

LibraryThing and the Library Catalog: Adding Collective Intelligence to the OPAC

Links and Resources

About this talk:

- Link to this handout: http://online.sfsu.edu/~jwenzler/research/CNI_2007.pdf
- Link to the PowerPoint presentation delivered at the Meeting: http://online.sfsu.edu/~jwenzler/research/CNI_2007.ppt
- A longer handout describing how to implement LibraryThing for Libraries in a catalog. It also gives my initial speculations about why this works better than other social networking experiments that libraries have tried: <http://online.sfsu.edu/~jwenzler/research/LTFL.pdf>

About LibraryThing:

- Home page: <http://www.librarything.com/>
- BookSuggester and Unsuggester: <http://www.librarything.com/suggest>
- Example Book page: <http://www.librarything.com/work/1403541>
- Blog: <http://www.librarything.com/blog/>

About LibraryThing for Libraries:

- Overview: <http://www.librarything.com/forlibraries/>
- Thingology blog. This is where the LibraryThing founders explore their broader ideas about folksonomies and the social implications of LibraryThing: <http://www.librarything.com/thingology/>

Example LibraryThing Libraries:

- **San Francisco State University Library** (click details to see tags and recommendations) : <http://opac.sfsu.edu/record=b2062553>
- **Danbury Public Library** (the first library to add the LibraryThing tags): <http://cat.danburylibrary.org/record=b1062813>
- **Bowdoin College Library**. Similar books are on the right sidebar. Tags are at the bottom of the record display: <http://phebe.bowdoin.edu/record=b2057290>

Other Attempts to add Collective Intelligence to the Library Catalog

- **WorldCat.org** now allows users to add ratings and reviews to its catalog. Note how little participation this feature gets. WorldCat has four reviews for *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows* versus 2,824 at Amazon and 485 reviews on LibraryThing. So far, these are the only reviews that I have found on WorldCat: <http://www.worldcat.org/oclc/155131850?tab=reviews>

- **Ann Arbor District Library** has created a SOPAC, which allows patrons to tag and review books in their catalog. Note how shallow their tag cloud is. Top three tags are: fantasy (147), manga (121), anime (77):
<http://www.aadl.org/sopac/tagcloud>
- The Innovative Interfaces WebPAC allows patrons to add ratings and reviews. For example, see **Westerville Public Library**. There are two ratings and two reviews for *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*:
<http://catalog.westervillelibrary.org/record=b1403571>
- **Plymouth State University** has created an interesting open-source catalog based on a WordPress server that allows patrons to tag and comment on book records as they would comment on and tag blog entries. A book with a comment here:
<http://www.plymouth.edu/library/read/182474>. So far, there has not been a get deal of participation by patrons. See recent comments here:
<http://www.plymouth.edu/library/comments/feed>
- **Hennepin County Library** allows patrons to comment on books in the catalog. Looks like it has more activity than other local catalogs that invite participation:
<http://www.hclib.org/pub/bookspace/discuss/RecentComments.cfm>

Additional Reading

- Guy, Marieke and Emma Tonkin (2006). “Folksonomies: Tidying up Tags?”:
<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/january06/guy/01guy.html>
- Keen, Andrew (2007). *The cult of the amateur: how today's internet is killing our culture*.
- Kroski, Ellyssa (2005). “The Hive Mind: Folksonomies and User-Based Tagging,”: <http://infotangle.blogspot.com/2005/12/07/the-hive-mind-folksonomies-and-user-based-tagging/>
- Quintarelli, Emanuele (2005) “Folksonomies: power to the people”:
<http://www.iskoi.org/doc/folksonomies.html>
- Spiteri, Louise F (2007). “Structure and form of folksonomy tags: The road to the public library catalogue”.: <http://www.webology.ir/2007/v4n2/a41.html>
- Sunstein, Cass R. (2006) *Infotopia: how many minds produce knowledge*.
- Surowiecki, James (2004) *The wisdom of crowds: why the many are smarter than the few and how collective wisdom shapes business, economies, societies and nations*.
- Vander Wal, Thomas (2006). “Folksonomy Coinage and Definition”
<http://vanderwal.net/folksonomy.html>
- Weinberger, David (2007) *Everything is miscellaneous: the power of the new digital disorder*.