In the past year, the University of Minnesota Libraries have begun delivering a wide variety of library tools and resources within the University's Metadot-powered MyU Portal.

At the core of these services is personalization derived from users' course enrollment and academic or administrative role within the University as represented by "affinity strings" generated from publicly available information managed in the University's PeopleSoft system. Subject librarians match course identifiers and affinity strings to library resources to provide users with a personalized set of tools relevant to the user's discipline.

As a member of the Libraries' staff, my affinity string dictates that I see selected Library Science resources. A Biology Prof. would see Biology resources selected for advanced users. One of her undergrad students would see a similar set of Biology resources selected specifically for undergrads.

Users can bookmark additional electronic resources for quick access.

The MyU Portal is aware of students’ course registration, allowing us to suggest resources based on course designator (in this case “HIST” for the History department).
Having built the infrastructure for providing personalized and customized information in the MyU Portal, we added it to the Libraries’ web site as well, as the myLibrary page. Here we’re able to display all the same information as on the MyU Portal.

On the myLibrary page we have begun to expose some of our aggregated usage data, providing lists of the most commonly saved electronic resources. It is our hope that eventually we’ll be able to use this data to recommend resources based on a user’s field or degree program.

**Personalized information available as RSS feeds or iGoogle widgets.**

**Saved electronic resources are synced between the MyU Portal and myLibrary.**

**Statistics on resources saved to myLibrary and MyU Portal, abstracted by affinity string, form the basis for automated recommendations.**

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