As I entered college, my laptop became a very important resource to me. Soon my internet browser was always filled with 10+ tabs of research, and my desktop was filled with shortcuts to Word documents titled, "safjaskfsajfas". My laptop held up, enduring my constant use, and I tried my best to take care of it. I used my laptop so often that I never shut it down anymore. I left it in hibernation mode so that I could quickly get to it to check my school e-mail, crossing my fingers for cancelled classes. It was into my third year of college, after 4 years of ownership, that I noticed that my laptop was slowly failing. The battery needed constant charging, and soon it became I could not take it off the charger without my laptop dying. Startup time seemed to take years, and my computer started to go crazy when I had those 10+ tabs up. It began to freeze constantly, causing for constant restarting, and finally the "Blue Screen of Death" was no longer a stranger. Miraculously, I finished out the academic year with my laptop still working (barely), and I was anticipating the new laptop my mom said she would purchase me. When I told her I made Dean's List for the semester, she congratulated me and offered to buy me a Mac. I was surprised at her offer and told her I needed to think about it.

As I became more familiar with Macs, I realized they had some nice qualities to them. Therefore the decision of whether to get a Mac or stick with a PC was a hard one for me to make. After all, I

would be stuck with this laptop for another 4 years. I wanted to make sure I chose a laptop that fit my needs. I asked around to my computer savvy friends, who all said PC without a second thought. My boss, and Media Center Librarian, Johnnie Gray, loves the company Apple and told me he loved his Mac. I was torn. So I decided to get to the basics. What did I need? I looked up what RAM was, how to find out how big your hard drive was, and how much of each you needed to get certain jobs done. RAM (remote access memory), helps your computer's speed by loading information into it from the hard drive, making it readily accessible to your computer's processor. The more RAM your computer has, the faster it has the ability to run. Therefore more RAM for me meant I could have 10+ tabs up on my browser, download things, and play music in the background, without my computer going psycho. I wanted one that could hold all my college work, and any personal things such as photos and videos. My old laptop had about roughly 450GB of hard drive space, which compared to today's computers once again, is awfully small. Now that I knew what I was looking for, I could begin my search more properly. I looked at several websites, including Apple, Amazon, and Best Buy, to try and find "Kam's laptop".

I knew Macs were a bit more expensive than PCs, but when I began to see that I could get more power for a lesser price, getting a Mac started to seem out of the question. True, my mom did offer me one, but with 4GB memory and a 500GB hard drive with a starting price of \$1,199, I realized that I would best stick to a PC. Macs are nice if you have the extra money to upgrade them, however as a college student on a college budget, I realized that was impossible. After some hard thinking and digging around, I finally settled on an HP, with 6GB of RAM and 750GB of hard drive space for roughly 600 dollars, which is a major upgrade from my 4 year laptop. My laptop is nice and suiting me well, and I'm glad with my decision. For now, I'm still a PC girl.