

A DECADE OF BLOGGING

From personal sites to breaking news journalism to vital news sources, the blog has seen a lively, event-packed decade.

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2008

Blog search engine Technorati, in its annual 'State of the Blogosphere' report, announces that it tracks at least 100 million blogs of an estimated 133 million blogs worldwide.

2004

Blogs become a vital news source during the December 2004 tsunami. Blogs such as SEA-EAT post text messages sent from the ground in the wake of a telecommunications breakdown, relaying vital information to the media and to aid workers. Blog becomes Merriam-Webster's word of the year.

2002

Political blog Talking Points Memo uncovers US Senate majority leader Trent Lott's racially charged comments at an event; 13 days later, Lott resigns. Influential gossip blog Gawker is started.

2001

Several popular American political blogs are started, including Instapundit and The Daily Dish.

1997

The term 'weblog' is coined by American programmer John Barger to describe his personal site Robot Wisdom, where he linked to articles on the Internet.

2006

In the aftermath of the 11 July 2006 Mumbai train bombings, the government of India directs Internet service providers (ISPs) to block access to a few blogs for spreading "hateful or inflammatory" material. However, most ISPs choose to block access to entire domains, and access to blogs hosted on Blogspot.com and Typepad.com is barred, then restored within a few days.

2005

Popular newsblog The Huffington Post, called the 'Internet Newspaper', is launched. The Indian blog community calls for a 'Blog Quake Day' on 26 October 2005, collecting donations for the 2005 Kashmir earthquake relief funds.

2003

Blogger is acquired by Google Inc. Rediff begins offering hosted blogs on blogs.rediff.com. The first iteration of open-source blog platform Wordpress appears. Salam Pax, a pseudonymous blogger from Iraq, receives notable media attention for his posts during the Iraq invasion.

1999

The word 'blog' is used for the first time, on Peter Merholz's personal website. San Francisco based start-up Pyra Labs starts Blogger, which allows for easy blog publishing. American programmer Bradley Joseph Fitzpatrick starts blog hosting service Livejournal to help his friends stay updated on each other's activities.