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How to Present Web-Based Legal Information: Towards Library Web 2.0

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How to present web-based legal information:

TOWARDS LIBRARY WEB 2.0

5th Starr Workshop
Ithaca, NY
October 7-11, 2007

Sasha Skenderija
Cornell Law Library
(Law) Libraries BEFORE the Internet ('80s)

• Exclusive provider of evaluated and authentified information/resources for legal researchers

• The stress is on collections, i.e., on WHAT LIBRARIES OWN

• **Keywords**: Automation, OPAC, OCLC, MARC, Conversion of paper catalogs…

• Libraries publish in print (mostly) secondary sources:
  • Catalogues
  • Acquisition lists
  • Collection and Circulation Guides
  • Various Leaflets and Handbooks
Libraries VERSUS the Internet ('90s)

"The Internet is not a substitute for libraries. In fact, the Internet is a dangerous problem for librarians and teachers whose concern is honesty and accuracy."
(Mesa, 1998)

Librarians vs. Cybercowboys

"At some point the Internet has to stop looking like the world's largest rummage sale. For taming this particular frontier the right people are librarians, not cowboys. The Internet is made of information, and nobody knows more about how to order information than librarians, who have been pondering that problem for thousands of years..."  (Rennie, March 1997)

Obsession with “organizing the Internet” and “bringing order to the chaos”

Keywords:

CD-ROM, Union Catalog, WebPAC, Information Superhighway, Internet Access, Portals, Metadata, Z39.50…
Libraries became publishing (mostly) secondary sources on the INTERNET:

- Catalogues
- “Reliable” (i.e. institutional) Internet Resources Guides (Portals)
- Acquisition lists
- Collection and Circulation Guides
- Research Guides
- Various Leaflets and Handbooks

No significant contribution to the development and utilization of the Internet!

“[…] What that means is that while an institution on the one hand is likely to retain a part of its identity and part of its individuality, over time the network in the virtual environment is moving in the opposite direction.”
- Chuck Henry on how academic libraries can survive and have purpose in a fluid environment. ACM: UBiquity (August 2003)
Some Consequences:

- Incompetence in dealing with tsunami of digital-born information
- Boom of commercial (Lexis, Westlaw…) and non-library-based (Legal Information Institute, JSTOR…) Online Services
- Academic self-publishing, emergency of Digital Libraries, and repositories

Questions like “Do we really need traditional libraries and librarians any more?”
Libraries WITHIN the Internet (’00s)

• Digitization, „disaggregation“, and globalization of traditional library sources leads to hybridization of collections and services

• Google-effect

- from user’s point of view, it’s much more important what library PROVIDES than what kind of sources it owns or controls

- importance of libraries reduced to expensive and specialized, rare or hard-to-find information and sources

The fundamental deficiency of all library and information systems stems from the fact that, inevitably, they are centered around institutions. On the contrary, there is no fixed center in Cyberspace. It is substituted by “variable virtual centers” represented by individual users at the moment of placing their information request.
Librarians focus shifts from:

- paper to digital collections
- secondary sources publishing on the Web to **Web-based Services**
- document retrieval systems to information (full-text) finding tools
- the system architecture to user customization
Libraries BEYOND the Internet (2.0)
“Library 2.0 will be a meeting place, online or in the physical world, where [library users'] needs will be fulfilled through entertainment, information, and the ability to create [their] own stuff to contribute to the ocean of content out there.”

Michael Stephens

“Librarians just aren't thinking like this yet, and we need to change this. It's at the very core of the whole 'Library 2.0' discussion, and this is why it's so critical. If we keep our content locked up on our own web sites and don't get it out there for people to use as they want to use it, then our content will fall by the wayside.”

Jenny Levine

Source: Michael E. Casey and Laura C. Savastinuk: Library 2.0 - Service for the next-generation library (9/1/2006)
http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6365200.html
Librarian 2.0: A Manifesto

Posted by Laura Cohen on November 8, 2006

http://liblogs.albany.edu/library20/2006/11/a_librarians_20_manifesto.html

A Librarian's 2.0 Manifesto

- I will recognize that the universe of information culture is changing fast and that libraries need to respond positively to these changes to provide resources and services that users need and want.
- I will educate myself about the information culture of my users and look for ways to incorporate what I learn into library services.
- I will not be defensive about my library, but will look clearly at its situation and make an honest assessment about what can be accomplished.
- I will become an active participant in moving my library forward.
- I will recognize that libraries change slowly, and will work with my colleagues to expedite our receptiveness to change.
- I will be courageous about proposing new services and new ways of providing services, even though some of my colleagues will be resistant.
- I will enjoy the excitement and fun of positive change and will convey this to colleagues and users.
- I will let go of previous practices if there is a better way to do things now, even if those practices once seemed so great.
- I will take an experimental approach to change and be willing to make mistakes.
- I will not wait until something is perfect before I release it, and I’ll modify it based on user feedback.
- I will not fear Google or related services, but rather will take advantage of these services to benefit users while also providing excellent library services that users need.
- I will avoid requiring users to use things in librarians’ terms but rather will shape services to reflect users’ preferences and expectations.
- I will be willing to go where users are, both online and in physical spaces, to practice my profession.
- I will create open web sites that allow users to join with librarians to contribute content in order to enhance their learning experience and provide assistance to their peers.
- I will lobby for an open catalog that provides personalized, interactive features that users expect in online information environments.
- I will encourage my library’s administration to blog.
- I will validate, through my actions, librarians’ vital and relevant professional role in any type of information culture that evolves.
• I will educate myself about the information culture of my users and look for ways to incorporate what I learn into library services.

• I will be courageous about proposing new services and new ways of providing services, even though some of my colleagues will be resistant.

• I will let go of previous practices if there is a better way to do things now, even if these practices once seemed so great.

• I will not wait until something is perfect before I release it, and I'll modify it based on user feedback.

• I will be willing to go where users are, both online and in physical spaces, to practice my profession.
Information overload (aka information flood) is a term that is usually used in conjunction with various forms of Computer-mediated communication such as Electronic mail. It refers to the state of having too much information to make a decision or remain informed about a topic. Large amounts of historical information to dig through, a high rate of new information being added, contradictions in available information, and a low signal-to-noise ratio make it difficult to identify what information is relevant to the decision. The lack of a method for comparing and processing different kinds of information can also contribute to this effect. A recent article in the New Scientist claimed that exposing individuals to an information overloaded environment resulted in lower IQ scores than exposing individuals to marijuana, although these results are contested. The same article also notes that a night without sleep can be as debilitating as over-exposure to information. The term was coined in 1970 by Alvin Toffler in his book Future Shock.

Information overload is a problem for pilots of tighter aircraft and attack helicopters, as they have to process large amounts of information and make decisions within split seconds.

Related to academic disciplines, chaos, and improving channels for conveying data from one place to another (such as writing, printing, sound and image recording, storage and global networks of broadcasting and communication channels).

A similar term "information pollution" seems to have been coined by Jakob Nielsen and more recently the term "interruption overload" has begun to appear in newspapers such as the Financial Times.
Key Word: ADDED VALUE

Source Filtering:

Authentication and Evaluation of legal e-Resources

- Library as a publisher of Current Awareness services, research guides and online indexes.
Customization:

Importance of understanding patrons’ needs and habits
Simplification:

- Targeting the audience: our Patrons usually don’t have a MLS 😊
- Using Content Management Software to enable authors of information to be immediate publishers
Involvement and Self-Initiative:
Cornell Law Library’s Online Legal Resources dB
http://library2.lawschool.cornell.edu/esources/

Welcome to Cornell Law Library’s Online Legal Resources. Here you will gain access to many online research databases covering a wide range of topics, including some non-legal resources. All resources are arranged by subject. You can also search by database using the search box on the left. Of the databases listed, some are free to all, some are available to the Cornell community, some are available only at Cornell Law School, and some are password protected, available only to Cornell Law School students and faculty.

Symbol key:
- Free websites available to all
- Cornell Community - available to entire Cornell community
- Law School Computers - available only using Law School workstations
- Password Protected - access restricted to Law School students & faculty
- Personal Account - law students & faculty access using personal accounts

If you have any questions or problems accessing a database, contact the Cornell Law Library at 607-255-9877 or email us at library@lawmail.cornell.edu.
Online Publishing

There are two primary areas for faculty to publish their scholarship online.

1. Legal Scholarship Network

Law school policy encourages all faculty to publish their scholarship on Legal Scholarship Network (LSN). LSN allows publishing of PDFs of articles with copyright permission and working papers. Your administrative assistant should be able to assist you with the details. For help posting your articles to LSN, please contact Joanna Hoeste at the Law Library.

2. Cornell Legal Scholarship Repository

The Cornell Legal Scholarship Repository provides free permanent online access to conference papers, lectures, reports, workshop presentations, pre-prints and other works in progress, and published articles. It allows more types of publication formats than LSN and provides free access to the public with static links. Current publication series include:

- Berger International Speaker Series
- Legal Studies Research Paper Series
- Working Papers Series

Submitting your scholarship for online publication in the Repository is easy. Follow these steps:

- Make sure you retain the copyright on your scholarship. For information on managing your copyrights, including a sample publication agreement, see the Create Change website.

- Submit your completed paper as a Microsoft Word file. PDFs and WordPerfect files can also be accommodated.

- PowerPoint slides, video, and other media are also welcome as ancillary material.

- Submit an abstract along with your contribution. The abstract will be searchable by Internet search engines such as Google, and provides an important means of access to your work.

- Your contributions may be withdrawn from the repository at any time at your request.

Please e-mail your contributions or questions to Jean Hajduk, Repository Project Manager (607/255-4018).
Innovation:
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French Supreme Court
Cornell Law Library and Cornell Law School have established a Center for Documentation on American Law at the French Supreme Court (Cour de Cassation). The Law Library has shipped 13,000 volumes to the French Court and offers electronic research assistance to the Court. The Center will be dedicated before an audience of the world’s leading jurists at a groundbreaking international judicial conference set to take place in Paris on July 17, 2007. Attendees will include U.S. Chief Justice Roberts, Justices Breyer, Ginsburg, and Kennedy, as well as most Chief Justices of the European Union countries. Lord Phillips, Chief Justice of England and Wales, is chairing the conference.

Starr Foundation
The Cornell Law Library, in cooperation with the New York University School of Law Library under a Starr Foundation Grant, is proud to host the Fifth Starr Foundation Workshop, “Trapping into the World of Electronic Legal Knowledge.” Held at Cornell Law Library from October 7-11, 2007, it featured participating librarians from Brazil, Botswana, China, Nigeria, Tanzania, the United States, and Zambia. Starr Foundation Workshops allow law librarians the opportunity to collaborate and compare cross-cultural legal information theories and practices.

International Association of Law Libraries
Cornell Law Library is proud to host the web site of IALL, a worldwide organization of librarians, libraries, and other persons and institutions concerned with the acquisition and use of legal information emanating from sources other than their own jurisdictions. Founded in 1959, IALL has over 600 members in more than 50 countries on five continents.

American Society of International Law
The mission of the American Society of International Law is to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice. The Law Library is proud to host the web site of the ASIL UN21 Interest Group Newsletter.
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Donovan Collection: Analysis of Hitler's Personality

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Introduction

In 1943, the Allied forces wanted to understand Hitler's psychological makeup in order to predict, to the extent possible, his behavior as the Allies continued their prosecution of the war and to anticipate his response to Germany's defeat. The Allies were also seeking to understand the German national psyche to gain an understanding of how to convert them into a "peace-loving nation." This report was written for the OSS by Dr. Henry A. Murray, pre-war Director of the Harvard Psychological Clinic. Dr. Murray obviously was forced by circumstances to psychoanalyze his subject from a distance. He gathered information from a variety of second-hand sources, such as Hitler's genealogy; school and military records; public reports of events in print and on film; OSS information; Hitler's own writings; Hitler biographies; and "Hitler the Man - Notes for a Case History," an article written by W.H.D. Vernon under Dr. Murray's supervision. From these resources and his "needs theory" of personality, Dr. Murray created a psychological profile that correctly predicted the Nazi leader's suicide in the face of Germany's defeat.

With the benefit of hindsight and more than 60 years of scientific advances, one can...
Thank you!

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