Latitudes
March 2009

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Technology in Libraries: Providing Access, Linking Communities

Posted on March 31st, 2009 by Heidi Sandstrom | Filed under Technology

This one day symposium, held at the Cerritos Public Library on Friday, March 6, was an overwhelming success, thanks to the efforts of Co-Chairs Cheryl Bartel and Jeff Williams and of all their diligent and hardworking committee members! The Symposium focused on the application of innovative technologies that build a sense of community, connecting users both within the library and the greater organization.

Co-Chair Cheryl Bartel with Presenters Committee Chair, Danielle Linden

Engaging, interactive presentations explored the role of libraries in connecting communities and investigated issues of accessibility to electronic resources and tools. **Michelle Kraft**, author of the well-known blog, "*The Krafty Librarian*," gave the keynote presentation, *The Evolving Library*. Her discussion of differences between two generations of library users, the Net Generation and the Net Learners, led to her exploration of strategies that work best to accommodate the needs of each of these user groups.

A chance to chat before the keynote speaker

Other invited speakers were **Patricia F. Anderson**, Emerging Technologies Librarian for the Health Science Libraries, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and author of "Emerging Technologies Librarian" a blog about current web technologies, tools, and trends; and **Tracey Hughes**, GIS Coordinator for the Social Sciences and Humanities Library, UC San Diego. Patricia's presentation, *Online Healthcare Communities in Social Media and Virtual Worlds*, gave listeners a snapshot of the work she does in this area and of the online health communities (especially the homebound and caregivers) for whom social media is a lifeline to relationships and resources. Tracey's presentation, *Geographic Information Systems and Their Application in Health & Medicine*, illustrated how GIS is being used in health and medicine, and highlighted the potential of spatial analysis to answer complex questions.

The contributed papers and posters were outstanding and met the symposium goal of increasing attendees' knowledge of how to incorporate low cost/high impact and easy-to-use technologies into the library experience, focusing on real-world examples and custom-tailored implementation that appeal to librarians and users in various library settings.

Co-Chair Jeff Williams engages attendees

Delicious food, ample break time, and the impressive Conference Center and Library in Cerritos supported learning and networking throughout the day. The day concluded with tours of the Library, which recently received a prestigious five-star rating in Library Journal's competitive evaluation, and technology "expeditions," guided by a host of competent "Sherpas" who were on hand in the Hi-Tech Lab.

Networking during session break

Symposium participants (more than 90!) included medical librarians, public librarians, corporate librarians, vendors, and library students from throughout the Pacific southwest. As part of the evaluation process they were asked to provide feedback during and immediately following the symposium. They will be given another opportunity to respond to a survey 3-6 months after the symposium, when they can evaluate the impact it has had in helping them to integrate technology solutions into their work. For those of you who missed the event, presentation materials from the Symposium will be posted at http://www.mlgsca.mlanet.org/events/symposium_2009.htm.

Funded by NN/LM PSR to enhance the use of technology at Network Member institutions, the symposium was developed and conducted by the Medical Library Group of Southern California and Arizona (MLGSCA) in cooperation with Hawaii Pacific Chapter, Medical Library Association (HPCMLA) and Northern California and Nevada Medical Library Group (NCNMLG).

Deborah Klein's remark to the co-chairs captures the effort and outcome of the Symposium: "…your vision for the day was very clear, and you made it a beautiful reality! This type of one-day symposium was a novel event for us, and since it turned out so well it can be a good model for future years."

Update on Emergency Preparedness and Response

Posted on March 31st, 2009 by Heidi Sandstrom | Filed under Emergency Preparedness Edit This

Since the beginning of the year, new resources have been developed, training has been conducted, and planning has taken place to enhance emergency preparedness and response in the region. These have resulted in new features for the Emergency Preparedness and Response Toolkit (http://nnlm.gov/ep/), a session conducted at the meeting of the Hawaii-Pacific Chapter of the Medical Library Association (HPCMLA), and planning for a summit for hospital librarians in April.

New Toolkit Features

- Online tutorial – Dan Wilson has created an online tutorial for the Toolkit, available from the new page called "Tutorials." It is a great overview and will keep you up to date on the various features and functionality of the Toolkit site, which is an emergency preparedness resource for libraries.
- Risk Assessment Maps and Charts – This new section is in the column on the right side of the Toolkit. Here you will find links to maps that Dan has used in his presentations about the NN/LM initiative. Check these out!
- Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) – this has been added to the page that formerly contained only the MOU agreement. The MAA is a "softer" version of the MOU and may facilitate partnering without raising legal issues, etc. for your library.

February HPCMLA Presentation

On February 20, Judy Consales and Julie Kwan conducted a session on NN/LM Emergency Preparedness and Response called, "Are You Ready?" It focused on personal preparedness, developing an action plan for the library, and taking advantage of existing resources and networks. Just thinking about the kinds of emergencies that can happen and what you might do can help you to see the "gaps" in your ability to respond and motivate you to take those first steps to prepare!

Upcoming Hospital Librarians Summit

On Tuesday, April 21 Dan Wilson, Coordinator, and Susan Yowell, Project Assistant, NN/LM National Emergency Preparedness Plan, are convening a day-long meeting for hospital librarians

and RML staff from each of the NN/LM regions. They will be joined by representatives from NLM's Disaster Information Management Research Center (DIMRC) and an invited speaker from the Joint Commission at the Library of the Health Sciences, University of Illinois, Chicago. Ellen Aaronson, a member of the EP&R Advisory Committee of NN/LM PSR and Cinda McClain, the Arizona liaison for our regional initiative, will be attending this meeting with Heidi Sandstrom.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an overview of this initiative, to discuss issues of importance to hospital librarians, and to brainstorm various strategies to enhance the emergency preparedness of hospital and other primary access libraries in the regions.

Let Us Hear From You!

Dan Wilson plans to add tutorials on other aspects of the emergency preparedness initiative to the Toolkit, so if you have suggestions/requests, contact him at dtw2t@eservices.virginia.edu.

We are in the process of identifying emergency preparedness and response liaisons for each of the states in the region, and of expanding our Advisory Committee. We are planning a regional meeting at the end of June in Los Angeles. If you are interested and/or have worked on initiatives in the area of emergency preparedness and response, please contact Heidi at heidits@library.ucla.edu and be a part of our regional efforts!

Finally, we would like to roll out additional training in the region in 2009. Please contact Kay Deeney at kdeeney@library.ucla.edu if you or your chapter is interested in hosting this in your area.

Be ready to respond!

E-Licensing Update

Posted on March 24th, 2009 by Julie Kwan | Filed under Document Delivery, Technology

The NN/LM PSR E-Licensing Program is continuing to grow! Join us for an informal meeting at MLA '09 and read about our activities at SCELC's Vendor Day and at the MLGSCA technology symposium, *Technology in Libraries: Providing Access, Linking Communities*.

Informal Meeting at MLA '09

We will host an informal meeting about e-licensing at MLA '09 for network members in the NN/LM Pacific Southwest Region. Rick Burke, Executive Director of SCELC, will be at this meeting to greet you and learn about your interests. We invite you to come and meet Rick, become acquainted, ask questions, and give suggestions. The meeting will take place on Monday, May 25, from 2 pm – 3 pm in the Honolulu Convention Center room 308B. You will

find this meeting listed in the Official Program and the Online Itinerary Builder as "NN/LM PSR E-Licensing Collaborative with SCELC". Do look for this and attend this meeting!

Exhibits Hall at MLA '09

In addition to attending the informal meeting, Rick will be visiting the vendors in the exhibit hall at MLA to explore consortial licensing for our members. If you see Rick in the exhibit hall, feel free to introduce yourself and let him know your interests. Rick will concentrate his efforts on the top 15 vendors identified by our E-Licensing Committee: American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, American

Medical Association, EBSCO, Elsevier, McGraw-Hill, Nature, New England Journal of Medicine, Ovid, Sage, Springer, Thomson Healthcare, Wiley-Blackwell, and Up-to-Date (now owned by Ovid) but will of course be looking for new vendors as well. The exhibits hall will be open during the Welcome Reception on Saturday, May 16. The exhibit hall will be open Sunday, May 17 (11am – 3:30pm); Monday, May 18 (9am – noon, 1:15pm – 3pm); and Tuesday, May 19 (8:30am – noon).

SCELC Vendor Day 2009

Several NN/LM PSR members attended SCELC's Vendor Day on March 9, 2009. This was the 12th year that SCELC has offered vendor day, and this year Vendor Day included additional health sciences vendors because of SCELC's collaboration with NN/LM PSR. Forty-four vendors provided forty-minute long presentations about new or updated products. Participating vendors of greatest interest to health sciences libraries included the American Psychological Association, Annual Reviews, Bowker, Ebrary, EBSCO Information Services, Elsevier, Emerald

Group, Harrassowitz, Nature Publishing Group, OCLC, Ovid, SAGE Publications, Serials Solutions, Springer, STAT!Ref, SWETS, Taylor and Francis and Wiley-Blackwell. This was a great opportunity to learn about new product features and to chat with vendors. A complete listing of vendors is included in the Vendor Day 2009 web page.

MLGSCA Technology Symposium 2009

One of the contributed papers at the MLGSCA technology symposium, held at Cerritos Public Library on March 6, 2009, was "Creating a new partnership for consortial licensing: the NN/LM PSR – SCELC experience". Presented by Julie Kwan, along with Rick Burke and James Wiser of SCELC, the presentation described how the consortium came about and the roles that the RML and SCELC both play in this partnership. Presentation slides are available at http://nnlm.gov/psr/ppt/SCELC_Creating_Consortium.ppt.

Easily Publish RSS News Feeds On Your Web Page with Grazr

Posted on March 16th, 2009 by Sharon Dennis | Filed under Technology

Have you wondered how you can dynamically publish an RSS news feed on your web page? Grazr is a free web service that lets you do this easily without any programming. After you've incorporated the Grazr code into your web page, the news feed will automatically update with any new headlines from that feed. Your web page will be refreshed with new content!

Step 1: Visit Grazr and Create an RSS Widget

The Grazr web page lets you create an "RSS Widget" that you can embed into your web page or blog. To get started, navigate to http://www.grazr.com/.

Step 2: Create a Widget

Click on the "Create Widget" tab at the top of the page.

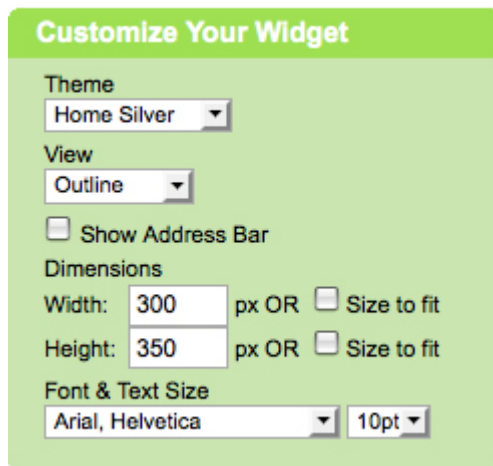Fill in the URL of the feed you want to publish under the "Enter a feed or outline URL" box:

Click the Update button.

You will then see a preview of your feed in the box in the middle of the page. This screenshot shows the latest NewsBits feed:
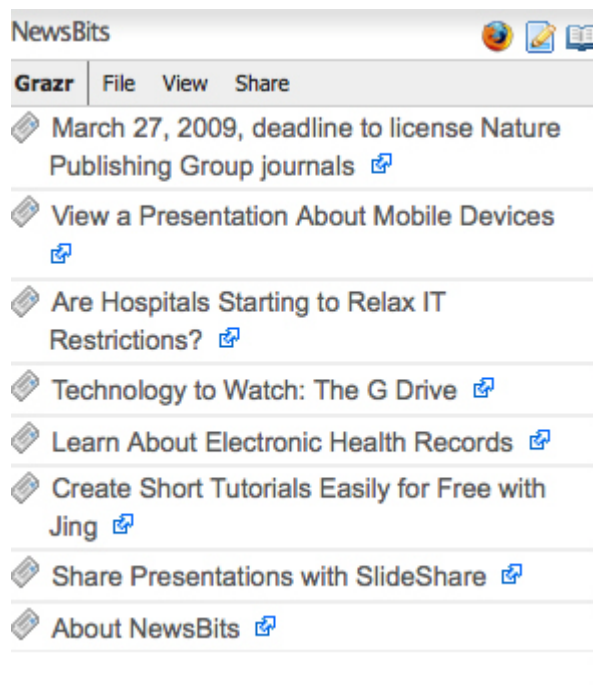
Step 3 (Optional): Customize Your Widget

If you wish, you can customize your widget's look and feel with the "Customize Your Widget" box (to see the expanded options below, click the "More Options" link at the bottom of the box).
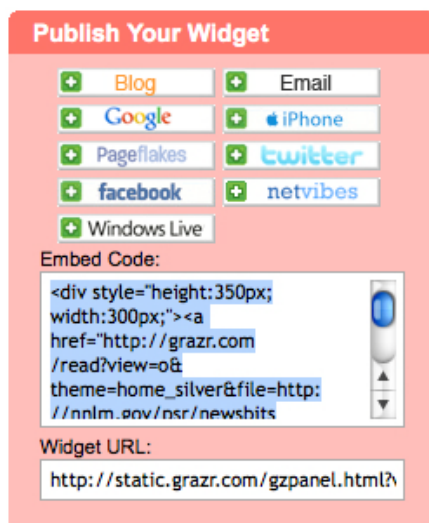
Step 4: Publish Your Widget

Grazr provides automatic publish buttons for some popular services (Google, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) To use those, you will need to establish a free Grazr account.

Most likely, however, you will want to embed the Grazr code in your own web page. To do this, copy the code listed under "Embed code":

Using your favorite web page editor, paste the code into your web page in an appropriate place. View the page in a browser, and you should see the updated RSS feed!

Latitudes
Newsletter for the NN/LM Pacific Southwest Region

This screenshot shows what a simple page (in this case, a "Test page" displaying the PSR NewsBits blog feed) will look like in a web browser. In the real world, the RSS feed would be integrated into the look and feel of your web page.

Other RSS to Web Page Tools

If Grazr does not meet your needs, there are a number of other services that allow you to publish RSS feeds on your web page without programming. For a list of more free RSS feed to web page tools, visit David Rothman's list at http://davidrothman.net/rss2webpage.html. Note: this page will take a long time to load since it brings in samples from each tool.

Questions?

Contact Sharon Dennis, PSR Technology Coordinator, at sdennis@library.ucla.edu or 310-825-9170.