

# Grasp the Lingo for new Technologies in Libraries

Definitions from Wikipedia (<http://wikipedia.org>) and other sources

**Social networking:** sites that focus on building online communities of people who share interests and/or activities, or who are interested in exploring the interests and activities of others. Most are web-based and provide a variety of ways to interact (e-mail, instant messaging etc.) Social networking has encouraged new ways to communicate and share information. It appears that social networking will be an enduring part of everyday life.

**Library 2.0:** a loosely defined model for a modernized form of library service that reflects a transition within the library world in the way that services are delivered to users. The focus is on user-centered change and participation in the creation of content and community. (Casey, Michael & Savastinuk, Laura (2006) Library 2.0: Services for the Next-Generation Library, *Library Journal*; September 1, 2006.)

**Tags:** a non-hierarchical keyword or term assigned to a piece of information (such as an internet bookmark, digital image or computer file) that allows it to be found again by browsing or searching. Tags are chosen informally and personally by the item's creator or by its viewer.

**Flickr:** a social networking site for photos. Flickr site lists the sites purpose/role as a revolution in photo storage, sharing and organization, making photo management an easy, natural and collaborative process. [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)

**Filename extensions:** a suffix to the name of a computer file applied to indicate the encoding convention (file format) of its contents

**JPEG** (pronounced JAY-peg)—a commonly used method of compression for photographic images. The degree of compression can be adjusted, allowing a selectable tradeoff between storage size and image quality. JPEG typically achieves 10:1 compression with little perceptible loss in image quality.

**BMP**—Bitmap—In computer graphics, a bitmap or pixmap is a type of memory organization or image file format uses to store digital images. The term *bitmap* comes from the computer programming terminology, meaning just a map of bits, a spatially mapped array of bits.

**Byte:** a basic unit of measurement of information storage in computer science. In many computer architectures, it is a unit of memory. There is no standard but a byte most often consists of 8 bits.

Kilobyte (KB)—one kilobyte is 1000 bytes

Megabyte (MB)—one megabyte is 1,000,000bytes

Gigabyte (GB)—one gigabyte is 1,000,000,000 bytes

**Blog:** a contraction of the term *weblog*; a type of website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order. With the advent of video blogging, the word blog has taken on an even looser meaning — that of any bit of media wherein the subject expresses his opinion or simply talks about something. **Technorati:** a search engine for blogs [www.technorati.com](http://www.technorati.com)

**RSS Feed—Really Simple Syndication:** a web-based family of formats used to publish frequently updated works—such as blog entries, news headlines, audio, and video—in a standardized format. Publishers of web feed benefit by allowing their content to be syndicated automatically. Readers benefit by subscribing to timely updates from favored websites or to aggregate feeds from many sites into one place. RSS feeds can be read using software called an "RSS reader", "feed reader", or "aggregator", which can be web-based, desktop-based, or mobile-device-based.

**USB:** Universal Serial Bus—a computing standard that allows many peripherals to connect using a standardized interface socket.

**Gadget:** Computer programs that provide services without needing an independent application to be launched for each one, but instead run in an environment that manages multiple gadgets

**Widget:** a portable chunk of code that can be installed and executed within any separate HTML-based web page by an end user. Other terms used to describe web widgets include: gadget, badge, module, webjit, capsule, snippet, mini and flake. Web widgets usually but not always use DHTML, JavaScript, or Adobe Flash.

**Wiki:** a collection of Web pages designed to enable anyone with access to contribute or modify content

**Resolution:** When dealing with computer monitors, this is measured in pixels. Most monitors have a resolution of 1024x768. Picture files that are only to be viewed on a monitor should not be sized large than this.

**File size:** size of computer file—typically measured in kilobytes (KB). Larger file resolution results in larger file size. The larger the file size, the longer it will take to upload the file to a mail or web server. Larger resolution images will also take longer to appear on your computer monitor.