



ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

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Session: What's Hot and What's Not: Trends in Technologies and Services in Libraries

May 4, 2008 11:00 am-12:30 pm

Moderator: Joan Stahl, University of Maryland, College Park

Speakers: Amanda Gluibizzi, Ohio State University
Adina Lerner, Santa Monica Public Library
Megan Macken, University of Chicago

Recorder: Paul Glassman, Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY

With the world of information and information-sharing in constant flux, how do librarians keep abreast of trends in library resources, technologies, and services? And, are the trends in academic libraries, equally meaningful for museum and public libraries? Session panel members--all ARLIS NA trendsetters--will highlight what's "in" and what's "out," with an eye on resource-sharing, software, and Web 2.0 tools. They will describe initiatives with which they are involved and discuss how they relate to art libraries, more generally.

Moderator: **Joan Stahl**, Branch Manager, Art + Architecture Libraries, University of Maryland

Ms. Stahl introduced the session by referring to the need to integrate traditional and new techniques within the changing library landscape. After recommending the seven virtual poster sessions that augmented the session (<http://arlisnamw.wordpress.com/virtual-poster-sessions/whats-hot-whats-not-trends-in-technologies-and-services-in-libraries/>), she thanked all who contributed.

Speakers:

Amanda Gluibizzi, Assistant Professor, Subject Specialist for History of Art, Fine Arts, and Art Education, The Fine Arts Library, The Ohio State University
Art-on-Campus: Mash-up at OSU

Professor Gluibizzi began with examples of "what's not." These include text-heavy PowerPoint presentations and Web pages. She referred to Edward R. Tufte's critique, *The Cognitive Style of PowerPoint* (Cheshire, Conn.: Graphics Press, 2003), as well as to The Ohio State University's library home page, which is under

revision. Endorsing the university's federated search function, she indicated the faulty design of its search screen. These provided the motivation for creating a library fan site with the user in mind, in particular the visual learner. Among the design traps to avoid are

- Long lists of options without navigation.
- Not keeping vital information "above the fold" on Web pages.
- Including a logotype that could navigate to the home page but does not. (Follow the example of e-commerce and know the difference between telling and selling.)
- Using a busy background.
- Overusing animation, which is distracting.
- Using a font that mimics a historical period or script.

Web 2.0 capabilities can be exciting to use, no longer limiting the user to linear modes of discovery. A demonstration of a satellite view of the campus that highlights its art collection followed. It promotes the collection and includes illustrations of the work, as well as links to the OPAC

(<http://library.osu.edu/sites/finearts/map/#>). In the future, links to video content will be added. The talk ended with a reference to Bruce Sterling (*Shaping Things* [Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2005]), who predicts that Web 2.0 enhancements will soon be superseded.

Adina Lerner, Reference Services Librarian, Santa Monica Public Library
New Frontier: Web-Based Software and Free Digital Storage

Ms. Lerner referred to "cloud computing," the availability of free software on the Web, which pays for itself through advertising. There are two tiers of service: software as a service (SaaS) and multiple uses for computer power, which provide software as Web service applications, such as Google Books (<http://books.google.com>), Flickr (www.flickr.com), iTunes (www.apple.com/itunes), Internet Archive (<http://www.archive.org/index.php>), and YouTube (www.youtube.com). We can become cyber-nomads, if only through Web-based electronic mail. For word processing, she referred to Google Docs (<http://docs.google.com>), Zoho (www.zoho.com), and StarOffice through Google Pack (<http://pack.google.com>). For image editing she suggested Foto Flexer (www.fotoflexer.com), Picnik (www.picnik.com), Shutterfly (www.shutterfly.com), Kodak Gallery (www.kodakgallery.com), and Adobe Photoshop Express (www.photoshop.com/express). A tutorial she developed for these resources is available at www.tinyurl.com/4wg431. Among those recommended for storage are Windows Live SkyDrive (<http://skydrive.live.com>) and FlipDrive (www.flipdrive.com). Recommending caution, Ms. Lerner advised reading service agreements, looking for opt-in and opt-out features, and creating separate e-mail addresses. All of the resources presented are accessible at www.tinyurl.com/5jcvfu.

Megan Macken, Assistant Director, Visual Resources Collection, Department of Art History, University of Chicago
Next Generation OPACs: Current Practices & Future Opportunities for Art Libraries

Ms. Macken began with an exemplary model of library as place: David Adjaye's Idea Store in Whitechapel, London. But a virtual presence is increasingly important, as Marshall Breeding, Director for Innovative Technologies and Research, Vanderbilt University, stresses. Therefore, consider a professional graphic designer for Web sites. The University of Chicago Library OPAC includes Lens (<http://lens.lib.uchicago.edu/>), a federated search engine (viz. <http://arlisnamw.wordpress.com/virtual-poster-sessions/whats-hot-whats-not-trends-in-technologies-and-services-in-libraries/next-generation-opacs-current-practices-future-opportunities-for-art-libraries/>). Lens features one search box and classifies the results of keyword searches by subject. Images are not often included in the OPAC, however, since artists hesitate to award the rights. Common end-user problems result from limitations in the current integrated library system: its unforgiving response to user error and the siloing of information. The benefits, however, are considerable: when the system streamlines searching for students, more time can be devoted to information literacy instruction. In the visual resources arena, API (application program interface) opens content from various slides in one catalog. Eric Lease Morgan, Head of the Digital Access and Information Architecture Department, University Libraries of Notre Dame, discusses automated metadata that can supplement the online catalog. The talk concluded with suggestions for including images in the next generation of the online catalog:

- Talk to others.
- Conduct usability studies.
- Adopt federated search engines for images.

Questions

For Ms. Lerner--How would you introduce cloud computing in the context of a bureaucratized academic institution? It can be introduced on an informal basis.

For Ms. Lerner--It appears that, with cloud computing, there is a balance between convenience and longevity. How do you ensure longevity? Longevity is not a benefit of cloud computing.

For Professor Gluibizzi--Can students add to your map of art on The Ohio State University campus? Since the OSU Web site is proprietary, additions must be moderated. There is interactivity on the blog, however.