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](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](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](http://online.sfsu.edu/~jwenzler/research/LTFL.pdf)

**About LibraryThing:**
- BookSuggester and Unsuggester: [http://www.librarything.com/suggest](http://www.librarything.com/suggest)

**About LibraryThing for Libraries:**
- 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/](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](http://opac.sfsu.edu/record=b2062553)
- Danbury Public Library (the first library to add the LibraryThing tags): [http://cat.danburylibrary.org/record=b1062813](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](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 Hallows* 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](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](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](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](http://www.plymouth.edu/library/read/182474). So far, there has not been a great deal of participation by patrons. See recent comments here: [http://www.plymouth.edu/library/comments/feed](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](http://www.hclib.org/pub/bookspace/discuss/RecentComments.cfm)

**Additional Reading**


• Keen, Andrew (2007). *The cult of the amateur: how today's internet is killing our culture.*


• 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.*
