

Workshop 3: Blogs, Wikis ...

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Assistants

- 2 from Italy
- (15->18->20) from Spain
- We've done the workshop in Spanish and Italian

Workshop divided in two main discussions

- Current experiences with Blogs and Wikis in our libraries
- Imaginative ideas for our libraries to give new services through these tools

Current experiences: Blog in the law faculty of UB

- Blog for internal library news, new library initiatives, communication with your users
- Using WordPress
- Rules:
 - At least one entry per day
 - Do not follow the news
- High volume of reads, very low volume of comments
- Incentives: studies of criminology
- You have to take a compromise with your blog

Current experiences: CBUC, using the wiki instead of a web

- **Need:** a web for workgroups information
- Few people should change the content
- No need to go to the webmaster
- Flexibility but not anarchy
- **Solution:** Use of a read-only Wiki for the users but open for workshop leaders
- Good experience, probably will increase

Current experiences: Pisa university

- Blog for new book acquisitions
- Each book with comments, pictures, author information, etc.
- Centralized model
- "Molto bello" but... Now closed for lack of funding

Current experiences: UB, ask a librarian service

- They have a home made program for the Ask a Librarian service
- Need a database to handle forms for common answers
- Need to be easy, flexible, access by all
- **Solution:** implementation of a controlled wiki embedded into the application

Idea #1: enrich the catalog by letting the users add comments and reviews

- More useful for public libraries
- Blogs are often too informative, not for discussion between the users and the library. Does not induce participation.
- Reward the user with some incentive like in Amazon
 - Photocopies for free
 - Delete fines
 - ...
- Add pictures to allow the blog be more personal, not institutional
 - Add personal pictures
 - Add pictures of the library state after the doors are closed
- Connect the catalog with other tools like TheLibraryThing
- Blog: is a good tool to improve library services, the anonymous user can introduce their suggestion
- There could be good and bad behave suggestions but it seems the balance is quite positive

Idea #2: let the users create the catalog (like Wikipedia)

- Good for
 - authorities
 - subjects or keywords
 - typos
- Useful to detect duplicate bibs
 - It has to be really easy, just click buttons, not fill in forms or email suggestions.
- Seems good idea **but** the catalogers would not accept that: Cataloging means follow strict rules. At least they have to validate.
- To add, not to delete (maybe different colour)
- Several user levels

Idea #3: To take advantage of the Erasmus (exchange) students

- Let them grow the blogs by their knowledge or culture
- Exchange of blogs
- Use blogs to tell their experiences in their local blogs

Idea #4: use flickr. Take pics of the book covers to

- For new books using a blog also
- For new searches (the red book)
- To physically find very used books on the shelves

Idea #5: use Second Life to virtualize librarians

- Ok, ok, maybe just a video stream to show the library (welcome)
- A chat service could be enough

Thank you
Any question?

