Analog v. Google in the CMS: RSS Feeds to the Rescue!

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Course Management Systems (CMS)

- As a secure online environment
  - Supporting face-to-face instruction
  - Replacing classroom experience altogether

1 course shell = 1 class section
CMS products

- BlackBoard
- WebCT
- Moodle
- Sakai
- eCollege/eCompanion
- Home grown

- Institutions may use one or more of these products
How are CMSs used for instruction?

- Each CMS has different features...

- Instructor
  - Customize shell for class (color, modules used, etc.)
  - See roster and photos of students
  - Can post syllabi, assignments, calendar, Web links, etc.
  - May post and calculate grades
  - Communicate with students through “announcements” and mass emails
  - Can create online quizzes
  - Use html function to create Web page
CMS for users

• Students
  – Post preferred contact information, customize space (add personal photo, etc.)
  – Use online discussion boards
  – Use chat rooms (workspace for group projects)
  – Submit assignments electronically
  – Check course reserves (library presence!)

• Librarians
  – May be included with “student” status in a class
  – Some systems allow to be added as “TA” or even “librarian”
CMS at TCNJ: SOCS

• Simple Online Courseware System (SOCS)
  – In-house
  – IT-maintained
The College of New Jersey Library, Ewing, New Jersey, USA
Google lurks...

... in the online environment.
Like Google, academic libraries...

1. Can also be available at the point of need
2. Have an OPAC that’s user-friendly, too

But moreover, academic libraries

• Are designed to support scholarship
• Can help students reconcile “online” life and “offline” resources
  – Can actively advertise in the online campus environment by displaying new acquisitions in the CMS
RSS

- Really Simple Syndication (RSS 2.0)
- Rich Site Summary (RSS 0.91)
- RDF Site Summary (RSS 0.9, 1.0)
- “Result Set Syndication” (Walter Lewis)

- Atom (a newer XML syndication format)

- Issues can arise...
Anatomy of an RSS feed

• Channel:
  – Title (TCNJ Library – New Music Books)
  – Hyperlink (http://www.tcnj.edu)
  – Description (“This News feed lists new acquisitions by TCNJ Library in the area of Music”)
  – Items
  – Other details (author, date, etc.)
Anatomy of a RSS feed item

• Same Basic Parts of the Feed (Title, Hyperlink, Description, etc.)
• What to put where?
  – Title: Brief title (245a)
  – Hyperlink: Direct link to item in catalog
  – Description: (Everything else!)
    • Long Title (whole 245)
    • Location
    • Call Number
Example of an RSS item


Square root of 2 : a dialogue concerning a number and a sequence /

Square root of 2 : a dialogue concerning a number and a sequence / David Flannery. Location: General Collection. Call Number: QA247.5 .F53 2006

Write for mathematics.

Technical details

Stage 1

Library Database → SQL*Plus

Stage 2

Config File
Perl Script → XML File (RSS 2.0)

Stage 3
CMS Displays
New Acquisitions

New Acquisitions
More technical information

- More details are available at: http://www.tcnj.edu/~library/rss/
- Code is available, but not “Plug and Play”
- Need some knowledge of PERL and access to the server (but not a lot)
- Code designed for Voyager, but could be modified for other ILS
# RSS feeds in SOCS

## Syndication

Welcome: Syndication

**Manage RSS Channels**

Display feeds: 5  Show Descriptions: ON OFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Published</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TCNJ Library - New Music Books</strong></td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Dylan, the essential interviews / Bob Dylan, the essential interviews / edited by Jonathan Cott. Location: General Collection. Call Number: ML420.D98 AS 2006</td>
<td>SAT, 10 MAR 2007 16:04:06 EDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Lloyd Webber / Andrew Lloyd Webber / John Nelsen ; with a foreword by Geoffrey Block, general editor. Location: General Collection. Call Number: ML410.L78 964 2004</td>
<td>FRI, 09 MAR 2007 10:51:38 EDT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TCNJ Library - New Sociology Books</strong></td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American sexual character : sex, gender, and national identity in the Europe reports</td>
<td>EDT, 09 MAR 2007 12:45:22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SOCS
RSS feeds in theory

Serve e-patrons, while . . .

- Answering education’s call for more library visibility in the CMS
- Showing relevancy of library’s evolving print collections in the digital age
- Spotlighting and encouraging local skills and talents without burdening any library department or area
- Serving as an electronic “new books” area
RSS feeds in practice

• Discussions with “New-ish” Faculty
  – What Library resources do they want in the CMS?

• Used in RSS readers
  – New DVD Feed was 3rd most used resource on Library portion of TCNJ Web site

• Inclusion in Web pages
  – Departmental Web sites
  – Subject Guides
RSS feeds in Library subject guides

Modern Languages
Visit our Language/Resource-Specific Web Pages
- French Studies
- French-language DVDs
- Italian Studies
- Italian-language DVDs
- Spanish Studies
- Spanish-language DVDs

Contents
- Basic Modern Languages Resources
- Foreign DVDs and Videos at TCNJ
- Library Article Databases
- Books & Other Library Materials
- People, Resources, & Organizations
- Selected Modern Language Websites
  - Writing resources

Basic Resources
Selected Online Resources
Hundreds of online dictionaries, in a variety of languages, mostly free: http://yourdictionary.com

AltaVista’s Babel Fish: Quick-and-dirty machine translation from dozens of languages to dozens of languages: http://world.altavista.com/tr

Unauthorized/inconsistent but conveniently free multilingual Dictionary (wiki + dictionary): http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Main_Page

New Velázquez Spanish and English dictionary [electronic resource]: NetLibrary eBook

Selected Library Resources
German Dictionaries
- Practical Dictionary of German Usage (German-English, English-German) REF P3460 .B35 1996
- The pocket Oxford-Duden German dictionary (German-English, English-German) REF P3460 .B35 2003

New Modern Language Acquisitions at TCNJ


Dyanstic crisis and cultural innovation: from the late Ming to the late Qing and beyond / Dyanstic crisis and cultural innovation: from the late Ming to the late Qing and beyond / David Der-wei Wang and Shang Wei, editors. Location: General Collection. Call Number: PL2298 .D96 2005

Veuelo del hinojero / Veuelo del hinojero / Ella Barceló. Location: General Collection. Temporarily Shelved at: Sent to Bindery. Call Number: PN6652.A6618 V84 2002


Metaphor and artificial intelligence / Metaphor and artificial intelligence / John A. Marron and Mark G. Lee, guest editors. Location: General Collection. Call Number: P332.5.S47 M48 2001

Language in the US & A theme for the 21st century /
The Library needs to be in the CMS

• The students are there and they expect the resources to be there
  – One-stop shopping
• “Why are course guides on the library Web site and not in SOCS?”
• CMS being pushed on campus
• Danger of libraries being marginalized in the online environment
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THANK YOU!!!

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http://www.tcnj.edu/~library/rss