



Comparison of Collaboration Tools in Scholar

| | Blogs | Wikis | Forums | Polls |
|--------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Control | Centralized: Individual or small group responsible for content | Decentralized: Group members share equal responsibility | Decentralized: Group members share equal responsibility | Decentralized: Group members share equal responsibility |
| Purpose | Personal responses, accounts, news | Group input, collaboration, decision-making | Group input, collaboration, decision-making | Anonymous group input, decision-making |
| Responses | Not required to fulfill purpose | Usually required to fulfill purpose | Required to fulfill purpose | Required to fulfill purpose |
| Features | Post reordering, varied content, ability to restrict access, formatting icons, search | Previous version saved, track changes, formatting icons, email notifications, permissions at page and tool levels | Free expression, group awareness, instructor capabilities, different views, customizable settings, import, display, WYSIWYG editor, breadcrumb trail | Unlimited number of answer options, users may choose a specified number or none of the options, instructor control of display results |
| Structure | Web page with posts, comments for each post | Editable web page Option to "freeze" pages from further editing. | Topics containing threads containing replies | Single question and response per user |
| Chronology | Posts in order from most to least recent Comments in order from least to most recent | None | Topics in order of most to least recent reply Replies in order from least to most recent | None |
| Spam/Flames | Do not devalue posts; comments can be turned off | Must be managed closely | Must be managed closely | Disregarded in collection process |