TECHNOLOGY TERMINOLOGY

Adobe Flash Player – Free computer application that allows streaming of video and audio content online. Videos, timelines, and sounds on World Book sites require the flash player to view.

Authentication – The process of identifying an individual user, usually based on a username and password. Users of World Book sites may be authenticated by a username and password or IP address range.

Beta – A process in a software creation where selected individuals test a program or game for defects.

Blog – Short for *Weblog*, this term refers to a list of journal entries posted on a Web page.

Bookmark – The address of a favourite or frequently visited Internet site, which has been saved to a Web browser.

Boolean operator – Connecting words, such as AND, OR, or NOT that are used in a Boolean search.

Browser – Software used to access sites on the World Wide Web. Well-known browsers include Firefox, Internet Explorer, Safari, and Netscape.

Cache – A temporary storage area where frequently accessed date can be stored for rapid access.

Conference bridge – a designated phone number configured to link telephone lines for conference calling.

Cookie – Data sent to your computer by a Web server that records your actions on a certain Web site. When you visit a Web site after being sent the cookie, the site will load certain pages according to the information stored in the cookie.

Dashboard – A home page designed with portlets, web tools or content customized for a specific role or user.

del.c.cious – Pronounced "delicious", a community bookmarking website in which users can save Web pages they find and share them with other users.

Digital rights management (DRM) – Access control technologies used by publishers and copyright holders to limit usage of digital media or devices.

Domain name – A name that identifies a computer or computers on the Internet. For example, in the address http://worldbook.com.au, worldbook.com.au is the domain name.

Download – Transfer a file from a computer on the Internet to your own computer.

E-book – A digital media version of a printed book.

Facebook - A social networking website that was originally designed for college students, but is now open to anyone 13 years of age or older. Facebook users can create and customise their own profiles with photos, videos, and information about themselves. Friends can browse the profiles of other friends and write messages on their pages along with a number of other activities.

Federated search engine – A program that searches multiple online databases simultaneously using a single query from a single user interface.

Feed – Also called a *web feed*, a data format used for providing users with frequently updated content.

Firefox – A free web browsers, second in popularity only to Internet Explorer. Features include tabbed browsing, spell checker, live bookmarking, and a download manager.

Firewall – A hardware or software device configured to permit, deny, or proxy data through a computer network with different levels of trust.

Flash drive – A compact data storage device integrated with a USB (universal serial bus) connector. USB flash drives are typically removable and rewritable, and can hold 64 MB to 32GB or more of information.

FTP – Short for *File Transfer Protocol*, an ftp site is used to transfer data from one computer to another over the Internet, or through a network.

Gigabyte (GB) – A unit of computer storage equal to 1 billion bytes.

Hit – A request for a single file from the web server. A *hit* should not be confused with a *page view*. If a web page containing three pictures is visited, it will produce four hits (one for the page and one for each image).

HTML – Short for *Hypertext Markup Language*, *HTML* is the predominant markup language for web pages. It provides a means to describe the structure of text-based information in a document – by denoting certain text as headings, paragraphs, lists, for example – and to supplement that text with embedded images and other objects.

HTTP – Short for *HyperText Transfer Protocol*, the underlying protocol used by the World Wide Web. *HTTP* defines how messages are formatted and transmitted, and what actions Web servers and browsers should take in response to various commands.

Hyperlink – An element in an electronic document that can be clicked to link to another place in the same document or to an entirely different document.

Instant Message – Abbreviated *IM*, a type of communications service that enables you to create a kind of private chat room with another individual in order to communicate in real time over the Internet, analogous to a telephone conversation but using text-based, not voice-based, communication. Popular IM services include AOL (AIM), Yahoo! Messenger, and Windows Live Messenger.

Internet Explorer – Abbreviated *IE*, a web browser developed by Microsoft. It is the most widely used web browser.

IP Address – An identifier for a computer or device on a TCP/IP network. The format of an IP address is a 32-bit numeric address written as four numbers separated by periods. An example of an IP address would be 1.159.10.250.

IP Authentication – Access to the World Book Web based on a range of I addresses that identifies your institution's computers from the outside world.

JPEG – A file format for photographic images.

Localisation – A set of Web site features which are displayed, based on the locality of the user. Users in different locations will receive different features.

Megabyte (MB) – A unit of information or computer storage equal to 1000 (or 1024) kilobytes.

Memory – The electronic holding place for a computer's instructions and data.

Metadata – Data that describes other data. Metadata stores data about the structure, context and meaning of raw data, and computers use it to help organise and interpret that data, turning it into meaningful information.

MP3 Player – An electronic device used to store music as digital (numeric) code and then used to play back that music.

Multimedia – Technologies that allow visual and audio media to be combined in new ways for the purpose of communicating.

Network – A group of interconnected computers.

Operating system (OS) – The basic program responsible for managing all the other programs in a computer. Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux are examples of operating systems.

Page View – A visit to a Web site. Page views are tracked by website monitoring applications to record a website's traffic. The more page views a website has, the more traffic it is receiving.

PDF – Short of **Portable Document Format**, PDF is a fixed-layout format used for representing two-dimensional documents in a manner independent of the application software, hardware, and operating system.

Pixel – Short of *picture element*, a pixel is the smallest piece of information in an image. Pixels are often represented using dots or squares.

Plug-in – A computer program that interacts with a host application (a web browser or an email client, for example) to provide a certain, usually very specific, function "on demand."

Podcast – A digital audio or video recording that is available on the Internet to be downloaded to a computer or an MP3 player.

Portlet – The individual user interface components displayed in a web portal. Typically these are miniaturised versions of web pages drawn from multiple sources and displayed on a single page for ease of use.

Referring URL – An authentication mechanism, where the host checks the web address that the user's request for access is coming from and then allows access if it is coming from an authorised URL or web page.

Remote access – Access to the World Book Web from outside of the subscribing institution, typically from a home or non-institutional location, is defined as remote access.

RSS – Short for really simple syndication, RSS is a service that collects and delivers frequently updated content in a standardised format.

Safari – A web browser developed by Apple Inc. for Macs.

Search engine – An information retrieval system designed to help find information stored on a computer system.

Server – A computer that provides services or resources to other computers.

Skype – Software that allows users to make telephone calls over the Internet.

Social networking site – Websites where people may post information about themselves and connect to others on the Internet. *Facebook* and **MySpace** are examples of popular social networking sites.

Stream – A sequence of data that is transferred and processed as a continuous stream. Using a stream, a user can start viewing the data before the entire file has been transmitted.

T1 – A fibre optic line that can carry roughly 60 times more data than a normal residential modem.

Twitter - has become the next hot trend in social networking. While it is not as functional as *Facebook* or *MySpace*, Twitter's appeal lies within its simplicity. It allows friends, family, and complete strangers to stay connected through quick updates that only take a couple of seconds to write.

Videoconferencing – Interactive telecommunication technologies that allows two or more locations to interact via two-way video and audio transmissions simultaneously.

VoIP – Short for *Voice-over-Internet protocol*, VoIP is a protocol that transmit voice over the Internet.

Web 2.0 – Websites and Web services that store and organise user-submitted content. Blogs, video-sharing sites, social networking websites, and publicly edited reference sites are all Web 2.0 sites.

Webinar – A live meeting that takes place over the Internet.

Wiki – A web page or collection of web pages designed to enable anyone who accesses it to contribute or modify content.