RESEARCH LIBRARY VIRTUAL RESOURCES & INSTRUCTIONAL INITIATIVES

SUBTOPIC: PORTALS

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.

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BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Camtasia videos feed instruction to distance learning students.

Short instructional videos produced using Camtasia software have been utilized to provide instruction to distance learning students. The content covers how to find books in the OPAC, how to search for articles in databases, how to find articles from citations, how to narrow results and evaluate articles found, how to order materials from Interlibrary loan and how to get help from the library. These videos, along with the online Library Research Skills tutorial, are incorporated into a Library Services Portal within distance education courses. A science librarian has also created Camtasia tutorials for Biology 100 students to support their research assignment. Currently there are two – How to tell if a journal is peer reviewed and how to do a basic search in Medline. The videos will be placed on her Research Guide.
http://www.lib.byu.edu/coned/video.html (Distance Ed videos)

Goals / Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY

Lens search engine advances relevancy and cross-database searching.

Lens is a new search engine that allows researchers to discover connections and find resources on a topic. Lens uses relevancy ranking, and other cutting-edge technologies, to search library resources more efficiently and effectively. Lens includes all content found in our library catalog, archival and manuscript finding aids, deep links to online reference sources such as the Dictionary of National Biography, and more.
http://lens.lib.uchicago.edu/

Goals:

NA

Assessment:

NA

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Digital Repository

In an effort to better preserve and promote the intellectual output of the students and faculty of Colorado State University, the CSU Libraries have invested in a Digital Repository. Benefits of having a local institutional repository include:

- Increased visibility of and access to research, scholarship, and artistic endeavors, including unpublished "gray literature".
- Increased citation of research.
- Opportunity to control copyright (in certain cases).
- Provide permanent, stable URLs for and long-term preservation of digital research.

ExLibris' Digitool product was selected as the platform for this initiative. The Libraries will maintain files and make them accessible from one central place with persistent URLs that will not break, move, or change. Faculty members can limit who can see various aspects of his/her work for a given time, as necessary. A variety of file formats can be uploaded. The Digital Repository will be an excellent promotional tool featuring the research performed at Colorado State University. This could assist in recruiting highly qualified students. It can also serve as an excellent administrative tool to compile promotion and tenure reports and departmental reviews for accreditation. Generating and disseminating new knowledge through scholarly and creative works will have an impact around the world.

Goals:

See above

Assessment:

NA

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Audience-driven Web pages provide customized entry points for users.

During the process of redesigning the Libraries' web site, and influenced by comments derived during usability testing, audience driven web pages were designed as an entry point for the variety of users of the Libraries' web site. By bringing together resources (databases, research guides, catalogs, etc.) and services (logins, Interlibrary Loan, instruction sources, etc.) targeted to certain populations, these pages function as a "one-stop shopping" point. The primary objective of this project was to reduce the amount of information overload users experience when presented with an overwhelming array of options on the

Libraries web site. Pages were designed for: Undergraduate Students, Graduate Students, Faculty and Staff, Future Students, Distance Users, Community Users, Visitors, Alumni and Friends, Users with Disabilities, Libraries Staff. These pages are featured in targeted e-mails to patrons, during instruction sessions, and on the home page of the Libraries' web site.
http://lib.colostate.edu/users/

Goals:

See above

Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT LIBRARIES

Centralized site serves up assistance, training, workshops, tours, infolit instruction.

We have developed an instruction gateway to provide a centralized location for resources to promote information literacy skill development. This gateway includes a listing of core information literacy competencies across the undergraduate curriculum, links to workshops, and online learning objects all of which are designed to promote information literacy skill development.
http://www.lib.uconn.edu/using/tutorials/

Goals / Assessment:

NA

CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Library and IT deeply integrate resources into Blackboard.

Cornell University Library and Cornell Information Technologies have completed two phases of integrating Library resources and services into Blackboard. In phase I we added links to the Library Gateway and the Ask a Librarian service to the main menu of all new Blackboard courses. We installed the RefWorks building block. This building block allows Bb users to link to specific RefWorks accounts and create new accounts from the Bb Tools menu. It also allows instructors to add links to existing RefWorks accounts in any of the Blackboard content areas. Documentation was created explaining the functionality of all the new additions. We conducted an extensive communication initiative to make students and faculty aware of the Blackboard and Library Resources & Services integration. Librarians and CIT staff

collaborated on teaching the "Blackboard Getting Started" workshops for instructors. We also began work on a plan for gathering metrics to measure the use of these resources and services in Bb. Phase II involved the use of Bb for managing all Library reserves. Faculty can make Library reserve staff course builders so they can add reserve material to an existing Bb course. If the instructor is not using Bb the Library will create a Bb course and add the reserve material to it for the instructor. We are now beginning to brainstorm ideas for phase III.

Goals / Assessment:

See above

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA LIBRARIES

Election portal created for campus.

Our Election 2008 Resource Page facilitates research on the candidates' positions, polling data and discussion in the blogosphere.
http://www.libs.uga.edu/ref/election08/

Goals / Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA LIBRARIES

Library partners in curation and content creation for Georgia materials.

The Digital Library of Georgia is a gateway to Georgia's history and culture found in digitized books, manuscripts, photographs, government documents, newspapers, maps, audio, video, and other resources. The Digital Library of Georgia connects users to 500,000 digital objects in 105 collections from 60 institutions and 100 government agencies. Though this represents only a fraction of Georgia's cultural treasures, the Digital Library of Georgia continues to grow through its partnerships with libraries, archives, museums, government agencies, and allied organizations across the state.
http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/?Welcome

Goals / Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA LIBRARIES

Library participates in digital encyclopedia of Georgia.

The New Georgia Encyclopedia is an authoritative source on the people, places, events, and institutions of Georgia. The site contains nearly 2,000 articles and more than 5,000 images and audio and video clips on the history, culture, and life of the state.
http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Home.jsp

Goals / Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN LIBRARY

Library portal consolidates infolit / instructional materials.

We have created the "Learn to Use the Library" site to provide a portal to instructional resources, tutorials and other learning objects (http://www.library.uiuc.edu/learn/). We have licensed the LibGuides software (http://uiuc.libguides.com/) to provide a new authoring environment for instructional materials that is easy to use and allows integration of Web 2.0 features in order to better meet user expectations for instructional materials.

Goals / Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN LIBRARY

Library curates and creates content for Illinois materials, served via portal.

The Illinois Harvest Web Portal provides search & discovery service across and access to publicly available digital resources about or related to Illinois, with an emphasis on digitized resources derived from the diverse collections of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Portal also provides access to digital resources about Illinois and by Illinois scholars from collections and institutions around the state and region. Among the collections encompassed by the Portal are: digitized photos of and texts about Abraham Lincoln, copies of Illinois constitutions, World War I and II documents and images, historical Illinois maps and aerial photographs, documents about Illinois during the Civil War, the Bloomington-Normal Black History Project documents, and historic architectural drawings and renderings about the "built environment" of the

University of Illinois. The Illinois Harvest Portal provides faculty, students, and the wider public a window into the wealth of digital scholarship, information, and cultural assets produced or curated by libraries, museums, government agencies, and academic institutions. Currently the Illinois Harvest Portal indexes content from 82 collections.
http://illinoisharvest.grainger.uiuc.edu/

Goals:

See above

Assessment:

NA

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Library tab in University Portal serves undergraduates. (Sheridan Library)

The library link from the University Portal includes RefWorks integration, Library account integration, electronic reserves integration, and a list of helpful links. The portal itself currently is targeted to undergraduate students. University IT is working with content providers to expand for other segments of the community. On the library tab we provide links to specific info for undergrads, grads, and faculty as well as the more general services described above.

Goals / Assessment:

NA

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Library participates in and contributes to state digital resource.

The LOUISiana Digital Library (LDL) is an online library containing photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, oral histories, and more that document Louisiana's history and culture. Libraries, museums, archives, historical groups, and other institutions across the State contribute materials to the LDL. This state-wide digital library is used by anyone with access to the internet and an interest in the materials. The LSU Libraries is one of 19 participating libraries.
http://louisdl.louislibraries.org/

Goals / Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE LIBRARIES

Site portrays comprehensive infolit program.

U of L's information literacy program is a key component of the libraries' contribution to critical thinking instruction at the University. Please look at the following url for more information.
http://library.louisville.edu/infoliteracy/

Goals:

- Students are learning how to become more immersed in their disciplines.
- Students are learning how to view information in an evaluative manner.
- Students are developing critical thinking skills.

Assessment:

We just starting this new program and will assess it soon.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND LIBRARIES

Refworks and Assignment Calculator provide productivity tools to campus.

The Libraries have released a number of productivity tools to campus users. The Assignment Calculator (based on work done at the University of Minnesota) was introduced to help users manage their research. Refworks is a Web-based bibliographic management tool that allows users to build their own online personal database, manage their references, and generate in-text citations and bibliographies in various citation styles.
http://www.lib.umd.edu/UES/freecalc/
http://www.lib.umd.edu/PUBSERV/refworks/index.html

Goals / Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND LIBRARIES

Digital collections repository based on Fedora.

The Office of Digital Collections and Research (DCR) of the University of Maryland Libraries supports the teaching and research mission of the university by facilitating access to digital collections, information, and knowledge. This is accomplished through enhancing access to selected library resources through the development, maintenance, and preservation of digital collections; by serving as

a knowledge resource within the university for digital library issues and development; by participating in national and international initiatives which further the development of new forms of scholarly communication, tools, standards, and applications; and by providing training and support in digital library standards and formats. The UM Libraries' Office of Digital Collections and Research began digitizing and building a digital repository based on the Fedora platform in January 2005. Best practice guidelines for creating digital collections have been created. The University of Maryland Libraries, like many academic libraries, include not only the familiar books and journals of the general collections, but many rare and unique materials. The digital collections available here are a part of the University of Maryland Libraries' efforts to make many of our holdings more ubiquitously available in digital form.
http://www.lib.umd.edu/digital/about.jsp

Goals:

See above

Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY

Library Sakai project enriches course experiences; collaboration with academic faculty.

The Sakaibrary Project Sakai is a free and open source online collaboration and learning environment. CTools, Michigan's local branded installation of Sakai, is tailored to support teaching and learning, ad hoc group collaboration, and support for portfolios and research collaboration. The Sakaibrary project is a collaboration between the University of Michigan and Indiana University, initially funded by the Mellon Foundation, to develop open source software tools to integrate access to library licensed digital content within the Sakai collaboration and learning environment. Students and faculty can thus utilize these resources easily within the context of a course. Specific developments that place access to librarians, library resources, and library services directly within CTools include:
- A librarian role that allows faculty to make a librarian an active member of the course site, with the ability to participate in online discussions and to add resources to the site;
- An AskUs button that faculty can add to a course site to give students one-click reference help;
- A citation linker, which allows faculty to add titles directly to a course site;
- And automatic addition of course reserve lists to a course site.

http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/projects/sakai/

Goals:

See above

Assessment:

NA

OHIO UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Customized toolbar for engineering resources.

The engineering toolbar is a Mozilla Firefox-specific application that has been developed by OU's Engineering Librarian, Michael Wilson, to make it possible for OU faculty, students and staff to access Alden Library engineering resources without going to the Library's website. (An Internet Explorer toolbar is under development.) The toolbar has two pull-down menus. The first connects to useful library pages such as "My Account", "Document Delivery and Interlibrary Loan" and the InfoTree resource page for Engineering. The second pull down menu is for databases. There is a chat feature which allows patrons to contact the Engineering Librarian (no chat client is required). There is also a search feature which allows them to search many subject specific databases (Compendex, Inspec, Science Citation Index, etc.). We're piloting the toolbar concept with the Engineering resources. In the future, we may develop a toolbar for general resources and additional subject oriented toolbars.
http://www.library.ohiou.edu/toolbars/engineering.html

Goals / Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY

PennTags provide smart organization of resources.

PennTags is a social bookmarking tool for locating, organizing, and sharing online resources. Members of the Penn community can collect and maintain links to pages on the open web, journal articles, records in Franklin, our online catalog and VCat, our online video catalog. Once these resources are compiled, patrons can organize them by assigning tags (free-text keywords) and/or by grouping them into synthetic groups called projects.
http://tags.library.upenn.edu/help/

Goals / Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

"How Do I" Project (Health Sciences)

Our "How Do I" project aims to provide short, targeted content in a consistent, predictable, branded web interface. Topics are suggested mainly by library staff, but also by patrons and other library collaborators. An extensive range of topics is covered, with content a mix of textual description and illustrative images. http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/library/wdc-lib/services/howdoi/

Goal:

- Provide short, targeted content in a consistent, predictable interface.

Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA LIBRARY

Refreshed medical student portal. (Claude Moore Health Sciences Library)

Significantly updated our portal for Medical Students to be more relevant, timely, and useful. http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/library/wdc-lib/portal/somedicine/

Goals / Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES

WorldCat Local integrates access to resources into single interface; impacts consortial sharing.

WorldCat Local WorldCat Local (WCL), a new service offering from OCLC. WCL provides seamless access to local, consortial, and worldwide holdings; over 30 million article citations; and integrates three delivery streams — all through one interface. The service interoperates with local circulation, resource sharing and resolution to full text services to create a seamless experience for the end user. Throughout the development, our goal was to eliminate "dead ends" within and between our myriad discovery and delivery systems. The greatest impact of WCL has undoubtedly been in resource sharing. Before the

implementation of WCL, we estimated that approximately half of our users hit a "dead end" when a local catalog search produced no usable results. From that point, few users found/searched our consortial catalog and even fewer were able to find and request materials via our interlibrary loan service. Since last April, consortial borrowing by UW users is up on average 65% from the year before and Interlibrary Loan requests are double what they were before WCL. In short, users are finally able to discover and access a much larger range of materials than ever before. The system has been improved through user feedback. In conjunction with staff from OCLC, the University of Washington has conducted two rounds of usability testing and is looking forward to learning more from the testing planned at the University of California system. Additionally, user feedback from surveys, email comments/questions, and usage statistics have been used to inform design decisions.

Goals / Assessment:

NA

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS LIBRARIES

Gateway to digital collections, processes, and standards.

The Washington University Digital Gateway serves two primary purposes:
- Serves as a single point of entry for discovery of all digital collections available at Washington University, especially locally-created digital resources.
- Provides a similar single point of entry for anyone in the Washington University community interested in developing digital projects.

This web site is maintained by Digital Library Services (DLS), a unit of the Washington University Libraries created in 2006 to serve the entire Washington University community in these capacities, in collaboration with key units from within the Library and across the University, including the Digital Library Team (DLT), The Digital Implementation Group (DIG), Arts & Sciences Computing and the Humanities Digital Workshop.
http://digital.wustl.edu/

Goals:

See above

Assessment:

NA

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO LIBRARIES

Next Generation Website implementation.

Western Libraries is in the process of reconstructing our complete web presence making the entire website an integral research and discovery tool for the Western community. (The new catalog interface launches in January 2009: http://www.lib.uwo.ca/)

Goals / Assessment:

NA

YORK UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Library resources in course management system; student portal under development.

We have developed a library module for inclusion in the Moodle course management system for courses. This is adaptable for each course. We are also developing a library "portal-ette" within the overall student portal that is being developed by the University.

Goals / Assessment:

NA