

Curious about LOAD PROFILING?

If you get ready-made catalog records from vendors, you should be!

Come to the Load Profilers
Birds of a Feather Session
next hour!

Blogs, Wikis, and Innovative Software

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For our purposes, a blog is...

- ⌘ A web site where one or more people put up short passages of text (“posts”)
- ⌘ Grows over time as author(s) add more posts
 - like a diary
- ⌘ Produces a record of thoughts, announcements, etc. about a particular topic over time

Project Tracking with a Blog

- ⌘ For projects where numerous changes are made sequentially
- ⌘ Keep a record of:
 - × What change was made
 - × When
 - × Reasoning behind it
 - × Who was consulted
- ⌘ Use a sidebar or static page to give up-to-date picture of overall project

Project Tracking with a Blog

Example:

Alden Library itypes revamp blog

<http://aldenlibraryitypes.blogspot.com/>

Project Tracking with a Blog: Advantages

- ⌘ Centralized, shared place to keep track of all changes
- ⌘ Everyone sees the most up-to-date picture (rather than looking at different outdated e-mails or memos)
- ⌘ Sequence of actions and reasons for decisions not lost to memory

Project Tracking with a Blog: Caveats

- ⌘ People have to read it
 - ✖ May not remember/want to visit blog site
 - ✖ Posts can be delivered via email (through tools like Feedburner)
- ⌘ May need separate document (or static blog page) to give “executive summary” of overall project

For our purposes, a wiki is...

- ⌘ A web site shared by a group of people
- ⌘ Anyone in the group can easily add or edit site content, without having to know HTML
- ⌘ Collective knowledge base
- ⌘ Example: Wikipedia – an encyclopedia where anyone can write or edit articles

Documenting with a Wiki

Use for your in-house documentation (instead of Word Documents, 3-ring binders, etc.)

Good things to put in a wiki:

- ⌘ Library-specific procedures
- ⌘ Coding schemes, e.g. location/itype/status
- ⌘ Direct links to useful Manual pages
- ⌘ Informal tips/best practices

Documenting with a Wiki

Example:

Ohio University Libraries Staff Wiki

<http://staff.library.ohiou.edu/>

Documenting with a Wiki: Advantages

- ⌘ Centralized, shared documentation
- ⌘ Everyone can spontaneously participate in creating documentation that's needed
- ⌘ Everyone sees the most up-to-date picture (rather than all looking at different outdated e-mails or memos)
- ⌘ History of policy/procedure changes automatically kept

Documenting with a Wiki: Caveats

- ⌘ Wiki format may take some getting used to
 - ⌘ Mechanics of reading and editing
 - ⌘ Idea that staff are supposed to create own documentation
- ⌘ When to put full explanations/code lists in the wiki, vs. using it to direct people to Manual, in-system code lists, etc.

Official Innovative Wikis

⌘ WebBridge Wiki:

<http://csdirect.iii.com/webbridge>

⌘ Print Templates Wiki:

<http://csdirect.iii.com/lswiki/PrintTemplates>

⌘ WebPAC Wiki:

<http://csdirect.iii.com/lswiki/WebPAC>

⌘ More?

Your Own Blog/Wiki

Commercially hosted

- ⌘ Commercial sites that let you create a blog/wiki on their server
- ⌘ Easy to set up with minimal technical skills
- ⌘ Less control over how it looks and behaves

EXAMPLES: Blogger,
Pbwiki

Library hosted

- ⌘ (Open source) software installed on library server
- ⌘ Need some technical skills to install and maintain
- ⌘ More control over how it looks and behaves

EXAMPLES: WordPress,
MediaWiki

Questions? Comments?

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Continuing Resources/Database
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