

RESEARCH LIBRARY VIRTUAL RESOURCES & INSTRUCTIONAL INITIATIVES

SUBTOPIC: FACEBOOK / YOUTUBE / ETC

The Virtual Resources and Instructional Initiatives survey produced 230 instances of special or noteworthy projects being supported in ARL libraries. A comprehensive PDF file of these projects can be found at <http://www.arl.org/bm~doc/vriicompletesurvey.pdf>, arranged alphabetically by institution.

In order to assist readers with focused interests, 18 “subtopics” have been assigned that group only those survey responses that relate in whole or in part to that topic. This report contains survey responses that touch on the subtopic that is identified above.

For readers who would extract information not covered by the subtopics, key word searching can be applied to the comprehensive list. For instance, there is no subtopic specifically for “Camtasia,” instances of which appear across several pre-set searches. A search of the word will reveal all occurrences.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY:

Crit Stuart
*Director, Research, Teaching
& Learning*

Laura Iandoli
Administrative Assistant

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UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO, SUNY, LIBRARIES

Facebook provides portal for student traffic into library resources.

The University Libraries' "fan page" on Facebook offers students easy access to videos, blogs, the Instant Librarian chat reference service (Meebo client), JSTOR and WorldCat, and feeds from the Libraries' "Services for Student" blog and the "Library Alerts" blog. The fan page is also very new, but is slowly becoming more popular with University at Buffalo students as they find out about it and spread the word to their friends. The page is updated and checked regularly to ensure that users questions are answered quickly and that information is fresh and relevant. The Libraries are working on podcast video/audio tours (which will be available in a variety of languages) and clickable maps of the Libraries to add to the fan page.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Buffalo—NY/University-at-Buffalo-Libraries/6629876727>

Goals:

- Communicating with students in ways they prefer.
- Increasing awareness of library services and resources.
- Integrating librarians more closely and naturally with students.

Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE, LIBRARIES

Libraries' presence in Second Life.

UCI Libraries has purchased an island in Second Life which we named Anteater Island found at the slur

<http://slurl.com/secondlife/Anteater%20Island/152/188/26/> .

The purposes of this investment are to foster and support creative design through course-related instruction and faculty research. In previous quarters courses such as Computer Games as Art, Culture and Technology and Reasoning and Modeling with Graphical Models made using Anteater Island an integral part of the syllabus. Student teams in these classes not only used Second Life as a platform to build computer games, they also used it as a collaborative work environment. UCI Libraries wants to partner with creative faculty who are interested in this new technology. Participation could be limited to holding a single class session in Second Life to using a parcel of the island for an entire quarter.

http://www.lib.uci.edu/online/second_life/

Goals:

See above

Assessment:

NA

CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**Digital image instruction assistant. (Fine Arts Library)**

Over the past 5 or 6 years many libraries have assumed responsibility for the funding of digital image databases, i.e. ArtStor, CAMIO, Scholar's Resource, and more. With ownership comes a sense of responsibility to support an appropriate level of use of these collections. In 2006 an experimental and temporary position was created titled Digital Image Instruction Assistant. This position is collaboratively supported and managed by the Fine Arts Library and a departmental image repository, traditionally known as the "slide library." The main focus of the position is to support faculty users as they make the transition from analog to digital images, for use in the classroom. These resources require sophisticated searching, downloading and manipulation skills in order to create high resolution and high impact classroom presentations. These are not skill sets that can be conveyed during a typical reference transaction at the library, at a reference desk. Therefore, the individual in this position is considered a mobile unit, often meeting with a faculty member in his or her office. During the first 18 months of this trial position, more than 150 one-on-one faculty consultations, averaging 70 minutes each, have occurred. It's a pleasure to note that this new service has been very well received by the faculty. When not conducting digital image coaching sessions, this new staff member adds content to an image instruction blog (see below).

<http://imageinstruct.library.cornell.edu/>

Goals:

- Increase use of digital image resources.
- Enable faculty to use digital resources in the classroom.
- Create a blog to enhance awareness of digital image resources, either freely available or provided by the library through subscriptions.

Assessment:

We have been so busy providing this new service we have not yet officially measured its success. We do have anecdotal evidence that it is working in the form of a thick folder full of thank you notes from a number of faculty members. As well, ArtStor tracks use statistics. Cornell's use of ArtStor is double that of its peer institutions. We contribute this rate to the success of this outreach and instruction effort.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Large-scale blog project to support university. (Mann Library)

Cornell University Library (CUL) and Cornell Information Technologies (CIT) co-sponsored a blog pilot as a first step in developing a centrally-supported blog service. The pilot enabled CUL and CIT to evaluate the feasibility of supporting blogs for teaching, research, and communication. The audience was all faculty and staff (and students using blogs for academic purposes) at Cornell University using blogs for teaching, research, learning and communication. We tested a pilot implementation of WordPress Mu. The pilot ran through the spring (2008) and was then evaluated. We've done several successful joint projects with CIT, so when we were both looking for solutions to the proliferation of standalone blog software installations (chiefly Wordpress), it made sense to join together. CIT handled the project management and technical and policy infrastructure and support, and the library helped provide support, technical help and documentation. The pilot evaluation results were positive from both academic and staff users, though we're finding they are still exploring how best to use blogs for various purposes. The blogs were used for reflection and sharing of resources outside of class, outreach and communication (both internal and external), and personalizing student programs and staff services. Currently, the blog service is open only to faculty, staff, and graduate students for academic, communication, and group collaboration blogs; undergraduates can be enrolled via a course, but it's not open to the entire university in general. We may do so in the future, but free alternatives are widely available. We have around 60 blogs in the installation so far, some new but most migrated from the pilot. We are still working out details of the production service but will certainly continue to offer it.

<http://edublogs.org/campus/>

Goals / Assessment:

See above

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Librarian supports undergraduate journal staff.

The Science and Engineering Liaison serves as an advisor to undergraduate research journals. Following an instruction session for editors and writers for Triple Helix on choosing scholarly reference sources and writing with more style, she was asked for similar assistance from the editors of Epidemic Proportions. She continues to provide instruction sessions and to copy-edit the articles. She also created a web page with links to style guides and other resources.

Goals:

NA

Assessment:

We have not conducted a formal assessment, but consider the librarian's involvement a success as she is sought out by the members of these groups.

MCMMASTER UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Wiki supports first-year students.

The Mac Library Experience wiki is designed to help students in their First Year Experience (FYE) at McMaster

<http://libfye.wetpaint.com/?t=anon>

Goals / Assessment:

NA

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Library blog highlights helpful tools.

"Tools and Toys " Blog. This blog highlights tools, toys, widgets, plug-ins and toolbars that can enhance the MSU Libraries experience. These items are not officially supported by the MSU Libraries, but we still welcome feedback and suggestions or an idea for a new tool.

<http://blogpublic.lib.msu.edu/index.php?blog=35>

Goals / Assessment:

NA

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Libraries implement WolfBlogs and WolfWikis.

The Libraries implemented WolfBlogs and WolfWikis to support the personal and curricular activities of the NC State community. Specifically, WolfBlogs and WolfWikis are services provided by the NCSU Libraries to support the academic and scholarly communication activities of current faculty, students, and staff of North Carolina State University. Content includes a comprehensive gathering of campus policies, regulations, governance, and rules organized into 11 categories. (From the Website) "NC State is committed to providing information related to its administration and operations in a manner that is clear, concise, organized, accessible, and current. To that end, NC State has a cataloging system for the identification and classification of its policies, regulations, and rules. This system provides ease of use to students, faculty, and staff, as well as others such as potential students and employees." This website serves as the central location for NC State's policies, regulations, and rules. As of February 2008, WolfWikis had 2350 users; 981 pages; 1807 uploads; 1265834 views.

Goals:

See above

Assessment:

NA

OHIO UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Business Wiki provides content-rich portal; Meebo link to librarian.

The Biz Wiki is a collection of business information resources available through Ohio University Libraries. It is designed to assist business OU faculty and students in finding the best resources for their business-related projects or topics. The Biz Wiki contains articles about business reference books, databases, websites, and other research guides. Nearly all of the resources are available to current members of the Ohio University community, as many of the resources are subscription databases or local reference resources. The business librarian also has a meebo widget embedded on the Biz Wiki homepage and his other contact information. The primary target audiences for the Biz Wiki are the faculty and students of Ohio University's School of Business. In actuality, it's also heavily used by librarians at OU and across the country. As of 3/24/08, the homepage of the Biz Wiki had been accessed 100,717 times.

http://www.library.ohiou.edu/subjects/bizwiki/index.php/Main_Page

Goals / Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN LIBRARIES

Wiki aids composition course instructors and students.

RHE Wiki. Created a wiki for RHE 306/309 courses, which are lower division composition courses. This wiki includes guides created for the program, handouts from library instruction sessions and links to RHE 306/309 librarians and to virtual reference services. All RHE instructors have the password for this wiki and are free to add resources/guides/research tips and comment on existing resources. We just rolled this out last semester and no RHE instructors have yet commented but we are hoping to get buy-in from the new instructors for next fall by talking to them about how their input would benefit their students during the pedagogy class required of new instructors.

<http://wiki.lib.utexas.edu/rhe/>

Goals / Assessment:

See above

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES

Blog for clinical support and quick solutions to patient care questions. (Health Sciences Libraries)

Moveable Type, open source blog software chosen by the Health Sciences Libraries at the University of Washington, has provided the perfect forum to support patient care decisions and resident teaching by the University of Washington Medicine Residents. Resident Report occurs 4 times weekly and is attended by residents, faculty members, medical students and a clinical librarian to discuss patients who have been admitted the previous night to University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC), a 400 bed tertiary care hospital in Seattle, Washington. Sherry Dodson, Clinical Librarian, listens for patient care questions at Resident Report, quickly searches PubMed, and posts relevant citations to the blog to answer those questions. Often within minutes of posing the questions, residents can find citations to support their patient care decisions. The blog is easily searchable and the 500+ blog entries are arranged by categories such as infectious diseases, pulmonary diseases, etc. and archived by date. The Movable Type Personal Publishing software is easy to use and provides a sharing point or living searchable archive accessible to the residents at all of their rotations or in their clinics. Although the UW Health Sciences Libraries provide a huge network of electronic resources on the UW HealthLinks web site, a clinical librarian can provide a highly valued service by pinpointing the most recent, evidence-based articles to support patient care. An additional blog supports case presentations by the Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine department's fellows at their weekly Chest Conference. Nurses on one of UWMC's inpatient units are also considering the use of a new blog to support their upcoming journal club.

Goals:

See above

Assessment:

NA
