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Communication as Community: The New Room

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Communication as Community:

The New Room

*Responses posted
by Abigail Elder*

Libs-or is a community of professionals that has provided news, ideas and answers to Oregon librarians for over a decade. Listservs such as this have served as forerunners to a new era of real-time interactive communication just coming into adolescence in Web 2.0 applications. The following responses are to a query in libs-or as to how libraries might use the new communication platforms both to mirror patron behaviors and expectations and to adapt these pervasive new tools for library services. Here are ideas from colleagues who are beginning to embrace a Web 2.0 future.

Responses from libs-or request for social networking examples April 2007 were gathered and shared on libs-or by Abigail Elder, Multnomah County Library.

Eugene Public Library

Margaret E. Hazel
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I'm doing a program for the OLA Conference on SS and Intellectual Freedom, so at one point I breezed thru the list of library Web sites for Oregon, and grabbed this info:

- McMinnville is using IM a librarian (teen)
- JCPL had a book blog
- Lincoln City uses a blog as their Web site
- Tigard has RSS feeds on their City site for library events
- CRSN has RSS for new books, etc.
- Wilsonville has a MySpace page for teens
- Woodburn has RSS for new books for teens, etc. thru their catalog

Eugene Public has nothing yet, but will be implementing RSS in our site and catalog. We are talking about implementing

a wiki for the staff side, and maybe blogs for the public side. Other City of Eugene agencies are using MySpace to connect with teens and summer temp workers in Rec.

Hillsboro Library

Carol Reich
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Hillsboro is using Flickr to share construction photos with the public while our Main library is being completed.

I set up a wiki for a 3-library grant group (Hillsboro, Beaverton and Cedar Mill) to use while purchasing world languages. Worldlanguages.pbwiki.com

We use chat during our L-net shift.

Multnomah County Library

Sara Ryan
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We're working on a blog for our Teen Council members. The idea is that they'll be able to communicate about projects, discuss books, movies, games, and anything else of interest, and encourage other teens to get involved with the library. Using the best practice recommended by the Young Adult Library Services Association, the Teen Council members will be in charge: they'll provide the content and moderate comments. Librarians will be able to comment, but not post.

- RSS Feeds will be implemented soon
- Library has (or will have) a presence on MySpace



OSHA Library

Jane S. Kirby
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The Oregon OSHA Resource Center participates in “Safety Matters” the OR-OSHA blog, hosted on WordPress.

I post abstracts of workplace safety and health news articles, book reviews, and reviews of recommended Web sites. Weekly messages from our agency administrator and the weekly agency newsletter are also included. Ellis Brasch, our technical writer/editor, posts opinion and information pieces; he is also the blog administrator.

We initiated the blog as another means of intra-agency communication but it is still a fairly “quiet” space ... that may change as folks become more familiar and comfortable with social networking Web sites. “Safety Matters” is designed for intra-agency use only (to encourage candid communication) so I can’t send you the link.

I realize that our agency is somewhat outside your scope of “youth and teens” but thought you might be interested in hearing about a special/technical library perspective.

OSU Valley Library

Laurie Bridges
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Five librarians at OSU (including myself) started a new blog only 3 weeks ago, and we already have 104 subscribers to the RSS feed! Our intended audience is anyone that loves cool information tools on the internet: infodoodads.com.

