

DFO's views re: linking to only publications:

At the Idaho Statesman, Opinion Editor Kevin Richert posts a clarification on the newspaper's policy re: linking in wake of the recent flap with Idaho Conservative Blogger. Remember? A newspaper editor sent ICB a note asking in a polite way that the blog quit using Statesman copy wholesale. Adam Graham/Adam's Blog and others have weighed in on the Statesman shot across the bow. As one who uses dozens of links throughout the day, I view this disturbance in the Idaho blogosphere as a good thing. Many bloggers and commenters don't realize that you can't use material produced by other online publications wholesale, including cut-and-paste comments. The key is to use a brief amount of copy, to credit the source, and to provide a link (so the original source receives benefit in the way of a page-view from a curious reader of the secondary blog). I relish the opportunity to credit editorialists, columnists, reporters, photographers, etc. My seat here at HBO Central allows me to introduce you daily to the finest writers and photographers in the Inland Northwest. As someone who has worked in Northwest Montana, central Idaho, and North Idaho, I've worked with many of the superb journalists that I link to. I, for example, spent two years as news editor of the Lewiston Tribune, giving the last proofread to the top-notch editorial page that featured opinionators Ladd Hamilton, Bill Hall, and Jim Fisher. I've spent the last 25 years working with some of the best in the business in the Pacific Northwest, at the Spokesman-Review. Also, I enjoy linking to the quality blogs that you'll find on my various blogrolls in the right rail. And introducing you to new bloggers. I've found that most online publications are thrilled when others link to them, as long as you give the proper respect in term of credit and linkage. Online newspapers and blogs can have a mutually beneficial relationship, as long as both sides respect the other -- **DFO**.