# Metric Aggregation for Social Network Analysis in Blogspheres: Introducing Lyceum

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## **Background**

The acceptance of weblogs (blogs) as popular tools for individual and community information share (Kumar, 2003) creates strong opportunities for research into the evolution of heterogeneous social network groups. In response to this opportunity, Ibiblio.org created Lyceum, an open source blog-deployment tool enabled for user metric analysis.

Groups of blogs can be dynamically ordered into blogspheres. Blogspheres are interrelated groups of weblogs organized through contextual, dynamic-link or domain-specific means. Lyceum, a software package developed by Ibiblio.org and distributed under the GNU General Public License, acts as an architectural backend for blogspheres, providing contextually relevant methods for XML-based dynamic blog interaction.

#### **Discussion**

Lyceum, in application form, can be characterized as a having a dual purpose. First, Lyceum seeks to simplify methods by which groups deploy blogspheres. Acting as an application server, an installation of Lyceum will allow infinite users (bound only by hardware resource limits) the ability to generate unique blogs from an installation.

Lyceum's second purpose involves improving human and machine awareness of the blogsphere. The Lyceum framework acts as an intelligent agent, using XML and the Lyceum database to provide relevant information to blogsphere actors. (Fig, 1) Lyceum's natural methods for intelligent content aggregation add a level of centralized machine-relevance not yet found in existing blogspheres.

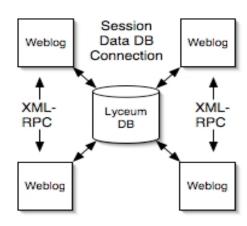


FIG 1. Simplified Lyceum Model

#### Methods

Lyceum's architecture enables deep analysis of activities within generated blogspheres. Utilizing the Lyceum database and information mined from session-tracking tools, Lyceum provides extremely in-depth reportable analysis on the evolution of blogspheres. Our poster will explain both Lyceum's tools for facilitated intrablogsphere interaction, and its vast capacity for evolutionary research on social networks.

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#### References

Kumar, R., Novak, J., Raghavan, P., Tomkins,
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