

LIFE IN A GROUP ON THE INTERNET

The development of social networks on the web 2.0

The expression "Web 2.0" first appeared in 2003 and originates from the work of Dale Dougherty who used it to refer to a set of techniques which made using the Web easy for people who did not previously necessarily have the required technical knowledge. One of the main characteristics of this Web 2.0 is that it enables quick and frequent exchanges of information between individuals and authorizes multiple interactions. The web is no longer just a space where users can access information - it has thus become a space for exchanges and therefore interaction in a social Web. The web 2.0 is constructed by the actions of internet users whereas web 1.0 was a space for discovery by internet users.

The arrival of Web 2.0 enabled the creation of the social networks. They were very basic at first and then gradually ever more complex as they took the form of true Web portals designed for neophyte users. This evolution in technology meant interactive information dissemination tools could be developed and made available to all users whereas before they were only aimed at professionals or even specialists. These new tools allow collaborative work practices through the use of wikis like the Wikipedia encyclopaedia, a true system of citizens' sciences. Technologies like RSS feeds have meant this development has been accompanied by content aggregation systems with which people on one site can use data from another site in a different context from the one in which they were created. It is also possible nowadays to mark up the Internet using systems of key-words and to build up a social labelling system based on sorting and creating a hierarchy of information...