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New Year's Tech Resolutions

Debbie Ginsberg

IIT Chicago-Kent College of Law Library, dginsberg@kentlaw.iit.edu

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Technology New Year Resolutions
Debbie Ginsberg, Educational Technology Librarian
January 21, 2010

Did you know that:

Chicago-Kent faculty created over 100 course websites in 2009? Over 50% were TWEN sites.

You can hold virtual office hours using built-in chat rooms? Our course web applications offer chat applications where you can meet with your students no matter where they are.

Your students can turn in assignments using electronic “drop boxes?” Assignments turned in online don't get lost in email and timestamps will be consistent no matter when students upload their documents.

You can use course web applications to poll your students? Poll your students on current events, assess how well they understand basic legal concepts, or determine the topics your students would like to cover in class. TWEN even offers an “InstaPoll” feature that you can use in class through your students' laptops.

Citations in documents uploaded to TWEN or Lexis Web Courses can be instantly linked to Westlaw or Lexis? In TWEN, check the “Mark citations in the attached file to link to Westlaw” when you upload a document. Lexis offers similar features under its Web Courses “More” menu.

Course web applications now offer Web 2.0 features? Lexis Web Courses now include blogs which students can use to explore new ideas and resources. TWEN features a course website wiki, providing space for students and faculty to collaborate on documents and other projects.

Blackboard now includes an anti-plagiarism application? Using the new “SafeAssign” feature, documents can be checked against the internet, ProQuest's ABI/Inform journal database, and papers submitted to the SafeAssign repository.

You can use Web 2.0 tools as course websites? Or at least to supplement your website. Last semester, faculty used Twitter to host class discussions. Faculty are increasingly interested in using blogs for class. Chicago-Kent doesn't yet offer in-house blogging software, but there are many free blog applications that you can use.

If you still prefer just a basic website, we have a better alternative? Libguides are like our basic course web pages, but they are easier to use and include interactive features like student comments and polls.

If you have an idea but aren't sure what the best tool is, ask us! We've been using a lot of technology tools for law school, and often find the best solution is a new way to use a familiar tool. For example, we've been replacing the old Neuron tutorials with CALI lessons and interactive PDF files.