Web 2.0 Technology Tools and the Library

Continued from page 1

SOCIAL BOOKMARKING

Social bookmarking is a more recent Web 2.0 technology that may not be as familiar to many of you. Social bookmarking involves storing, or “bookmarking,” favorite sites on the Internet, rather than on the computer. This allows users to access their bookmarks from anywhere. It has also given rise to the concept of users “tagging” these sites with their own descriptive terms, which allows them to find their favorite sites again easily.

Aggregated with descriptive terms used by thousands of other users tagging the same items, these descriptive terms or “cloud tags” often lead to high quality content and may replace search engines in some cases. Students and faculty can use these services to gather articles and Web resources for individual or group use. Search “Cleveland State University” in http://www.citeulike.org or http://del.icio.us to get a glimpse of how social bookmarking is done.

LIBRARYTHING (http://www.librarything.com).

LibraryThing is a Web 2.0 technology that allows individuals and small libraries to easily catalog their own personal collections and store the catalogs on the Internet. Catalogs can be private or shared with others. According to the Website, a free account permits users to catalog up to 200 books. A paid account of $10 annually, or $25 lifetime, allows users to catalog as many books as they wish.

By simply entering an ISBN or other information LibraryThing automatically searches the Library of Congress, all five national Amazon sites, and more than 175 other world libraries. Users can retrieve bibliographic information and can “tag” books with their own descriptive terms. Users can also view other people’s libraries (if they allow access), see who else shares reading interests, swap reading suggestions, etc. If the user is an author, an “author page” is generated automatically by the system as soon as someone adds a book written by them to their library. Users can then add photos, links to their own Website or Blog, etc. There are numerous other book and reading related things that users can do on this site as well.

CSU Library subscribes to LibraryThing for Libraries, a related Web 2.0 technology that builds on the deep contributions made by individual users of LibraryThing. Content has been added to the Scholar entry for monographs “tagged” by the army of individuals cataloging their own collections—to date over 22 million books have been cataloged. To see this technology at work, search Scholar for “Curious incident of the dog in the night-time.” Under the tab “Find Similar Items,” a list of “tags” is given as a “tag cloud” where the size of the tag is displayed in proportion to its use in LibraryThing. When one of the tags is clicked, a list of books on campus at a CSU library that have the same tag and other associated tags from LibraryThing is displayed. A “tag browser” allows further exploration of user-supplied tags.

LIBRARYELF (http://www.libraryelf.com/)

Many University library users also use other libraries in the region. Library Elf allows users to track their library loans and holds across these multiple libraries. CSU libraries, the CLEVNET Consortium, and Cuyahoga County Public Library have enabled users to utilize Library Elf to avoid overdue fines with email notices, check multiple library cards, and track books, DVDs, CDs, videos, etc.

PREFERRED SEARCHING

Save time and keep track! Another interactive service in the new version of Scholar is Preferred Searching. Users who frequently search for a particular author or subject can save that preferred search with the click of a button. This ends the need to type the search term with every new search. Preferred Searches can be set up in My Account in Scholar.

We hope that these tools will add to your reading and research pleasure!

Glenda Thornton
Director
Technical Services

Barbara Strauss
Head, Technical Services

Starting spring 2008, the CSU Study: Abroad Resource Area will be located on the main floor of the Library. This area provides browsing of free brochures and catalogs about study abroad options for CSU students. Anyone is welcome to read and take home the free materials. Additionally, study abroad staff from the Center for International Services and Programs plans to hold regularly scheduled drop-in times in the SA Resource Area throughout the semester. For more details please contact Julie Good, Manager, Study: Abroad Programs j.a.good8@csuohio.edu or 216-365-7531.

Continued on back page

Campus Mail

The Library University now has full text, online access to the journal Science, which is published weekly by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Science covers international news and research that can be directly accessed from your computer on campus at http://www.sciencemag.org/current/dtl. In addition the publisher offers email alerts and RSS feeds for notification of new content. More information can be found at http://www.sciencemag.org/about/alerts.dtl.

Earlier in 2007 the Library subscribed to Nature, the international, interdisciplinary journal that is ranked as the most cited weekly science journal. The complete collection of full text articles from Nature going back to 1869 can be accessed from CSU at: http://www.nature.com/nature/index.html. Nature also provides email alerts and RSS feeds to keep you up-to-date with the latest research at: http://www.nature.com/nams/svc/myaccount/save/ealert?list_id=1 and http://www.nature.com/nature/newsfeeds.html respectively.

Both Science and Nature are accessible off-campus by searching either title in Journal Finder from the CSU Library home page and then clicking the online link. You will then need to authenticate by filling in your first and last names, CSU ID number, and Library PIN. Online access to Nature and Science is another way the University Library provides the CSU community with information that is both timely and convenient.

Theresa Nuvalnicie
Sciences & Engineering Librarian

Library Elf

Science and Nature at Your Fingertips

Web 2.0 Technology Tools and the Library

Many of you are already users of Web 2.0 technologies and need no introduction to what these are. However, others on campus may still be wondering how these tools can be utilized for higher education and libraries. In this article, we want to introduce some of the ways that the University Library is using Web 2.0 technologies and how library users can participate.

Web 2.0 technologies are basically about user-generated content. For many years, most Internet users only read Web-based content. In the Web 2.0 world, users can both read and participate. Chris Anderson, editor of Wired magazine has labeled this “the age of peer production.”

Common Web 2.0 tools that you have may have heard about or used are blogs or weblogs, podcasts, and wikis. And, who hasn’t heard of the social networking sites of MySpace, YouTube, Flickr, Second Life, and Facebook? However, you may not be as aware of the social bookmarking tools of LibraryThing, LibraryThing for Libraries, Library Elf, or III’s preferred searching tool.

BLOGGING

CSU library users can read about the latest happenings at the Library on the Library’s Blog (http://net.ulib.csuohio.edu/scripts/blog/index.php). There we also answer common questions and apprise faculty, staff, and students of the newest library services. Although the Blog is not interactive at this time, we are looking at ways to add participation in the future.

Users can read the Library Blog from the Library’s home page (http://www.ulib.csuohio.edu), or have the updates sent to their mobile device or Internet browser via RSS feed (Really Simple Syndication). Look for the RSS icon on the Library’s Blog for the invitation. RSS can also be used to view lists of new materials at the Library or to see lists of new materials from Cleveland Public Library in the Connection Lounge (CPL@CSU). To receive an RSS feed, users will need an RSS reader or aggregator (some popular examples are Google Reader, My Yahoo, and Bloglines), or a Web browser with built-in RSS support such as Internet Explorer 7 or Mozilla Firefox 2.

In addition Science covers international news and research that can be directly accessed from your computer on campus at http://www.sciencemag.org/current/dtl. In addition the publisher offers email alerts and RSS feeds for notification of new content. More information can be found at http://www.sciencemag.org/about/alerts.dtl.

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Theresa Nuvalnicie
Sciences & Engineering Librarian

University Library News
New Scholar Unveiled

The Scholar online catalog has a new look and expanded functionality. Scholar is the complete listing of the CSU Libraries collection, from periodicals to books, and more, available through the University Library and the Law Library.

The new Scholar offers a quick and easy search interface as the default, but power users will find added options for advanced searches and sorting. Limit your search to items that are on the shelf, or set up your own preferred searches to scan for new materials in your areas of interest. Expand your search with tags and links to similar items. Sort by relevancy, date, or title. Display screens are clearer and more informative. Navigation is easier, with more online help.

Try the new Scholar at http://scholar.csuohio.edu.

Glenda Thornton
Systems Librarian

To Read or Not to Read

To Read or Not to Read is the latest report from the NEA on the state of reading in the United States. According to NEA Chairman Dana Gioia, “this study shows the startling declines, in how much and how well Americans read, that are adversely affecting this country’s culture, economy, and civic life as well as our children’s educational achievement.” Among the many findings of the report:

• Americans are reading less well than in the previous decade.
• Americans are reading less than other countries.
• American adults of virtually all education levels are reading as much as those who went to college.
• Americans are reading less than 20 years ago.

The full report can be downloaded free from the Website at www.arts.gov/pub/pdf/lr.php or purchased from the NEA Website.

Dr. Charleslye S. Pratt
Director, Learning Communities Activities

Hungarian Horse and Peacock by Seth Chwast

Hungarian Horse and Peacock


Dr. Charleslye S. Pratt
Director, Learning Communities Activities

CSU Learning Communities Rock

In fall 2007, CSU launched seven new Learning Communities for first year students. Learning Communities consist of three or four classes, intentionally clustered together around an interdisciplinary theme. Students enroll and attend the classes as a cohort. They study and learn as a group and often socialize together, which helps them make friends easily and become a community of learners.

Faculty members like the model too! They work together integrating and coordinating class activities, written assignments and co-curricular events to make them relevant and interesting. Students report that this helps them to understand content from a variety of perspectives and keeps them more involved and engaged.

Each Learning Community has an embedded Librarian who is familiar with the theme, collaborates with faculty and works closely with students to successfully complete assignments, using strong information literacy skills. Learning Community students achieved outstanding academic results and attribute much of their success to the support of dedicated faculty, access to professional Librarians and a variety of support services.

We are developing an area in the CSU Library where students and staff can come to learn more about Learning Communities. Featured in this area will be seven commemorative rocking chairs decorated to document the seven Learning Community themes, as a lasting reminder of the first year introduction of Learning Communities at CSU.

Rocking chairs were chosen as a symbol of calm and peaceful meditation. Students or faculty don’t have to be in a learning community to come and enjoy the soothing motion of a rocking chair, especially after a tough exam. It is the perfect way to relax between classes, read a good book, or think before tackling a challenging assignment. Look for the announcement about the rocking chairs and then visit the CSU Library to see and sit and enjoy. For more information about Learning Communities, email Learning.Communities@csuohio.edu or call 216-687-5561.

Glenda Thornton
Systems Librarian

New Friends of the CSU Library President Named

Dr. Michael Wells, Associate Professor in the Department of Urban Studies, has been named President of the Friends of the Cleveland State University Library. He will succeed Dr. William Shrorock, who has served as President since the founding of the Friends in 1976. Dr. Glenn Thornton, Director of the Library, anticipates that the Friends will continue to grow and offer exciting programs to the CSU community and beyond under Dr. Wells’ leadership.

Wells started his career at Cleveland State in 1977 as an Assistant Director of Admissions. Since then he has been Assistant Dean of the Graduate College, Associate/Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Associate Dean of the Division of Continuing Education. He was Director of Undergraduate Programs for the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, where he is currently an Associate Professor. At the state level, Wells chaired the Ohio Historic Preservation Advisory Board. Locally he is on the board of trustees of the Cleveland Rotary Club and President of Support to At Risk Teens, a Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry. He is the author of several single and multi authored articles. He looks forward to the Friends of the Library presidency.

Announcing the Library Learning Commons

The Library has designated the west end of the first floor as the Library Learning Commons. While the entire Library is a learning commons, we now feature three major core services centrally located together at the west end of the first floor. The Reference Center offers students help with their research needs; the Writing Center gives students valuable advice and help with writing; and the Library Computers (LCLC) provides a convenient place for faculty to provide computer-based instruction for their classes.

The use of the LCLC has changed over the years. When it first opened, many CSU students needed general help with computer technology and the LCLC provided students with one-on-one help and instruction. Today most students are already computer literate when they come to CSU, so they no longer regularly need that kind of help. Instead, we find that there are an increasing number of classes that need to occasionally be held in areas where computers are readily available to the students. Consequently, this semester the LCLC will be closed to walk-in student use in order to provide a place for holding those classes that need computers occasionally. The LCLC will be opened on an advertisement basis during those times when there are no classes being held and all the computers in the Reference Center are in use. For those students who may still need extensive help with computers, Library staff who have worked in the LCLC in the past will be available by phone or by appointment.

Faculty members are encouraged to use the LCLC facility, as well as our instruction rooms in RT 401 and RT 502 for occasional class sessions. As always, subject librarians are available to give research help and instruction for any class. Reservations for classes should be made by contacting the appropriate subject librarian. Reservations for classes that don’t need the librarian can be made by calling Beth Pinkowski at 216-687-2475.

Kathy Dobda
Assistant Director for Public Services

University Library Personnel News

Kathylee Dobda, Education Librarian, has accepted the responsibility of Acting Assistant Director for Public Services. She continues to serve as the Library’s Coordinator of Instruction.

In October, Martin Hoyer was hired as the Library’s Head of Integrated Systems and Classroom Technology Support. Oren Berman, Manager of Audiovisual Services for a large hotel chain, brings with him more than 25 years experience in the audiovisual industry which includes rental, live event staging, permanent system design, and installation. His education includes Computer Science study at Cuyahoga Community College along with numerous industry-specific certifications as administered by various vendors and Infocomm International.

In December, Lesbay “Lee” Lamb filled the role of Classroom Technology Specialist in the Library’s IMS division. Prior to working at the Library, Lee was a Microcomputer Specialist at the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs where she installed and repaired software, computers, and printers and provided other technical support. At the same time, Yin-Man “Jan” See accepted the position of Library Systems Network Support Specialist. Jan also previously worked in Urban Affairs where he was a System Administrator.

Kathy Dobda
Director

Martin Hoyer
Acting Assistant Director for Public Services

Lesbay “Lee” Lamb
Yin-Man “Jan” See

Laboratory Equipment

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Hungarian Horse and Peacock by Seth Chwast

Hungarian Horse and Peacock

Common Reading Experience Events

Hundreds of students will once again participate in the Common Reading Experience at Cleveland State University. The activities will be planned around the theme of the book, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, by Mark Haddon, whose main character is a mathematically-gifted autistic teenager. All members of the University Community are encouraged to read the book and participate in activities including film screenings, brown bag speaker series, and more.

The spring semester Common Reading Experience will kick off in February with a special exhibit titled A Different Kind of Journey: The Paintings of Seth Chwast. Seth, who was diagnosed with autism as a very young child, has lived for years in a world of roller coasters, haunted houses, and classical music. A dramatic change came at age 20, when he took an oil painting class at the Cleveland Museum of Art. Seth, who rarely speaks, began describing his world in his paintings. It turned out that he has an innate ability to mix colors and create amazing, large oil paintings, such as the Hungarian Horse and Peacock pictured here. His works have been shown in many different venues, including the Very Special Arts Fair (Jared 2004) and The Cleveland Clinic, Main Campus and Beachwood Family Health Center (May 22 - September 29, 2007). This exhibit will be on display on the first floor of the library through February. Seth Chwast’s prints and T-shirts will also be on sale in the Library through February.

On Tuesday, February 12, Debra Chwast, Seth’s mother will give her inspirational story titled Turning Darkness into Light: Pain, Bliss, Autism. The brown bag event will be held on the first floor of the Library from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

For information about these events or future brown bag speaker series, film screenings, and more, visit the Common Reading Experience Website at http://www.ulib.csuohio.edu/cr/index.html.