The Academic Library Meets Web 2.0: Applications & Implications

Chen (Shirley) Xu
Visiting Ph.D. Student
Palmer School of Library & Information Science
Long Island University
720 Northern Blvd
Brookville, NY 11548
xuchenshirley@yahoo.com.cn
Academic Libraries in NYS

- 82 academic libraries
  - 53 Academic Libraries in New York State
    - http://www.librarysites.info/states/ny.htm
  - 16 Academic libraries on Long Island
- Additional SUNY and CUNY campuses
- Duplicates are removed
- Focus on the main campus if multiple locations exist
Implementation of Web 2.0 Tools

- No: 48, 59%
- Yes: 34, 41%
Specific Web 2.0 Applications

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Instant Messenger
- Ask/Chat with a librarian online
  - e.g. Albert Einstein College of Medicine
    - QuestionPoint, ...
- Common API (Application Programming Interface)
  - e.g. Dowling College Brookhaven Campus
    - Yahoo, AOL, MSN, Google Talk, ...

Social Networks (SNS)
- Social networks have more to offer
- IM may eventually become one component of SNS.

Observations
- The integration of IM and SNS appears to be the trend in Academic Library 2.0.
Social Networks (SNS)

- Sample social networks
  - FaceBook
  - MySpace

- Examples
  - Canisius College
  - New York Institute of Technology
  - Polytech University
  - Rochester Institute of Technology

🌟 Observations
- Mainly used by librarians
- Limited topics
- Often appeared with IM
Blogs

- **Examples**
  - Blogs only
    - *Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Alfred University*
  - With RSS
    - *Fiorello H. LaGuardia Community College (CUNY)*
  - With two or more other functions (e.g., tagging, RSS)
    - *New York University, Polytech University*

- **Observations**
  - Mainly used as a news bulletin
  - Often one blog per library
  - Very few contributors
Examples
- Cornell University
- New York University,
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- Stony Brook University
- Syracuse University

Observations
- Some are used in conjunction with blogs or other Web 2.0 applications
- Some are used as a major tool for the entire library website
Social Bookmarking

- Sample applications
  - Tagging, tag cloud, folksonomy, …

- Examples
  - New York University
  - Polytech University
  - SUNY at Buffalo

★ Observations
- Not widely implemented
- Linked to some well-known social bookmarking sites such as del.icio.us
- Mainly used for organizing or searching bookmarks
 Wikis

**Features**
- Collective intelligence, collaborative contribution

**Examples**
- Stony Brook University
- SUNY at Albany
- SUNY at Fredonia
- Syracuse University

**Observations**
- Stony Brook University and SUNY at Albany have a self-built platform while others use a free API.
- Only Stony Brook University combines Wikis with other web 2.0 applications (e.g., SNS, Blogs).
Podcast

- Dowling College Brookhaven Campus
  - Sound only
  - Function as radio broadcast
- Hunter College (CUNY)
  - Fixed categories and files
  - Download files and play offline

🌟 Observations
- Mainly used for providing tutorials
- No end-user involvement
- Fixed programs

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Additional General Observations

- **Participation**
  - Librarians only
  - Few student or faculty participants

- **Implementation**
  - Little further development of existing Web 2.0 tools
  - Few linked to other Web 2.0 environments beyond the academic library
  - Few implementation of Web 2.0 tools in academic libraries
Academic Library 2.0

What’s next?

Concept model of A-lib 2.0

Library 2.0

Web 2.0

Michael Habib

Michael E. Casey, Paul Miller

Tim O’ Reilly
A-Library 2.0: Five Elements

Web 2.0 in A-Lib

- Open
- Interactive
- Convergent
- Collaborative
- Participatory
A-Library 2.0: Four Features

- User originated
- Socially rich
- Multimedia enabled
- Communally innovative
A-Library 2.0: Some Trends

- Text-based tutorials → Stream media
- Encyclopedia → Wikipedia
- Taxonomy → Folksonomy
- Reference → IM, blogs & wikis
- Cataloging → Tagging
- Lists → Social networks
Mostly conceptual discussions while few Web 2.0 tools are actual implemented.

Out of those implementations, no distinctive characteristics of academic libraries are displayed.

Habib’s model does not focus exclusively on the relationship between students and libraries in the Web 2.0 environment.
A-Library 2.0: A Framework

Librarian 2.0
User 2.0
Information 2.0

Academic Library 2.0
Librarian 2.0

- Qualifications
  - Creative
  - User-oriented
  - Active participation

- Role
  - Function as the main knowledge node
    - Contributor (not just disseminating knowledge but also providing services)
    - Organizer, facilitator, and coordinator
  - Function as the link between the library and user
    - Collect feedback
    - Adopt and Implement appropriate user input
User 2.0

- Students
  - Rapid adoption of Web 2.0 applications
  - Participation and contribution in A-Library 2.0
  - E-campus life in association with the A-Library 2.0 environment

- Faculty members
  - Use the A-Library 2.0 platform for teaching
  - Rely on the A-Library 2.0 for research
Information 2.0

- Information 1.0
  - Linear
  - Organized and provided by librarians
  - One-way information flow: from librarians to users
  - Huge time lag

- Information 2.0
  - Nonlinear
  - Organized and contributed by both librarians and users
  - N-way information flow among librarians and users
  - Negligible time lag
The A-Library 2.0 Model

Information 2.0
- Open
- Convergent
- N-way information flow
  - Timely
  - Nonlinear

Web 2.0
- Role
- Qualifications
- Collaborative
- Interactive
- Students
- Faculty
- User 2.0

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Concluding Remarks

- More Web 2.0 applications will get adopted and implemented in academic libraries.
- Efforts should be made to encourage more librarians as well as users to participate in the A-Library 2.0 movement.
- When the academic library meets Web 2.0, Academic Library 2.0 will emerge.
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