Mary Carrington- Library Training Support Specialist, Wheaton College, 3/29/10
Library Technology conference 2010 –Macalester College, Mn.

   The Library Technology conference at Macalester College, on March 17-18 provided an

opportunity for library staff to see what other libraries were doing with new and emerging

technologies used in libraries. Participants learned specific skills and knowledge that they could take

back and implement in their library environment. Presentations from the conference can be

downloaded at http://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/libtech_conf/2010/program_overview/

   Yahoo Pipes could be a very useful tool for librarians. Material from different RSS feeds can be

combined in a single Yahoo Pipe. All you need to do is to drag and drop different pipe modules in an

online editor. The main modules used in creating RSS feed pipes are the Feed Fetch , Filter and Sort

modules. Librarians do not need to use any coding or programming langue's to create a pipe that

could be very useful to patrons. You could, for instance, create a pipe with the latest table of

contents for a particular journal or a pipe with the tables of contents for many journals such as the

Library Literature Journals pipe at http://pipes.yahoo.com You can also copy the Library Literature

Journal pipe and customize it for your own library. For notes on the Yahoo Pipes session see

http://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/libtech_conf/2010/concurrent_a/23/

   Rudy Leon, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, described how the Undergraduate Library

at the University of Illinois has used Twitter (See http://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/ with a Twitter

feed on the right side of the webpage.) for expanding the bray's services to patrons.   Leon

explained how, for instance, the library develops academic literacy using Twitter. Librarians using

Twitter try to connect students to their "intellectual curiosity." The Day in History tweets cover five

or six historical events per week and link to resources in library databases. A recent historical tweet

covered Martin Luther King's assassination and linked to photos about the event. Tweets are also

used to highlight the contents of library databases. As Tweets are short 140 character message, you

will need to use a URL shorter such as Tiny URL at http://tiny.cc/   to link students to resources. If

you want to analyze your Twitter feeds, you can sign up for Cligs a free tweet analytic service (similar to Google Analytics) at http://blog.cli.gs/products You can use Hootsuite to schedule your tweets.

Challenges in managing e-books in a library collection were outlined in a session by Carolyn J. DeLuca and Dani L. Roach, University of St. Thomas. When purchasing e-books, the software platform (whether Mac or PC or otherwise) should always be considered. E-books can be purchased for single license users or multiple license users. Dealing with how to implement an e-book collection, the presenters mentioned Springer's White Papers which can be accessed at http://www.springer.com/librarians/e-content?SGWID=0-113-2-773809-0 Both cataloging and decisions and workflow decisions need to be addressed before e-books are integrated into a library collection.

Technologies such as Yahoo Pipes and Twitter need to be implemented in ways that serve library patrons. It is perhaps, too early, to determine how successful Yahoo Pipes will be in helping our library patrons but the creative and imaginative use of Twitter at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is generating the interest of the undergraduate population. As Michael Porter in the main session emphasized the creation of a library infrastructure that accommodated electronic formats, the management of e-books may become an important issue for libraries as they deal with the next generation of library users.

References

Fagan, Jody Condit. "Mashing up multiple web feeds using yahoo! pipes: I was overwhelmed when I
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