Taking the Library Outside the Library: A Light-weight Innovation Model for Heavy-weight Economic Times

Dean B. Krafft, Dianne Dietrich, and Baseema B. Krkoska April 12, 2010





Library Outside the Library

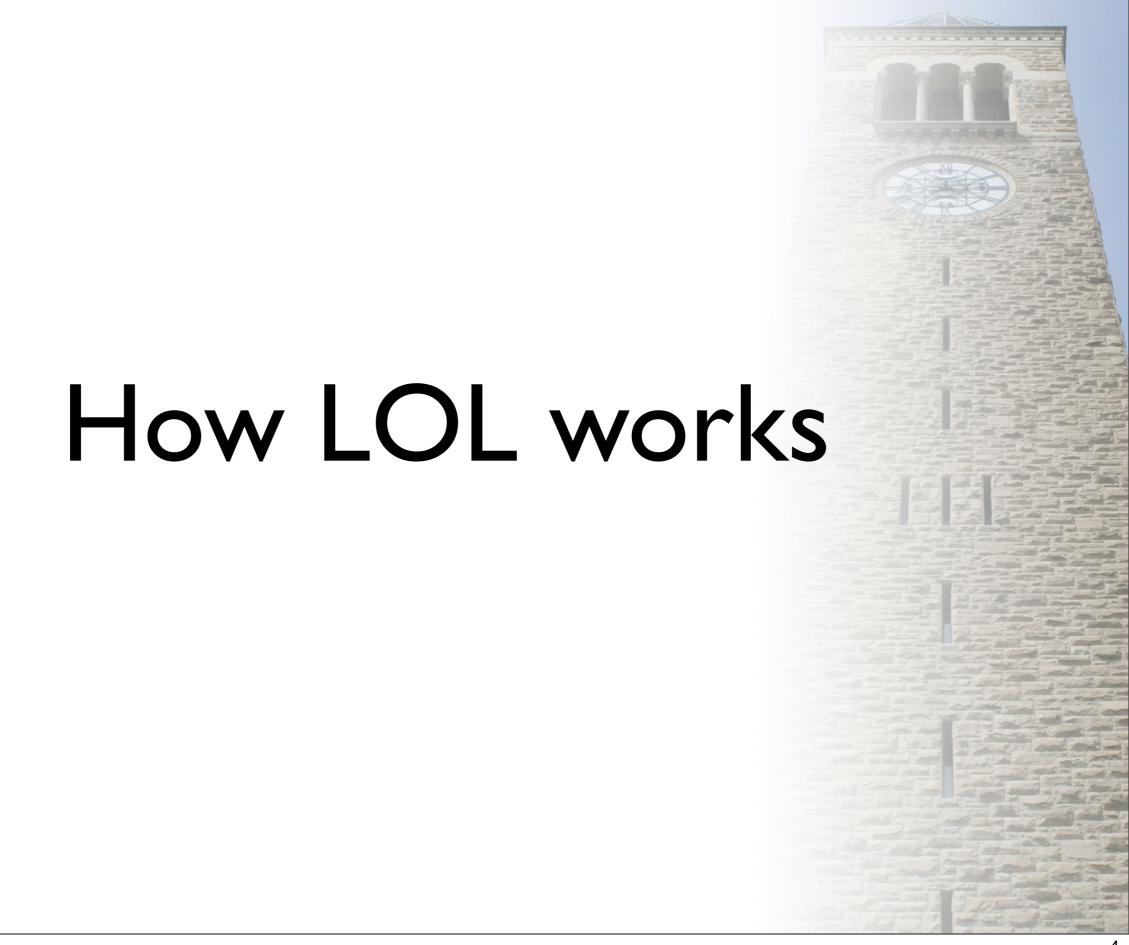
Mission: To find, configure, distribute, and assess electronic tools and services that take the library to its users, wherever they may be

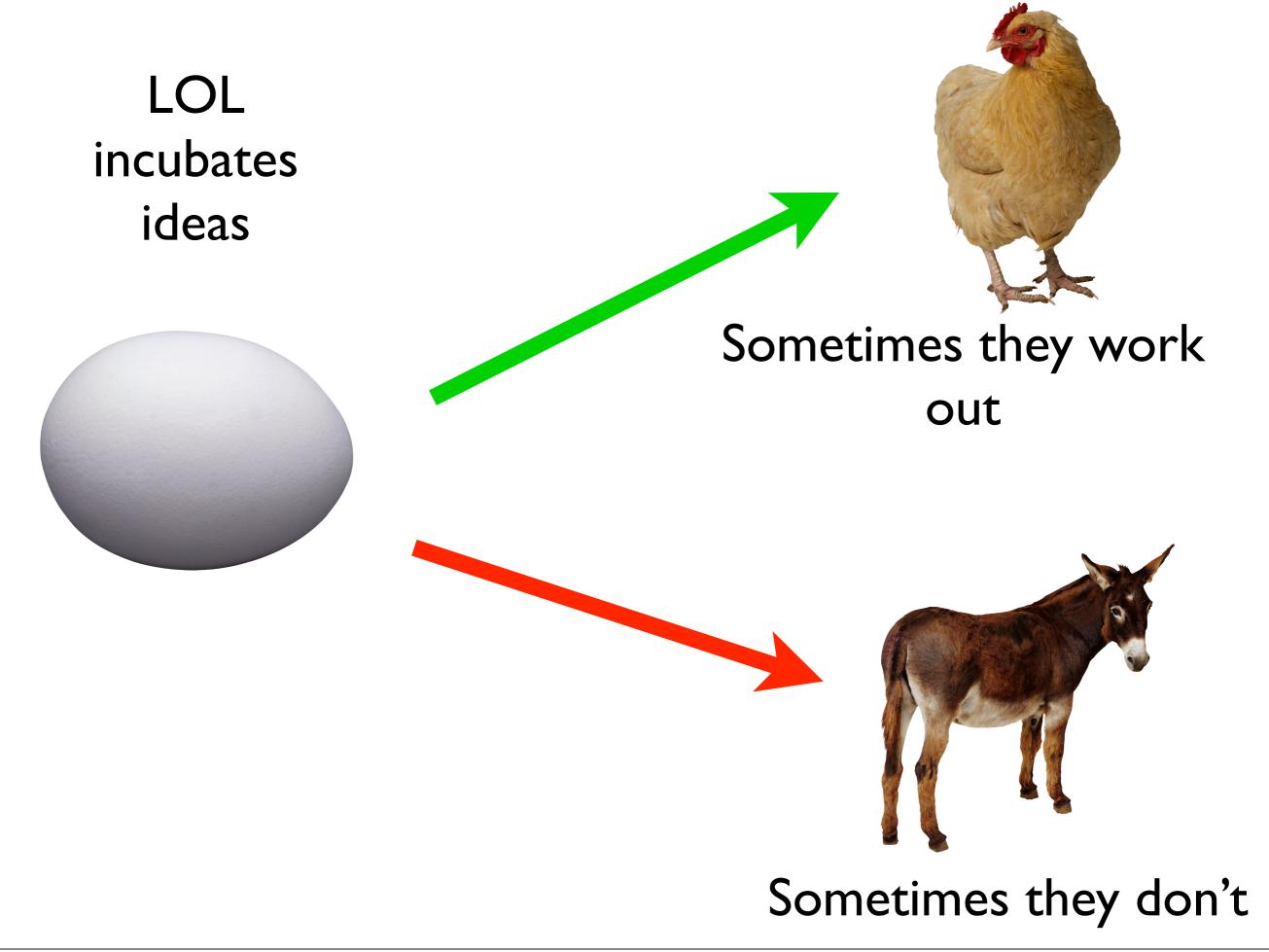
The LOL model is perfect as a lightweight innovation model for tough economic times

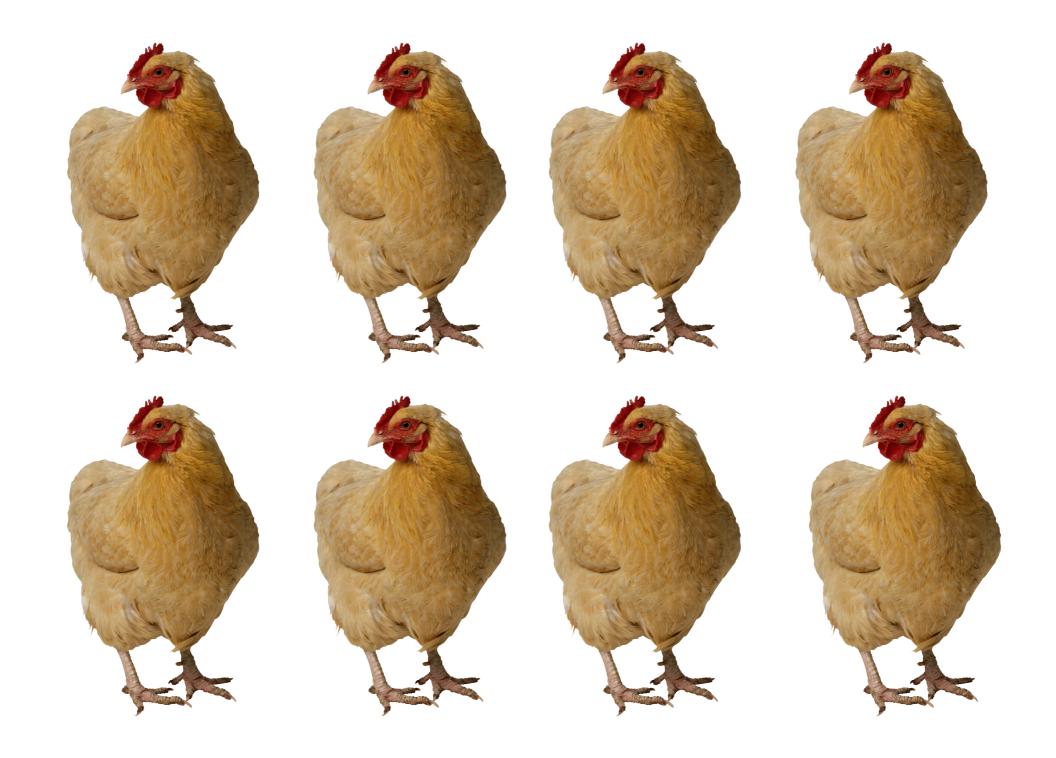
Overview

- How LOL works
- Keeping It light
- Letting Go
- Making It Move
- Exposing Ourselves
- Shameless Promotion
- Hot New Ideas









If they go into production, LOL sets them free (and they have to move in with someone else)

The LOL team only does pilot projects – it doesn't support production processes or systems

Rules

- Embrace trends even if they are fleeting
- Build things for today not for the ages
- All the services are supplementary a layer on top of fundamental services



























These are the kind of trendy things that LOL might try to build on

Strategies for Low Effort

- Form partnerships
- Use outside tools
- Lightweight investment only
- Support a continuum of effort: from trivial to moderately easy

LOL Logistics

- Started as part of Web site redesign in 2007
- Consists of 8-10 members drawn from Library IT, Rare & Manuscript Collections, Metadata Services, and Public Services
- Time commitment is expected to be 5% or less from team members
- 2-year terms: new members, new ideas



Getting outside cheap

CUL New Books

CUL New Books lists books, e-books, and other monographs that have recently been added to the Cornell University Library collections.

- Browse the list of new titles by location, language, or subject classification.
- Create RSS feeds for your custom list, which will be updated automatically each month.

Your Rating: ☆☆☆☆☆ Results: ★★★★★ 27 rates

Developer: Keith Jenkins

Passkey Bookmarklet BETA

A key to getting quick, off-campus access to electronic resources

- Connect to databases and journals without going through the library
- Find a link to a licensed article or database, click on the passkey and connect to licensed resources

More info I Passkey Help I Tell us what you think! Demo I Demo with audio

Contact Programmer/Analyst: Rick Silterra



In firefox, drag the icon to your bookmarks toolbar In Internet Explorer, right-click the icon, add to favorites

Research made easy with LibX BETA

A toolbar for Library catalog searches, whenever or wherever you need them

- Off-campus access to electronic resources
- Full text access to articles
- Quick links in Google, Amazon, & elsewhere to Cornell resources

More info I LibX Help I Tell us what you think I LibX in the news

Contact Programmer/Analyst: Rick Silterra



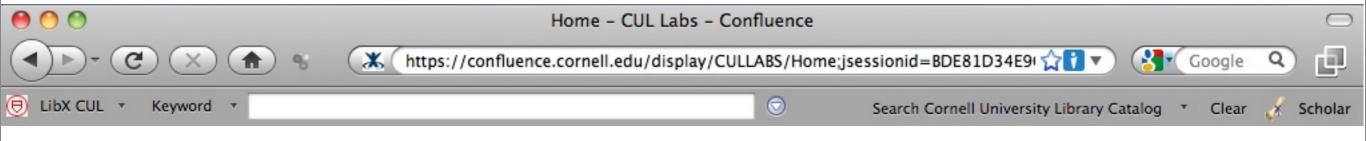
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Simple tools that we configured and localized - or

scripted up quickly

LibX Toolbar



- Originally developed at Virginia Tech
- Facilitates searching library catalogs
- Integrated in Firefox
- Works with a number of OPACs

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The group is charged with finding things outside that we can leverage quickly

Passkey Passkey

- "Bookmarklet"
- Line of javascript to route library patrons through CUL proxy for licensed resources for off-campus
- Minimal effort, maximal positive feedback

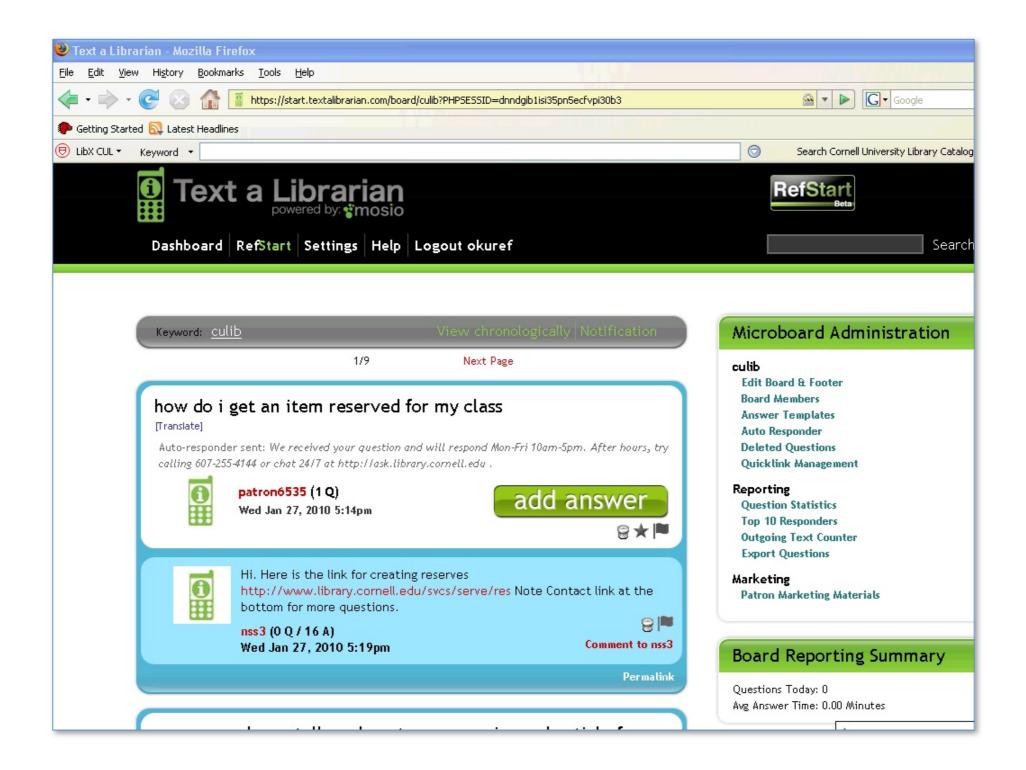
"I love this! whoever created this is a genius!"

"If there was a librarian superhero action figure, it would look like you."

"Best. Thing. Ever."

"this is the definition of awesome for those accessing journals online off campus"

Text a Librarian



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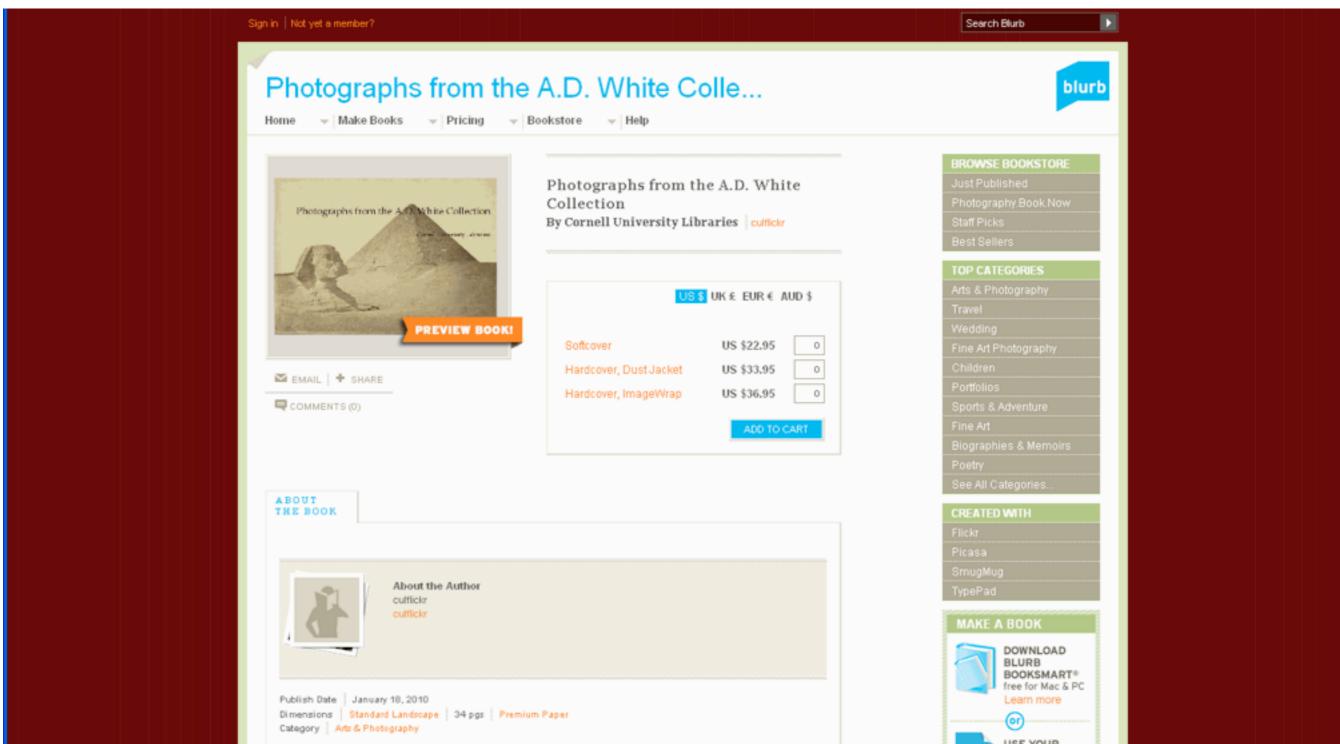
Started by Library's Digital Reference Committee – promoted by LOL. Uses a commercial product called Mosio – does require students to enter a keyword (culib) in their message



Resources in Wikipedia

- Created page on "Core Historical Literature in Agriculture"
- Result: Took significant effort to get it accepted into Wikipedia and the page generated insignificant traffic to CUL resources
- Linked to KMODDL and HEARTH resources from existing Wikipedia articles
- Result: Generated significantly more traffic, but cost/ benefit not clear
- Conclusion: Report results to CUL and move on





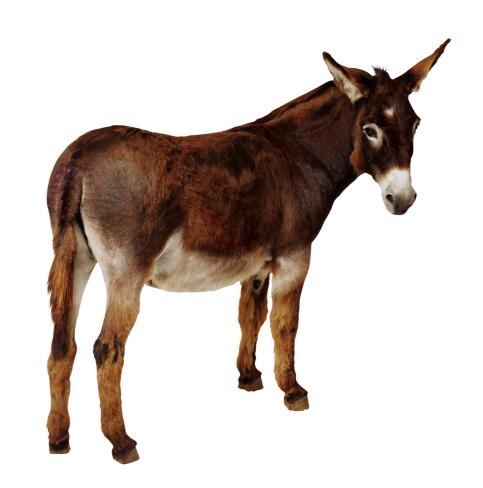
Physical book had issues: color match wasn't great; hard to select images; no clear market or distribution channel

Re-mixing it up

- Blurb physical book failed
- We're trying variants: e-Cards
- Using Blurb as example of how to build on Flickr images - "How-to video"
- Creating a how-to beyond Blurb: mugs, tshirts, calendars

There is no blame in trying something that doesn't work





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It's worth hatching new ideas, even if you get some donkeys



Why we mobilized

- LOL continuously looking for ways to bring library to our users.
- Saw students actively using their handheld devices in the library.
- Talked with student representatives on the Student Library Advisory Board.
- Many library staff members had handheld devices.
- Horizon report (and many others).

CUL's multi-prong strategy

- Text a Librarian in 2009
- Mobile Instant Messaging
- iPhone app
- Mobile-friendly web site



Mobile IM

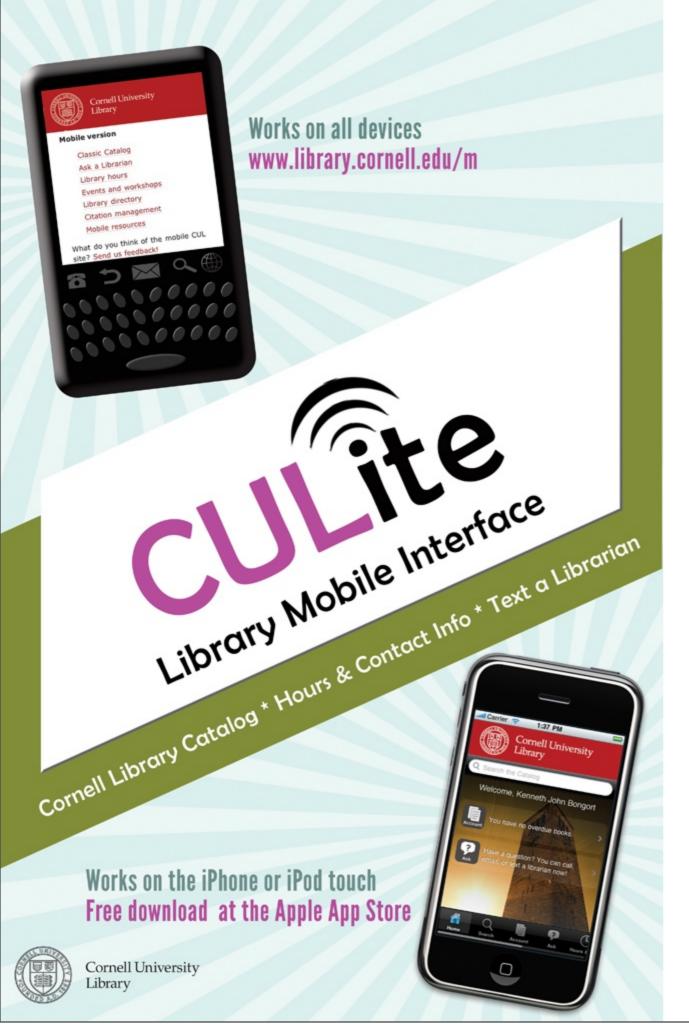
Users of mobile devices can now chat with a librarian from their phones

- Visit http://ask.library.cornell.edu on your mobile devices and click on the icon to launch the widget
- iPhone users will be able to download a direct link to the IM client onto their home screen, represented by an icon (similar to an 'App' icon)
- All compatible mobile device users will be able to add a bookmark to the IM client in the mobile browser

Contact: Digital Reference Committee



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Both a high-end solution and one that anyone can use

iPhone app at the high end

Basic mobile web site at the low

CU Library iPhone App

Computer Science Software Engineering Course student project - for credit

- Library LOL team was the client
- Negotiated features with team
- Provided a lot of latitude for their ideas
- Formal user testing to provide feedback to team
- Central IT provided support and app store provisioning



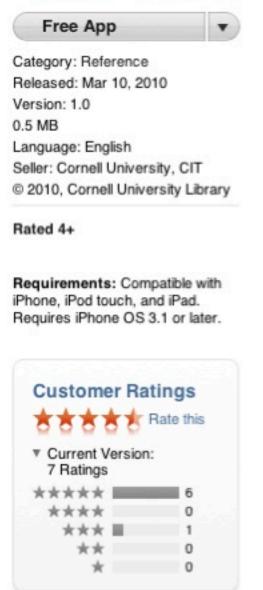


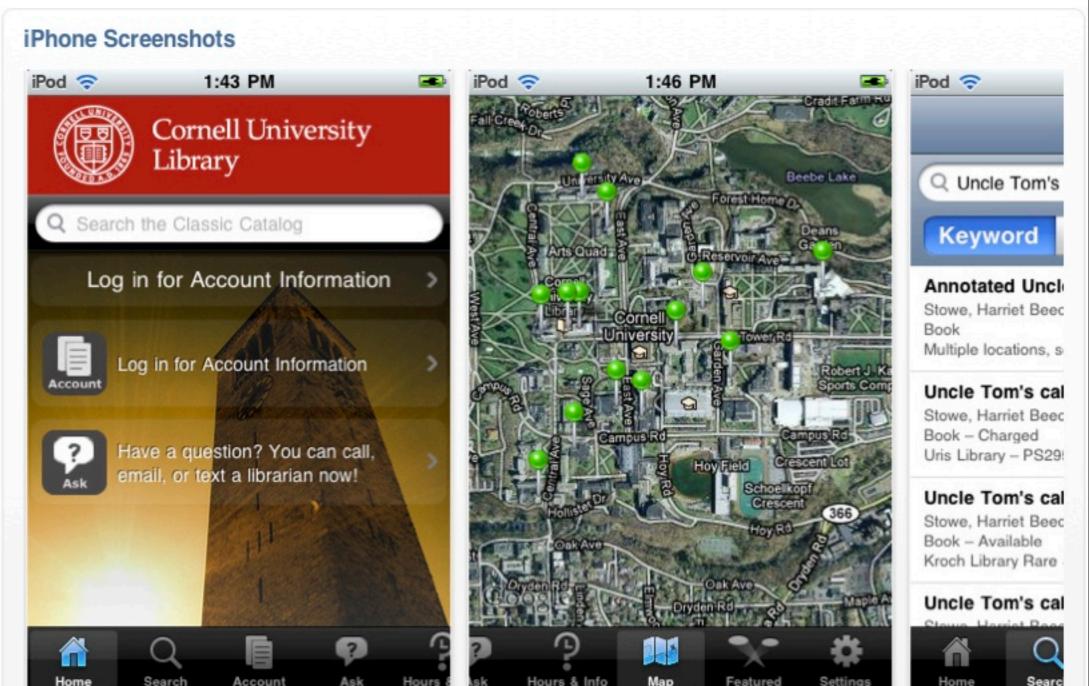
CU Library

Description

The Cornell University Library is now mobile. Take it wherever you go. Use the mobile app to search the library catalog, find library hours, manage your library account and ask questions of Cornell librarians!

Cornell Information Technologies Web Site > CU Library Support >

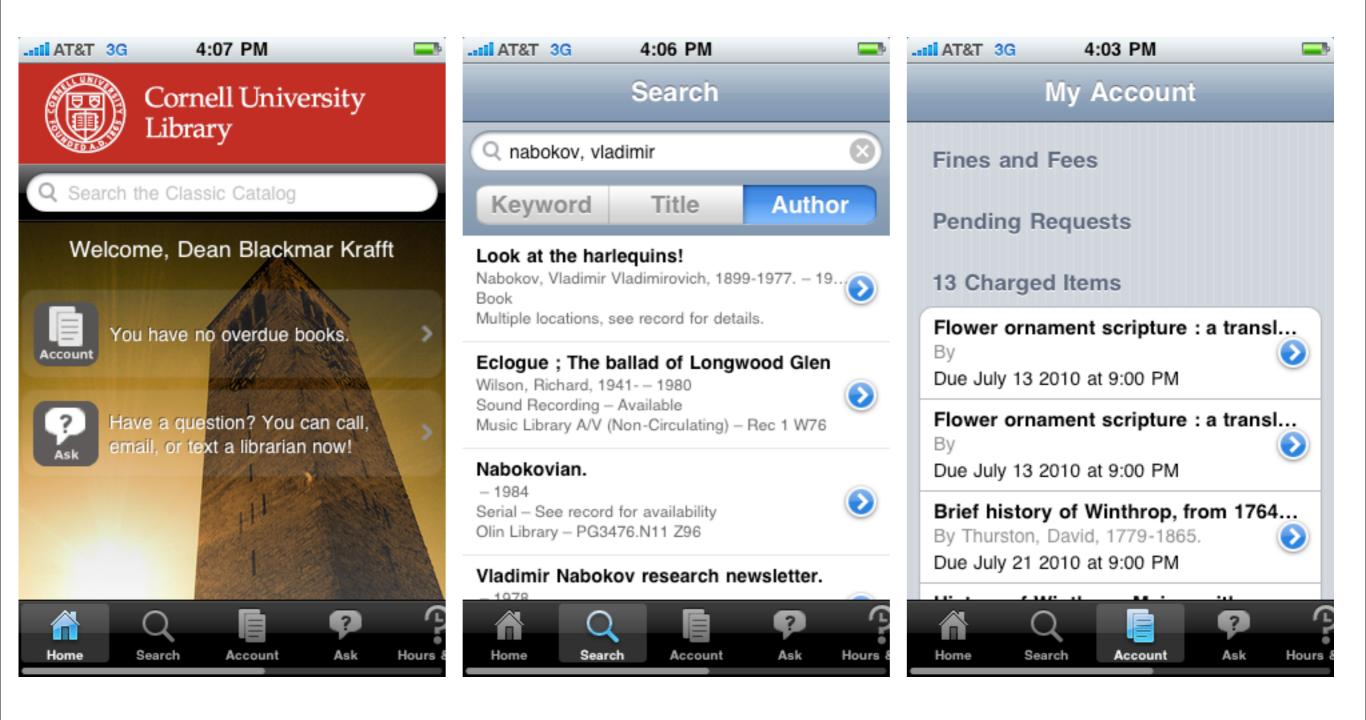




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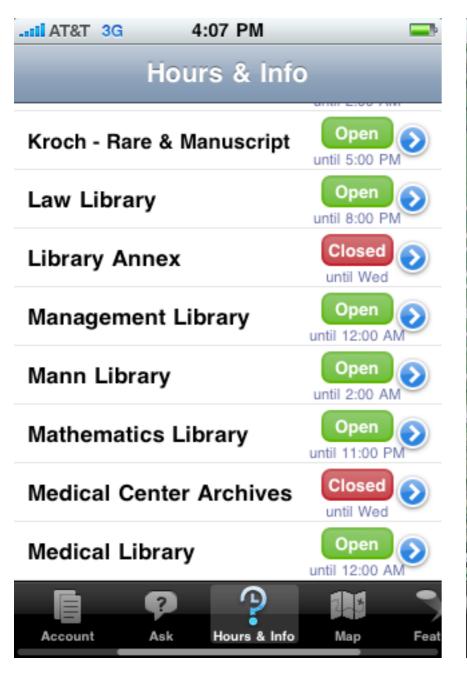
Available in iTunes app store; we now have 11 ratings, and we still have 4 and a half stars

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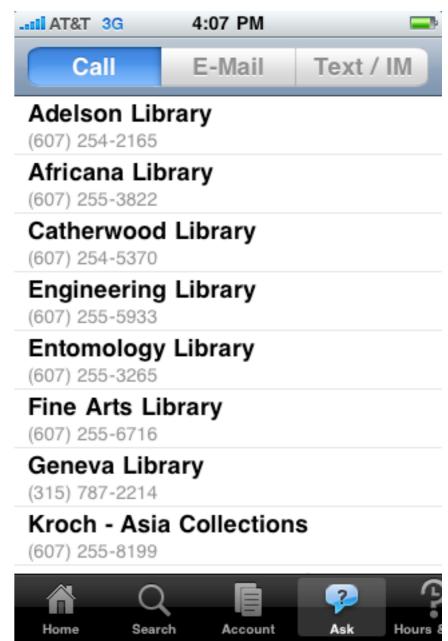


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Examples of the home screen, search, and my own account showing items checked out – credentials are cached







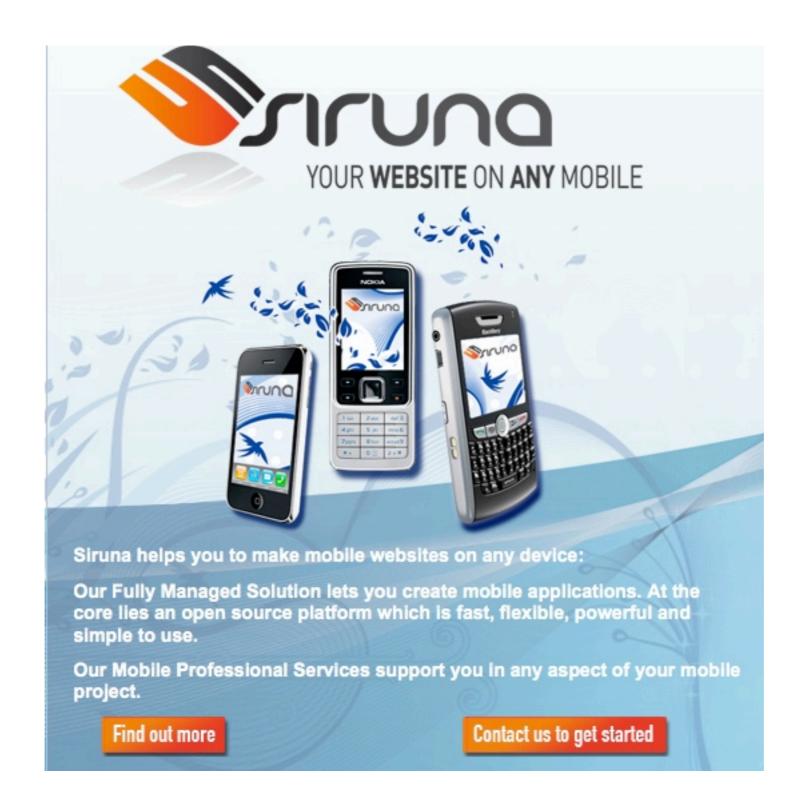
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Lots of ways to find a library that's open and talk to them

What about the people who don't have iPhones?

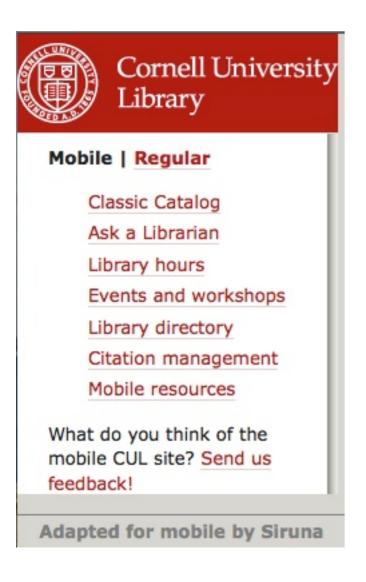
Going Mobile lightly



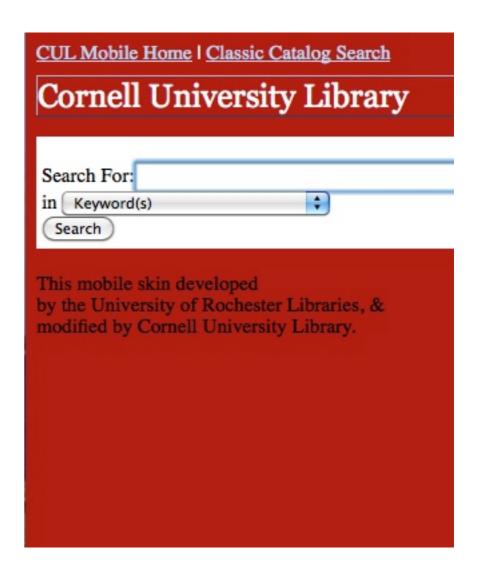
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Siruna is a hosted solution that lets you select elements from an existing web site and remap them to create a mobile-friendly site.

library.cornell.edu/m







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Examples of home page, Ask a Librarian, and catalog search transformed with Siruna

"It's not just good - it's good enough!"

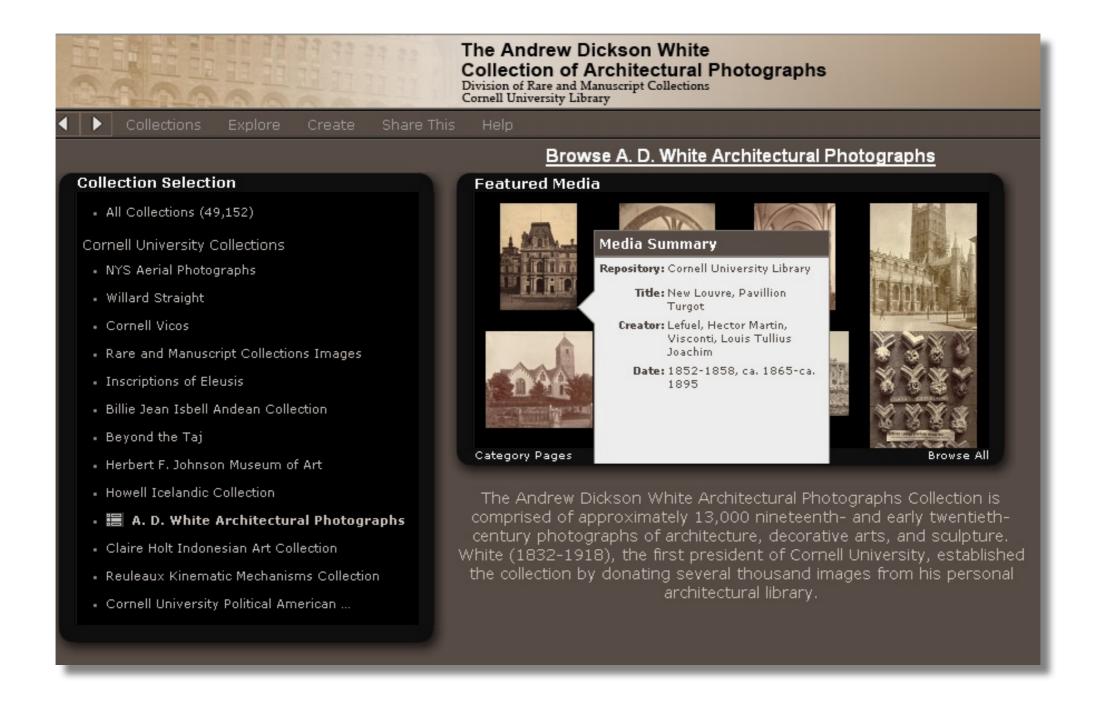
Krusty the Clown

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It doesn't have to be perfect to be useful to our patrons!



Our "hidden" collections



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Much of CUL's digital content is in "silos" or systems. Our image collections are in Luna, which is not discoverable from the outside, does not allow patrons to interact with the collection in ways they're used to in social media sites, or to get the images beyond Luna. Luna does have a wealth of contextual information, including structured metadata, names, dates, places, and descriptions.

Exploring Flickr

- Flickr Commons had just been launched
- We had many images that were out of copyright and in the public domain
- Explored Flickr as another pathway to discovering CUL's collections

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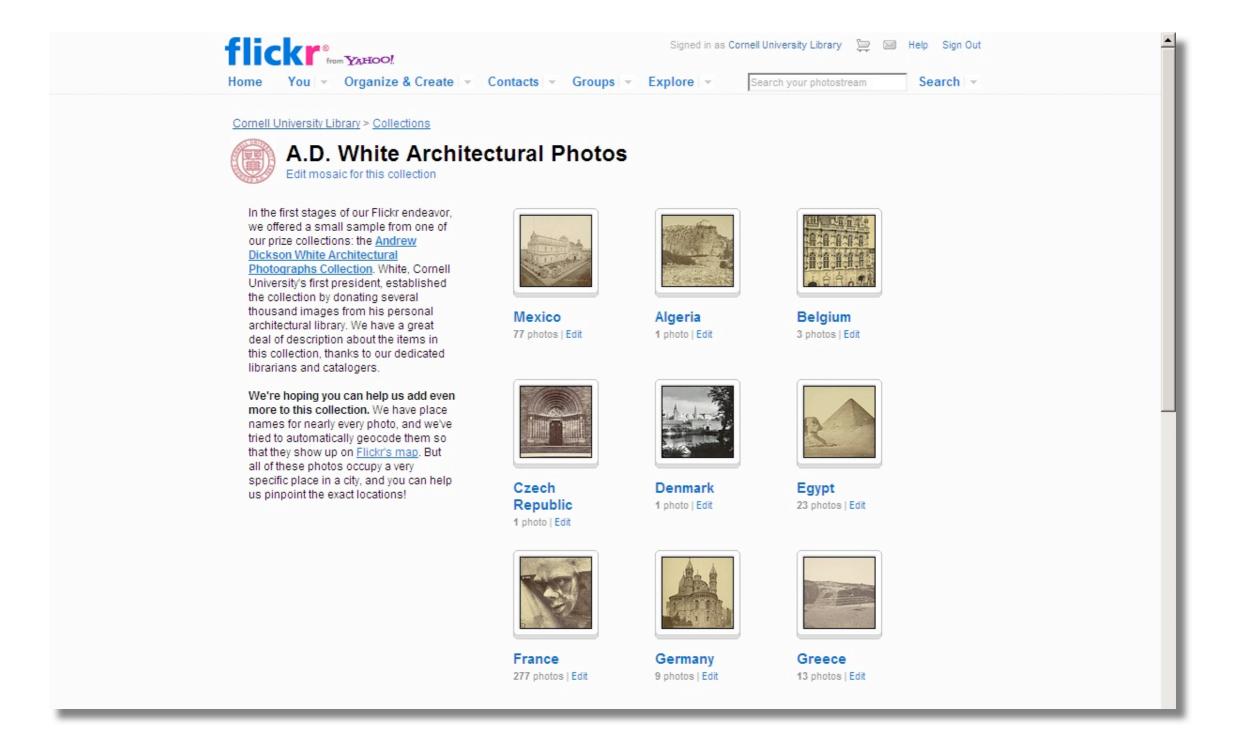
Flickr Commons was launched in 2008, and the Library of Congress uploaded public domain images to facilitate community engagement and make their collection more broadly available. We considered our own image collection; there was much in the public domain that would be of interest to communities beyond the library walls. In May '09, there was a revision to CUL's existing copyright policy, which stated that CUL would not charge for the use of Public domain images. This meant LOL was free to include high resolution images on Flickr with a Creative Commons Attribution License.

Our Flickr strategy

- Upload one collection (entirely public domain)
- Leverage library metadata to make the images more "discoverable" in Flickr
- Point patrons to our account (via library website, "We Recommend")

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Increase visibility

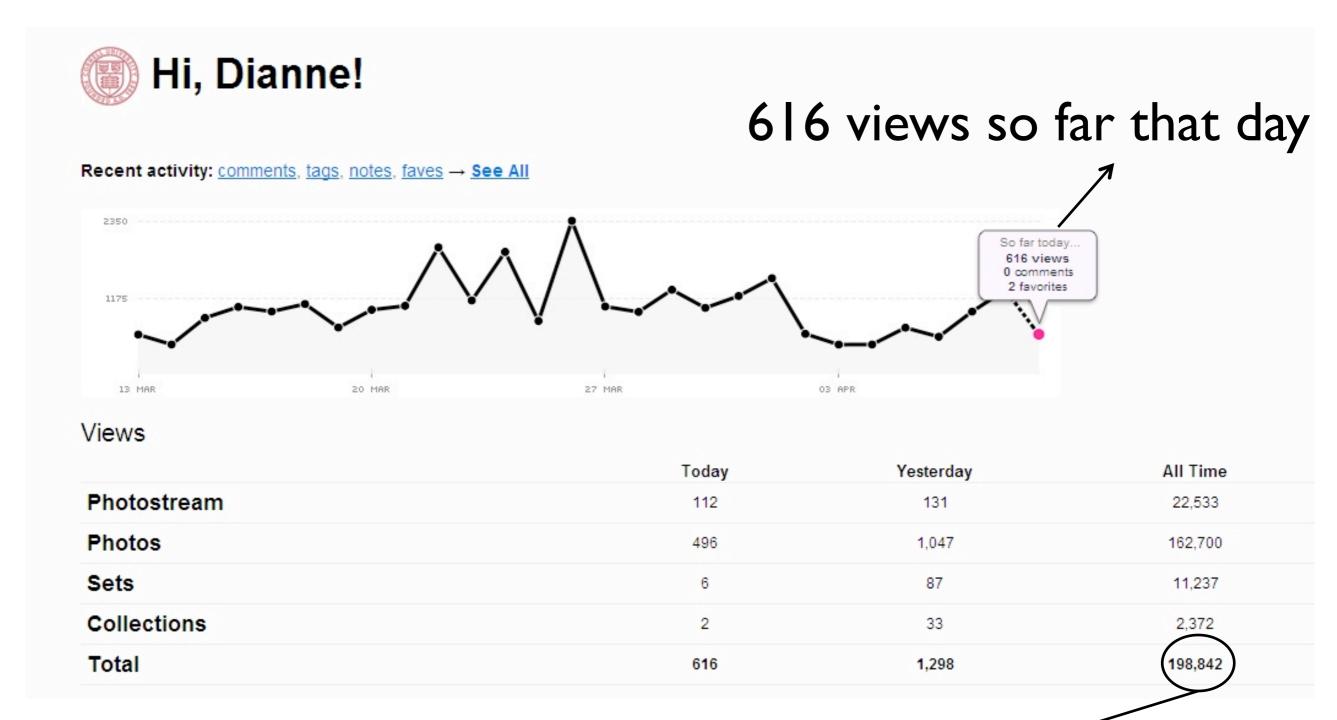


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Before, the images were in a library-centered silo. If you didn't know it existed, it was hard to find. You had to already know how to navigate library resources. After -- our images were up on Flickr and available to a much wider audience, much easier to discover by chance. This was not a replacement for our image collection! LOL wanted another pathway for discovery of these images; everything links back to CUL's hosted version of the image.

The response



All time totals: 198,842

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In a word: overwhelming. As of April 9th, we were close to 200K hits. Our first collection -- architectural photos -- are the most popular, but the others are catching up. We have five collections in total: AD White Architectural, Diver Railroad Photographs, Human Ecology Photographs (public domain subset), Willard Dickerman Straight Photos (from Korea), Political Americana (public domain subset). The majority of our referrals come from Flickr, Google, Yahoo Images and Google Images.

we've found our images crop up...

Kate the Archivist · Galleries



They had rain back then? Yes, umbrellas from the archives

A gallery curated by Kate the Archivist | 18 photos | 113 views

Yes, well, there are parasols here too, and other kinds of umbrellas, but let's not stand on ceremony.





Kate the Archivist says: This wasn't the most prominent umbrella, but I just loved the picture.



in other's curated galleries

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Note that one of our subjects (converted to tags) was "umbrella" -- and so someone found this as an example of "historic" umbrellas.

we've found our images crop up...



on the BBC website

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This brought a great deal of traffic back to our Flickr site (in the referral logs)

we've found our images crop up...



WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2009

Hogwarts Ceiling



I just saw the latest Harry Potter movie and couldn't help but be impressed by the interior shots of Hogwarts-especially its elaborate ceilings. Above is an old photo of the Divinity School at Oxford University, apparently it was used in the movies as Hogwarts' Hospital. Next post I'll put together some artwork based on this ceiling.

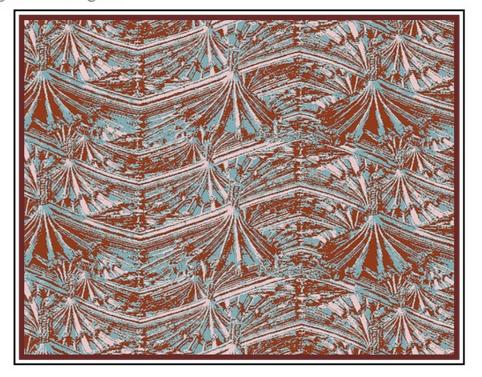
Photo courtesy of Cornell University Library.





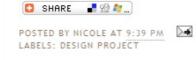
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2009

Hogwarts Ceiling Art



on blogs

I took the ceiling from yesterday, reduced the colors and flipped it all around to make this pattern. The V-shaped lines are the arches and the fans are scattered on top. It's abstract but I like it as a texture.



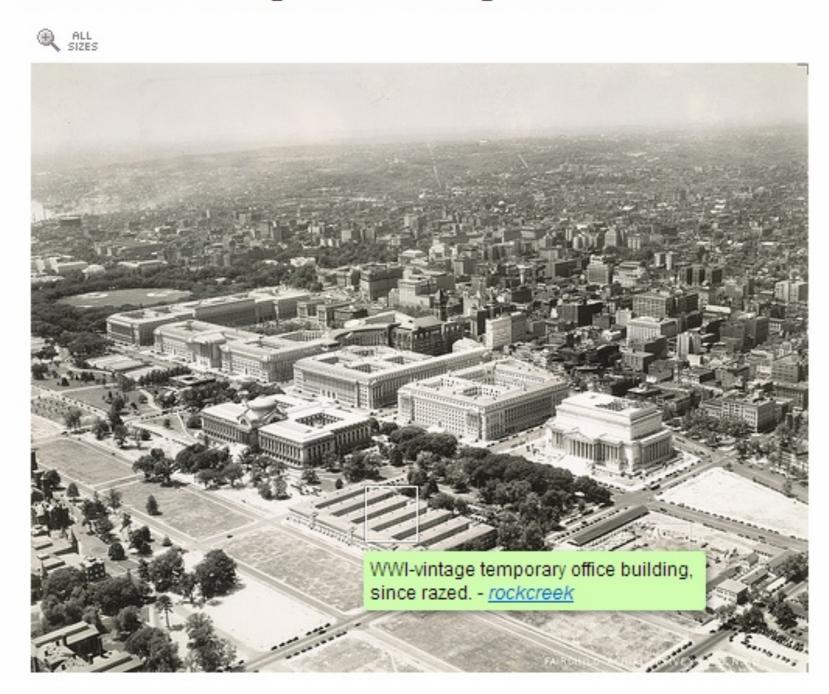
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People use our images to illustrate a wide variety of things. The Human Ecology photos are especially popular with "do it yourself" blogs -- cooking, sewing, etc. The posted image is of a textile artists' interpretation of one of our architecture photos.

User contributions

Federal Triangle, Washington, D. C.



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Communities have value to our images. The railroad community is very active, and have already added a wealth of information supplementing our descriptive metadata. The posted image is an aerial shot of Washington DC where a commenter points out a since-destroyed office building and notes the construction of a museum.

User contributions

Borenshult Lock on the Göta Canal, Sweden



Collection: A. D. White Architectural Photographs, Cornell University Library Accession Number: 15/5/3090.00731

Title: Borenshult Lock on the Göta Canal, Sweden

Photographer: Axel Sjöberg

Canal date: 1823-1825

Photograph date: ca. 1865-ca. 1895

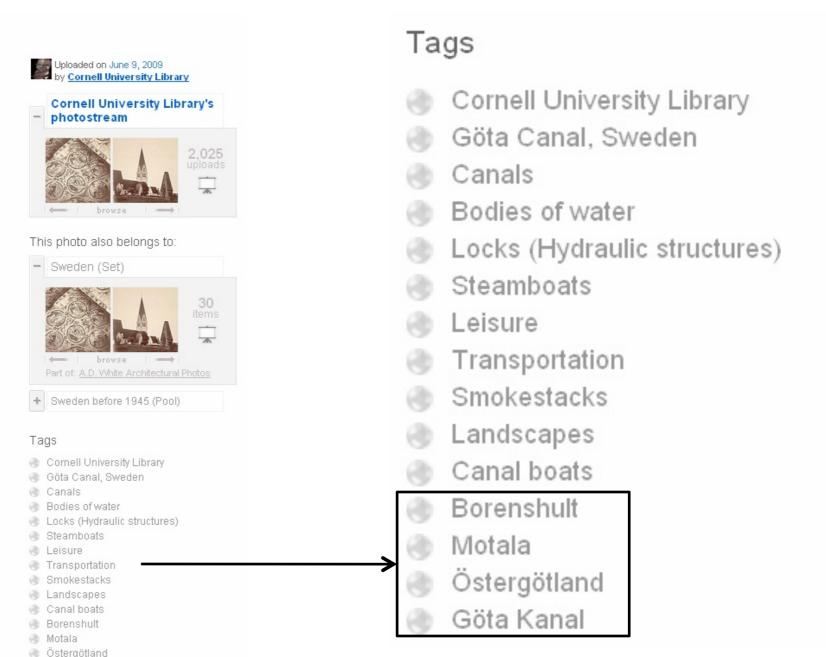
Location: Europe: Sweden

Materials: albumen print

Image: 6 1/4 x 8 1/2 in.; 15.875 x 21.59 cm

Provenance: Transfer from the College of Architecture, Art and Planning

Persistent URI: http://library24.library.cornell.edu/collections/adw/75915-628.html



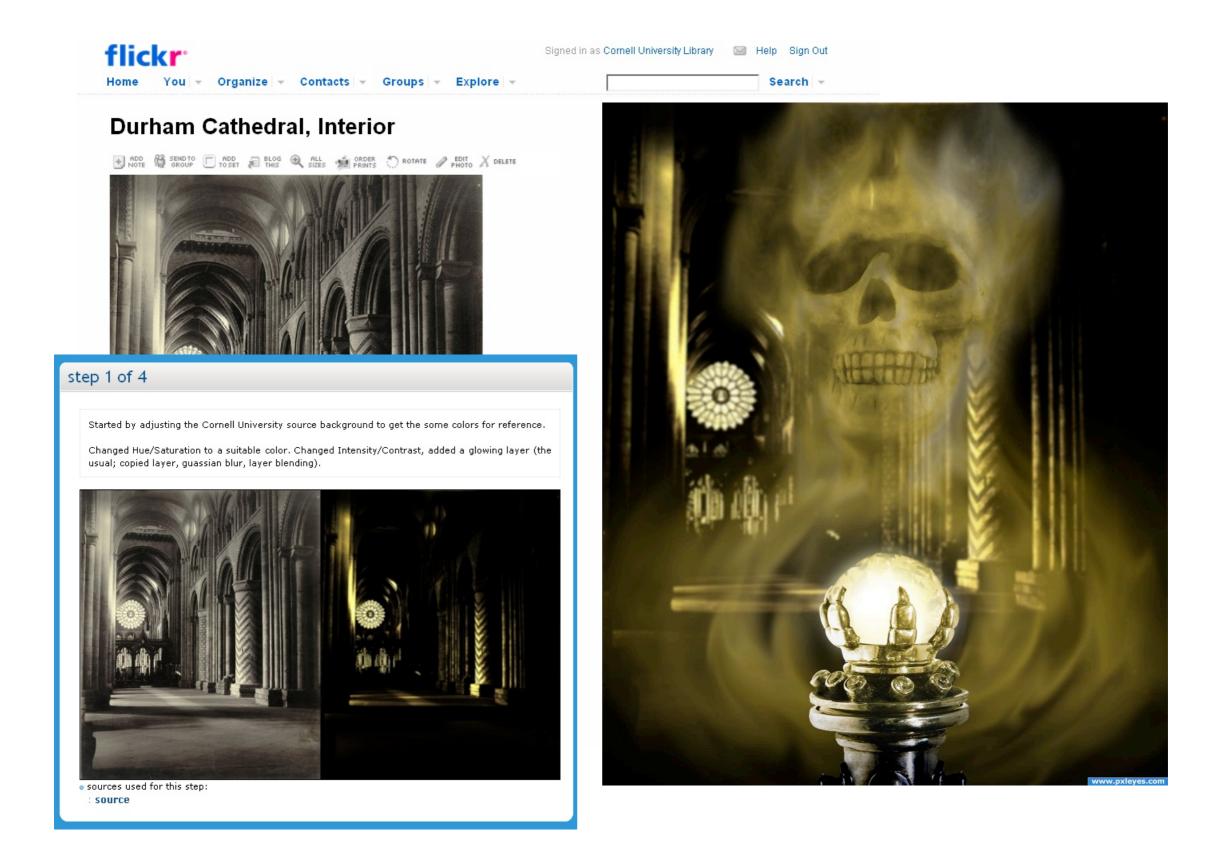
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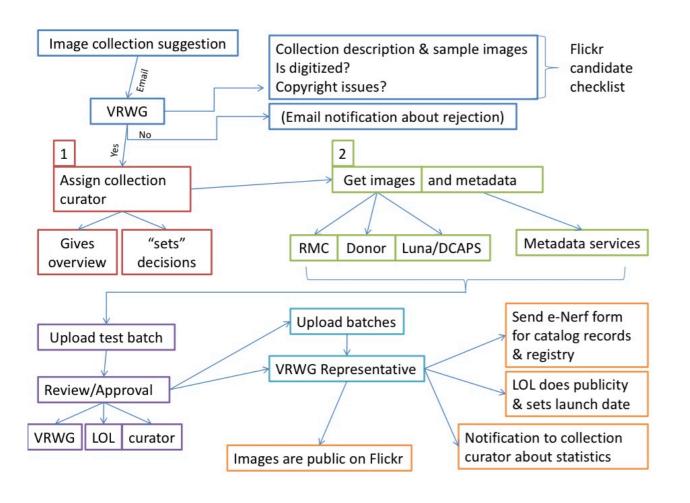
Users have added tags in other languages -- such as Swedish and German.

Göta Kanal

Creative remixes!



Mainstream the process



- Visual Resources
 Working Group
- Rare and Manuscript Collections
- Metadata Services
- Library outside the Library

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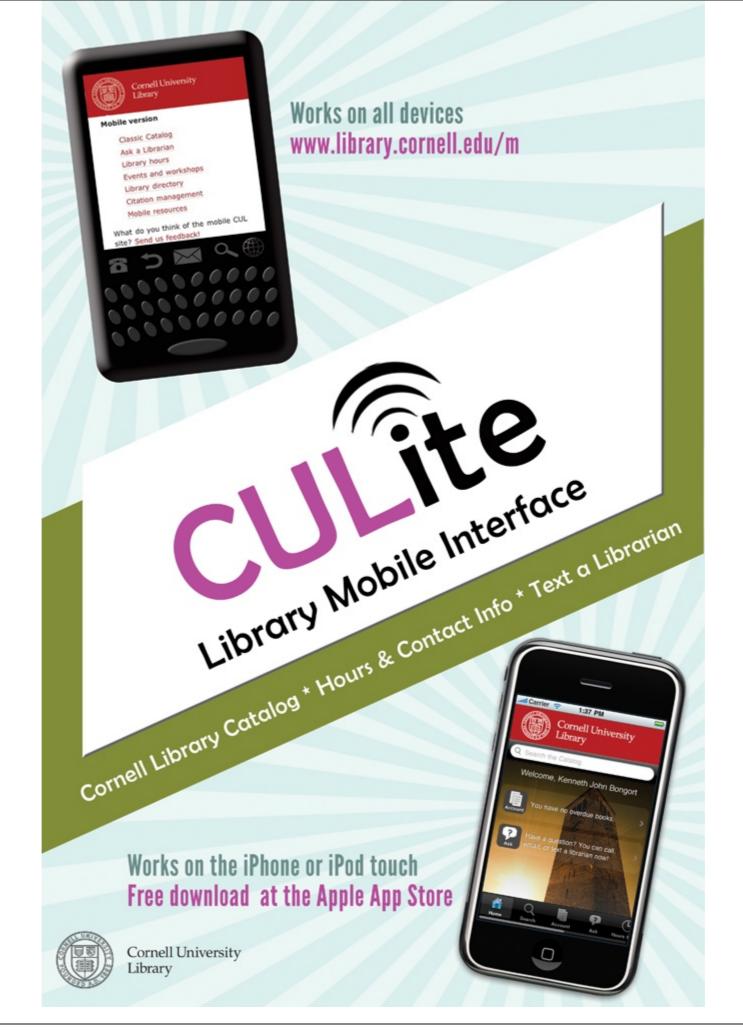
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It's the LOL way to set things free. We found a number of library groups to sustain the Flickr project. We picked portions of the Flickr workflow that fit in with existing missions/responsibilities of groups. VRSG/RMC – identify and vet collections; Metadata Services – converts library metadata to Flickr metadata; LOL – does promotion.



Getting the word out

- Presentations to Library staff
- CULLabs web site
- Posters, bookmarks, table tents, digital display screens
- Cornell Cybertower video on Flickr
- YouTube "handmade" stop-action video for mobile tools



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Here's an example poster and digital screen display advertising our mobile capabilities



Upcoming

- QR Codes: Library exhibits can link directly to resources or background materials
- YouTube videos: Delving into the special collections treasure trove
- More iPhone features: Authenticated journal and database access
- Any suggestions from the audience?

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We're investigating QR codes to link exhibit materials to materials in the library. This is hoped to increase the awareness of library collections beyond the library space. eCards to further spotlight our image collections. We're investigating putting up historic Cornell videos on YouTube. We're also looking to expand on the iPhone App, by adding access to CUL licensed resources for instance.



Summarizing

Rules

- Embrace trends even if they are fleeting
- Build things for today not for the ages
- All the services are supplementary a layer on top of fundamental services
- Invest lightly, iterate, and let go quickly
- There is no blame for trying something that doesn't work

Friday, April 16, 2010

Embrace trends: Flickr, YouTube, iPhone. This is where our patrons are right now, if we want to reach them. Build things for today: It's quicker, it gives us room to experiment All services are supplementary: We want to enhance what's already there, bring patrons to our core services, even if they're far away from the physical library. Invest lightly: Trends are fleeting and fast-paced. We need to be able to keep up, otherwise we won't reach our patrons.

No blame: It's essential to foster a culture of experimentation. Without it, we would be too afraid to try. We learn from what doesn't pan out.

What we covered

- How LOL works
- Keeping It light
- Letting Go
- Making It Move
- Exposing Ourselves
- Shameless Promotion
- Hot New Ideas

Questions?

Acknowledgements

- The LOL team: Eleanor Brown, Matt Connolly, Tony
 Cosgrave, Jeremy Cusker, Laura Larrimore, Rick Silterra, and
 Susette Newberry (former member and chair)
- LOL Team Sponsors: Janet McCue, Oya Rieger
- iPhone app development team: Kenneth John Bongort Jr., Elizabeth Miriam Brown, Christopher Walther Frommann, Christopher Michael Hulton, Wesley Brent Jordan, and Bindu Pan
- All the Cornell University Library Staff who help make LOL possible

Cornell University

Library

