Library-user collaboration on bibliographical perspective

Modern library and information science is mostly focused on users, technology and information management. User perspective or cognitive approach has radically influenced organization of many library services. Digitally born users put new demands on library services, always being technologically one step forward the library. Facing new demands, libraries are reaching to respond, becoming “beta” libraries and offering services in constant flux.

Library catalogues and bibliographies remained for centuries immune on user perspective, especially regarding digitally-born user’s demands. Bibliographical perspective is concentrated exclusively on documents. User and bibliographical perspectives were like two opposite sides on single library paradigm shift. Library services in digital are fully embracing and integrating new digital technologies. Digital library services tent to be community platforms where library and users could meet to collaborate. Library-user collaborative platform is endorsed by community-driven catalog system, which support user’s tagging, rating or reviewing of library holdings.

Traditional library OPAC is fast disappearing with the SOPAC (Social Online Public Access Catalog) as its successor. A SOPAC can also be thought of as a social knowledge network. A social library improves a knowledge worker’s ability to find relevant and high-quality information faster, fosters collaboration, and increases productivity across an organization. Social libraries deliver everything traditional libraries deliver while at the same time enhancing the value of the library by incorporating how the community of users relates to and enhances the information. The SOPAC is founded on collaboration and knowledge creation, enhances the user experience, breaks down information silos, and improves productivity of the library’s knowledge assets.

Users 2.0:
- they are more fascinated by new technologies
- multitasking is a way of life
- staying connected is essential
- interactive, not isolation
- zero tolerance for delay
- actions are more important than knowledge
- learning by doing, not by being told
- trial-and-error approach to improvement is a viable model of learning
- cut-and-paste culture

What libraries have to do to be more social:
- ensure reasonable public access
- ensure library staff know how to search content
- Check library’s web presence
- use social software to collaborate and have conversation with other librarians about where libraries fit in this space

Social does not mean trivial

Social software:
- allows people to communicate, collaborate, and build community online
- can be syndicated, shared, reused, or remixed, or it facilitates syndication
- lets people learn easily from and capitalize on the behavior or knowledge of others
- includes: blogs, wikis, forums, Twitter, Second life, Google documents, Mashups,...