The Academic Library Meets Web 2.0: Applications & Implications

A-Lib2.0

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

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Academic Libraries in NYS

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

Implementation of Web 2.0 Tools
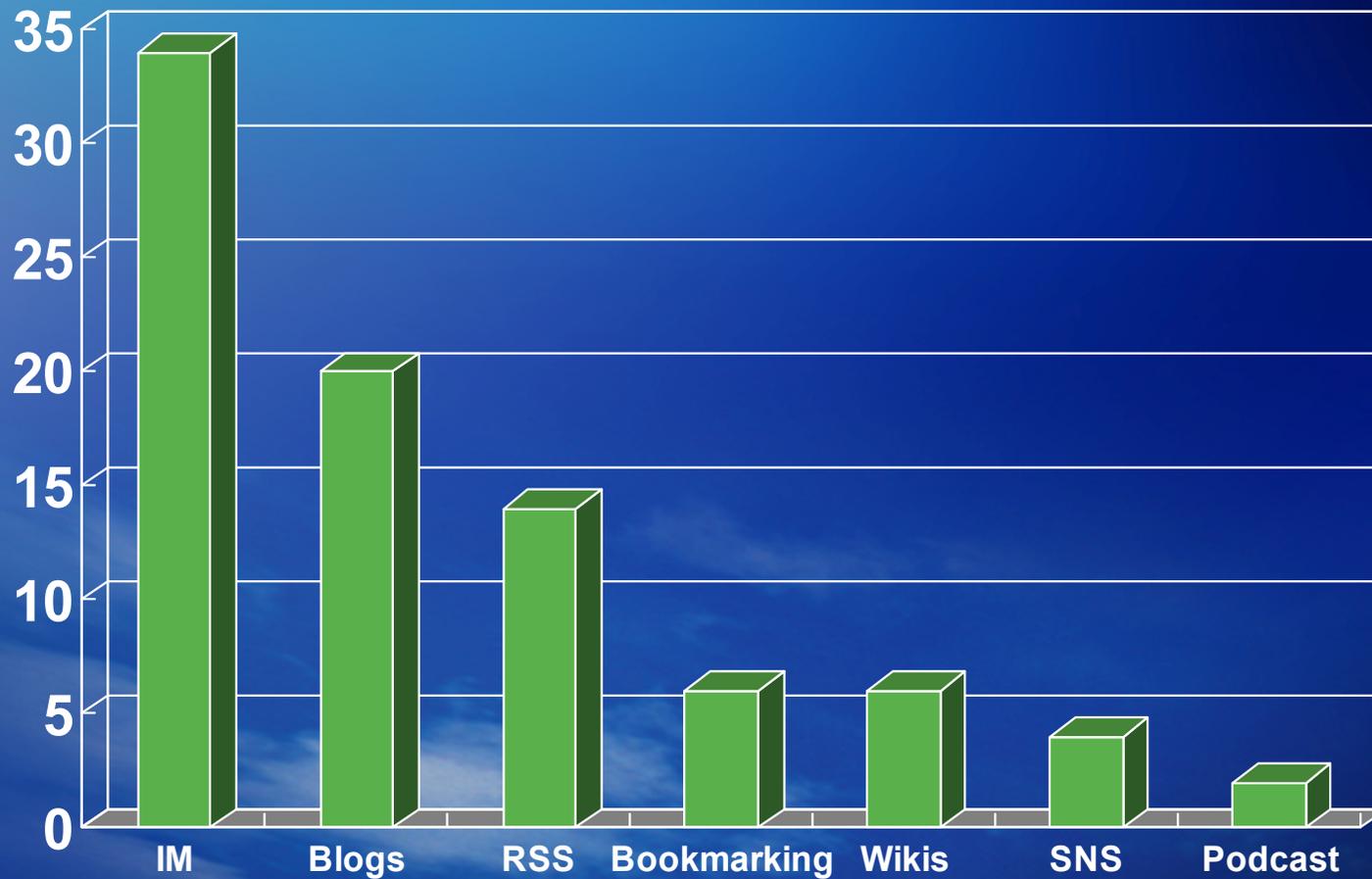
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34, 41%

Yes

No

48, 59%

Specific Web 2.0 Applications

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IM-SNS

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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)

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- 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

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- 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

RSS

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

Additional General Observations

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- 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
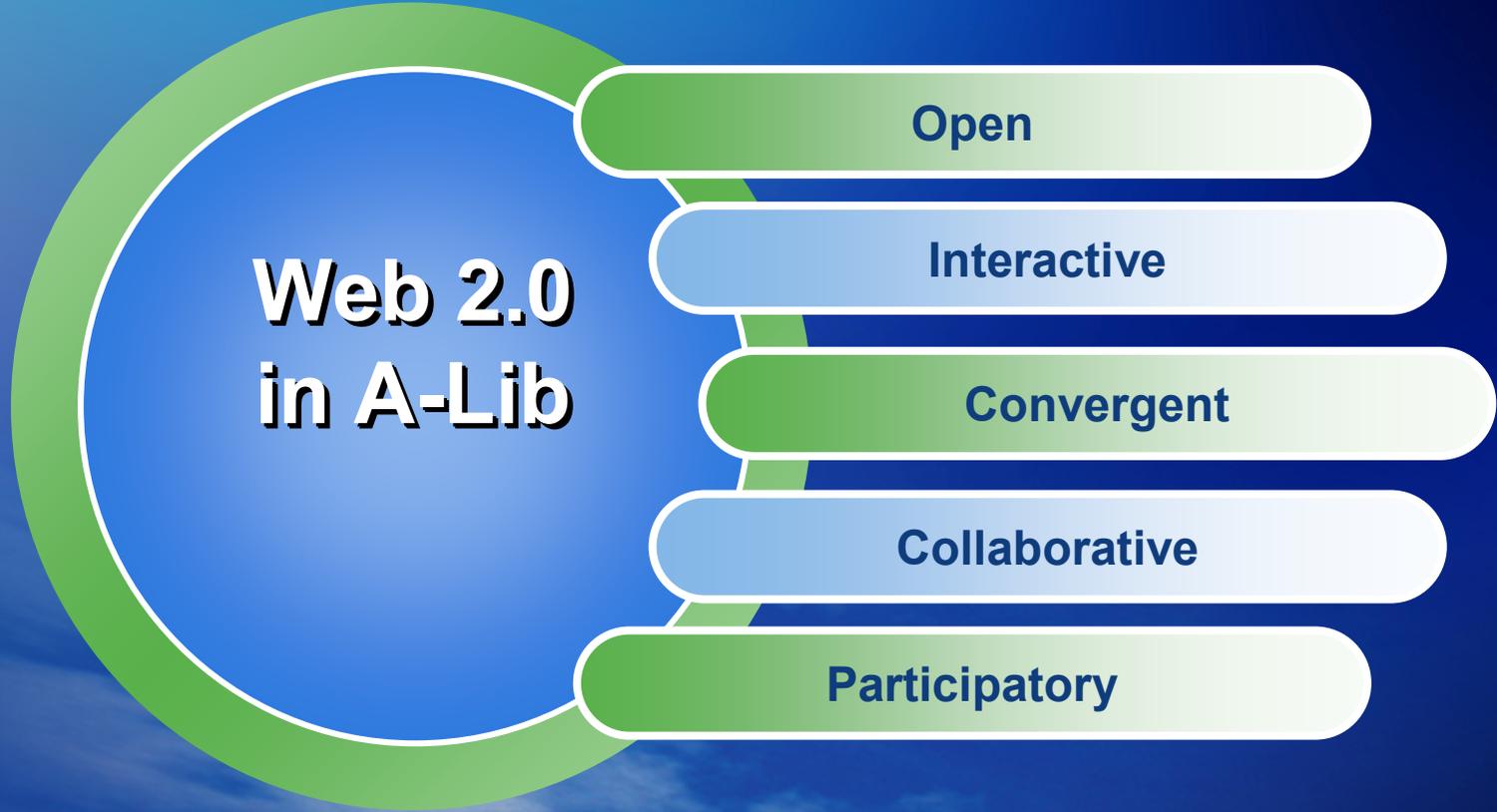 - Few implementation of Web 2.0 tools in academic libraries

Academic Library 2.0

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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

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Web 2.0 in A-Lib

- Open
- Interactive
- Convergent
- Collaborative
- Participatory

A-Library 2.0: Four Features

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User originated

Socially rich

Multimedia enabled

Communally innovative

A-Library 2.0: Some Trends

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- Text-based tutorials ➡ Stream media

- Encyclopedia ➡ Wikipedia

- Taxonomy ➡ Folksonomy

- Reference ➡ IM, blogs & wikis

- Cataloging ➡ Tagging

- Lists ➡ Social networks

A-Library 2.0: *Status Quo*

- 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

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Librarian 2.0

User 2.0

Information 2.0

Academic Library 2.0

Librarian 2.0

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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
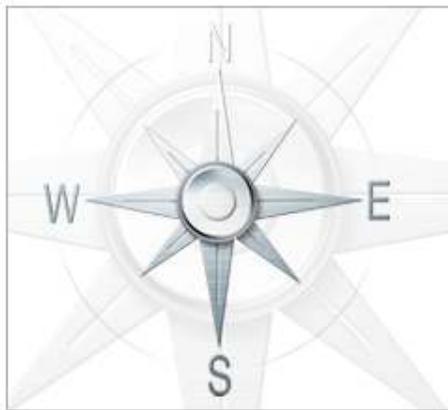 - Negligible time lag

The A-Library 2.0 Model

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Information 2.0

N-way information flow

Open

Timely

Participatory

Convergent

Nonlinear

Web 2.0

Role

Qualifications

Collaborative

Students

Faculty

User 2.0

Librarian 2.0

Interactive

Concluding Remarks

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- 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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