



New Media Glossary

In true new media style, the following definitions were found on wikipedia.org.

MEDIA TYPES

New media: a much debated and often confusing term. Some define new media as media that relies on digital technology. Although the technology itself is not new, the ways in which it is being used are new and innovative. Some examples of new media are: internet art, video games and virtual worlds, multimedia CD-ROMs, Web sites, blogs, wikis, email, electronic kiosks, interactive television, mobile devices, podcasting, hypertext fiction, and graphical user interfaces. (*Wikipedia article: "New media"*)

Web 2.0: a trend in the use of World Wide Web technology and Web design that aims to facilitate creativity, information sharing, and collaboration among users. Web 2.0 incorporates the idea of building applications and services around the unique features of the Internet. These concepts have led to the development and evolution of web-based communities and hosted services, such as social-networking sites, wikis, and blogs. Many Web 2.0 applications exist only on the Internet and derive their usefulness from the unique connections allowed online: eBay, Craigslist, Wikipedia, Skype. (*Wikipedia article: "Web 2.0"*)

Blog: short for Web log. A Web site where entries are displayed in reverse chronological order. Many blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject, others function as online personal diaries. A common feature of blogs is the interactive ability for users to leave comments. Most blogs are primarily textual, although some focus on art (artlog), photographs (photoblog), videos (vlog), music (MP3 blog), or audio (podcasting). (*Wikipedia article: "Blog"*)

RSS feed: RSS stands for really simple syndication. A method of delivery for publishing frequently updated content such as blog entries, news headlines, and podcasts. An RSS feed contains either a summary of content from an associated website or the full text. RSS makes it possible to keep up with websites in an automated manner. Content can be read on a "RSS reader" "feed reader" or "aggregator." (*Wikipedia article: "RSS"*)

Podcast: a collection of digital media files (audio), which are distributed over the Internet, often using syndication feeds, for playback on portable media players and personal computers. (*Wikipedia article: "Podcast"*)

Wiki: A wiki is software that allows users to collaboratively create, edit, link, and organize the content of a website, usually for reference material. Wikipedia is one example of a wiki. (*Wikipedia article: "Wiki"*)

Streaming media: multimedia that is received by, and normally displayed to, the end-user at the same time that it is being delivered by the provider. Radio and television are two forms of media that use this delivery method, both online and off. In an effort to control copyrighted material or to comply with licensing requirements, some streaming broadcasters use streaming systems that interfere with the ability to record streams for later playback. (*Wikipedia article: "Streaming media"*)

LEGAL TERMS

Intellectual property: a legal field that refers to creations of the mind such as musical, literary, and artistic works, inventions and trademarks/brands. Under intellectual property law, the holder of one of these abstract "properties" has certain exclusive rights to the creative work, commercial symbol, or invention which is covered by it. (*Wikipedia article: "Intellectual property"*)

Copyright: A set of laws that give the creator of an original work certain exclusive rights to that work for a limited time. Generally, it is "the right to copy," but also gives the copyright holder the right to determine who may adapt the work to other forms, who may perform the work, and other related rights. It is an intellectual property form (like the patent, the trademark, and the trade secret) applicable to any creative work that is put into a tangible medium of expression. (*Wikipedia article: "Copyright"*)

Copyright infringement: the unauthorized use of material that is covered by copyright law in a manner that violates one of the copyright owner's exclusive rights, such as the right to reproduce or perform the copyrighted work, or to make derivative works. (*Wikipedia article: "Copyright infringement"*)

Fair use: a doctrine in copyright law that allows limited use of another's copyrighted material without acquiring permission, such as use for scholarship or review. Courts often consider these four factors when determining whether a use is fair:

1. whether the work is being used in a way that is different than the way it was originally used;
2. whether the work is more fact-based or creative;
3. the amount of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
4. the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

(*Wikipedia article: "Fair use"*)

Public domain: Creative works that are, for whatever reason, not subject to copyright protection. These materials are therefore "public property," and available for anyone to use. Under modern law, most original works of art, literature, music, etc. are covered by copyright from the time of their creation for a limited period of time (which varies by country). When the copyright expires, the work enters the public domain. As a rule of thumb in the U.S., any work first published **prior to 1923** is in the public domain. Works created by the U.S. Government are not protected by copyright and are therefore in the public domain. (*Wikipedia article: "Public domain"*)

Cease and desist (C & D) letter: A type of letter, typically drafted by a lawyer, sent to a person or company who is being accused of infringement or other misappropriation, demanding that unless the complained-of conduct stops, legal action will follow. Copyright or trademark infringement often prompts a cease-and-desist letter. (*Wikipedia article: "Cease and desist"*)

The Digital Millennium Copyright Act ("DMCA"): A portion of United States copyright law which states, among other things, that providers of online services (such as Internet service providers and Web site operators) cannot be held responsible for the presence of infringing materials uploaded to those services by third party users. Online service providers come into this "safe harbor" from liability when they "act expeditiously" to remove infringing content from their services after being made aware of them through a properly drafted notice from the owner of the content being infringed.

License: Permission granted to another by the owner of an intellectual property right to make certain uses of the thing protected by intellectual property. For example, a copyright owner may give a license to another to make copies of the protected work and distribute those copies in certain media. (*Wikipedia article: "License"*)

Want more?

chillingeffects.org: A joint project between the Electronic Frontier Foundation and several universities aimed at helping individuals protect their online rights. Learn who is getting legal action served to them and read through an endless array of cease and desist letters.

internetcases.com: Track the latest developments in internet and new media legal cases, with a bare minimum of legalese.

whatsnewmedia.org: Of course there's a blog dedicated to the topic of new media! Tracks trends under topics such as net neutrality, virtual communities, and electronic storytelling.