Five Minute Introduction
Blogging, but shorter, easier* and (usually) more frequent.

* This is of course debatable.
Microblogging:

• usually features the ability to publish from just about anywhere;

• can be used by individuals and organizations (and robots!) alike;

• is quite often publicly findable, followable (e.g., via RSS), and social.
Demo: How Twitter Works
SIMPLE RELATIONSHIPS

Either you follow an account or you don’t. (You can also block offending accounts.)
STREAMS OF PRESENCE

Individuals & organizations reveal themselves via their aggregated postings.
STREAMS OF ATTENTION

“You can step in and out of the flow of information as it suits you.”

“Isn’t Twitter just too much information?”
http://twitter.com/about
FLEXIBLE WAYS TO ORGANIZE

Users use #hashtag to mark tweets as belonging to a certain topic or type of data. Hashtags can be planned or emerge spontaneously.
FLEXIBLE WAYS TO ORGANIZE

Tweets can also have GPS coordinates attached to them for purposes of geolocation and discovery by nearby people/devices.
Examples (Michael)
Usage at Georgetown
Georgetown’s Office of Communications tweets news and events.
Garrison LeMasters’ American Studies class uses Twitter to “chart the daily progress” of student theses.
“Our virtual classroom attempts to offset students’ isolating research by building an ad hoc, publicly-accessible stream of updates ...”

“Thesis Tweetstream Project”
http://twitter.myamericanstudies.com/about.html
Discussion: @Georgetown