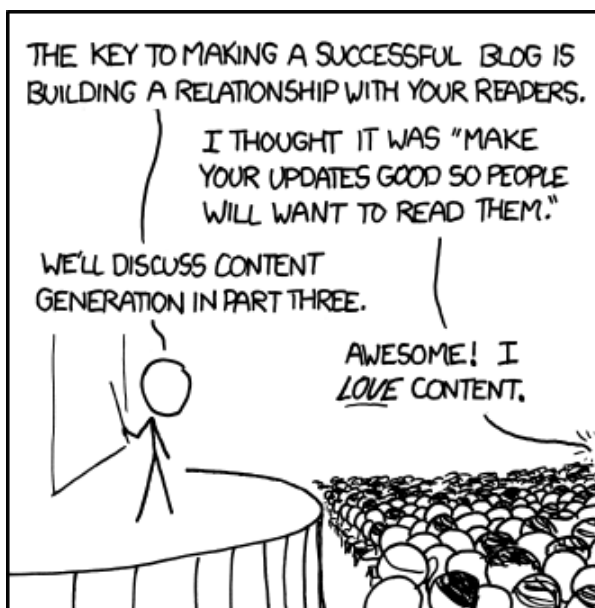


Blogging notes

Blogging rules

- Take responsibility not just for your own words, but for the comments you allow on your blog
- Label your tolerance level for abusive comments
- Consider eliminating anonymous comments
- Don't feed the trolls
- Take the conversation offline, and talk directly, or find an intermediary
- If you know someone who is behaving badly, tell them so
- Don't say anything online that you wouldn't say in person



[xkcd/741](#)

Writing about your research project

- Make it personal
- Explain why you're doing this (the academic reason!)
- Talk about the challenges
- Tell the story so far
- Use photos, figures, works in progress
- What is your contribution to knowledge?

Writing about a new publication

- Remember the five W (who, when, what, where, why)
- Why should non-specialists care about it?
- Summarise the findings
- Borrow figures (with credit!)
- Was it any good?
- Link to the original article and other background context

Writing about a hot topic

- Pick up a news story, controversy or debate
- Bring in the specialist evidence
- Use links and references to original sources
- Explain for a general readership
- Be honest about the strength of evidence
- Give a personal opinion

Recommended BLOGS

These are ones I've read myself. Naturally they're focussed on ecology and evolution. I accept no responsibility for the content, and I don't always agree with them, but that's the point. The PDF version comes with links.

[Dynamic Ecology](#)

This has become a go-to blog for ecologists. A team of contributors post on current issues in the field, along with notices (e.g. job postings) or commentaries. Has become well known for introducing several major debates in the field, particularly about zombie ideas or statistical machismo (search the posts).

[Hope Jahren Sure Can Write](#)

A much more personal blog, in which Hope Jahren comments on issues affecting a life in science, particularly from the perspective of a female academic. It's not just about her though; she uses her experience to address broader issues.

[Small Pond Science](#)

Another blogging collective, this time reporting from the perspective of scientists working in teaching-focussed institutions. Given that the primacy of research is assumed by so much of the academy, this gives a different viewpoint on how science should be taught and communicated.

[Not Exactly Rocket Science](#)

Ed Yong is an unusual case of a research scientist who started a blog in his spare time, then as it became increasingly popular gave up the day job to become a full-time science journalist. His

blog continues though, now syndicated by National Geographic, and reporting on whatever new research takes his eye.

[The EEB and Flow](#)

A strictly science blog on ecology and evolutionary biology which comments on recent publications and big issues.

[Tenure, She Wrote](#)

A collaborative blog written by women in academia from all career stages, institutions, disciplines, and opinions.

Some others that I check occasionally are Jacqueline Gill's [The Contemplative Mammoth](#), which covers palaeoecology and its implications for modern-day ecology and climate change, and Florian Hartig's [theoretical ecology](#) blog.

If you want to see whether I can follow my own advice then my forest ecology blog is at [Trees in Space](#).

Others

I can't vouch for these myself but they have been recommended by others. If you want to find new ideas and blogs to read then choose one you like and check their blogroll.

[Nothing in Biology Makes Sense](#)

[Biodiverse Perspectives](#): graduate students writing about biodiversity science. In other words, bloggers very much like yourselves.

[Genomicron](#): all about genomes.

[Neuro Dojo](#): I honestly don't know what neuroethology is, but if you do, then this might be a blog for you.

[Evolution in Structured Populations](#)

[Panda's Thumb](#): a widely-read blog on evolutionary biology and the integrity of science.

[EcoEvo@TCD](#): ecology and evolution students at Trinity College Dublin, named Best Science and Technology Blog in Ireland in 2014.

[Ecological Rants](#)

[Jabberwocky Ecology](#)

[Eco-Evolutionary Dynamics](#)

[PEGE Journal Club](#): this is a really nice idea. Phylogeneticists, ecologists, geographers and evolutionary biologists get together to comment on recent papers in their fields.

[The Lab and Field](#): ecology blog

[RajLab](#): a lab website on systems biology

[Sandwalk](#): a biochemistry blog

[Phylogenomics](#): evolution and ecology of microbes and genomes

[Sociobiology](#)

[Real Climate](#): climate change

[Climate Change Ecology](#)

[Telliamed Revisited](#): evolutionary biology

[What's in John's Freezer?](#)

[Simon Leather's](#) entomology blog

[Beetles in the Bush](#)

[Charismatic Minifauna](#)

[Anole Annals](#): a lizard-focussed blog

There are a number of compilation sites which bring together blogs on different topics within science. These include [Science Blogs](#), [Sciencetopia](#), and many more.

Many journals and magazines have blogs, including [Scientific American](#), [Discover Magazine](#) and [Science News](#). Journals in your field will probably have a linked blog.

Some blogs focus on photography rather than writing, such as [Myrmecos](#) or [The Smaller Majority](#). This is a slightly different model, and these days is better served by Instagram or Tumblr, but there's no harm in having a mix of posts.

If you find particularly good blogs (or strongly dislike any of the above) then please let me know so that I can add to this list. You will notice a bias in the content of the sites which reflects the people who have responded to my request for suggestions. If your field isn't represented then please point me in the direction of a good site — or set one up yourself as there's clearly a gap in the market!

And finally...

My lecture was inspired by and borrowed liberally (with permission) from [this talk](#) by Jeremy Fox. If you want to hear the opinions of someone who is genuinely a major player in the science blogosphere then watch the original.