The Future Library

Carla Pfahl

Futurist Thomas Frey had an interesting blog post recently called “The Future Library – A Liquid Network for Ideas” on his website futuristspeaker.com. At a recent conference on the “Future of Libraries” hosted by ALA and Library of Congress, Frey proposed a shift of focus for collection development in libraries from the typical curation of information such as books and journals to that of ideas.

He explains in his post that he looks to the Library of Congress as the leading example of this concept. The Library of Congress began archiving public tweets from Twitter in 2010. Frey notes that this was “yet another example of the Library’s commitment to collecting first-person accounts of history” highlighting many of the other formats the Library collects.

He continually references the term “liquid networks,” which is taken from Steven Johnson’s book Where Good Ideas Come From, calling them “breeding grounds” for ideas to mingle with other ideas. Having creative ideas is only part of the story – where do they go from there? He talks about the “liquid networks” that can be the point of entry for ideas to be realized, talked about, networked with, reformed, and much more, calling this
the “virgin territory where libraries have a critical role to play long into the future.”

While businesses may have shorter lifespans and are accountable to shareholders, public libraries fulfill a greater purpose to serve their communities and provide access to information for all. As Frey notes, having an idea archive may be the area that will give libraries sustenance and purpose far into the future and for lifetimes to come.

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Four Web Tools to Trial with Your Students This Fall

Jennifer Hootman

Here are four web tools that just might make your teaching and learning experiences this fall a bit easier and engaging.

Let’s start with two web tools to facilitate formative assessment.

- **AnswerGarden** – It promises to be a “minimal tool for maximum feedback.” Try it and be the judge. It can be used for real-time participation, brainstorming, or classroom feedback, for instance. Responses can be shared on social networks, exported, or embedded in a blog or website. Provide a question and your students’ answers instantly begin to form a word cloud. There is a free iPad app and for more information check out the demo.

- **Socrative** – This tool can be used on multiple devices for real-time questioning for instant feedback. Assessments can be created in one place and results can be reviewed in a variety of report types. Reports can be downloaded, emailed, or delivered to your Google Drive account. Learn more about Socrative and see if it will work for you.

The next two web tools may help you circumvent the ill-suited and the overwhelming.
• **SafeShare.TV** – Do you have videos that you’d like to share with your students, but there is too much inappropriate content posted next to it? YouTube comes to my mind. It has great educational content for classrooms, but there is so much inappropriate and irrelevant content just a click away. Try SafeShare.TV! Paste in your video’s url, and rather than taking your students to YouTube, for instance, it will generate a “safe space” for students to view your video.

• **Instapaper** – There are several tools that help you save and organize the potentially overwhelming amount of found web content to read at a later time. Instapaper is one of those, and I think it’s worth trialing. Device agnostic, this tool helps you save articles, images, recipes, videos, and those lyrics to “Top of the World” by The Carpenters – basically anything you find on the internet, random or with strategic intent. Instapaper will sync what you save to all of your devices and allow you to read and engage with that content anywhere.

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**Breaks Matter**

*Carla Pfahl*

I read a recent blog post by Randal S. Olson about “The best and worst times to have your case reviewed by a judge.” You know, just in case. He highlighted the book *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, by Daniel Kahneman. In one of the chapters, Kahneman talks about how external factors can affect decision making by highlighting the findings from a research article published in *PNAS.org* three years ago.

When researchers examined the data of parole judgments by 8 different judges, they found that the judges approved about 36% of all parole requests they reviewed in a given day. Not great if you’re a hopeful parolee. Then, they took a closer look to identify the time of day for each judgment and an interesting trend was revealed. Judges were more likely to approve a parole request just after they had taken a break from work, with first thing in the morning (after breakfast) being the most favorable time for a positive outcome. When it came closer to break time, it was less likely the judge would give a positive judgment and nearly all of the decisions made just before a break had negative outcomes.

Olson mentions that while judges are trusted for their impartial decisions, they too succumb to external factors that impair the decision-making process – they too are human. Olson concluded that it is best to have your parole hearing just after breakfast and, if you’re not up for parole, take regular snack breaks.
because “the longer you work without a break, the worse you perform.”

I have noticed a pattern in my own work schedule that I am most productive in the morning and enjoy a break to take a short walk about 10 AM and then another short break around 2 or 3 PM, depending on my day. I always have a slump about an hour after my lunch is over and that afternoon break really refreshes my brain. I would be interested in hearing from others what you do to break up your work day to reenergize your brain. Leave your comments below.

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Business Research Can Be Beautiful

Matt Lee

Business researchers rely on the SEC's EDGAR website to access financial and other information on publicly traded U.S. companies. It's a powerful tool that provides detail on company revenue, operating expenses, executive compensation, and more, particularly via company-provided quarterly and annual reports. But it's not particularly pleasant to use. For some novice users, it can be downright impenetrable.

A website called Rank and Filed aims to make this public information more accessible to the public. It maps and graphs and visualizes data from EDGAR in an intuitive way. The site's catchphrase – “SEC filings for humans” – serves as a funny little shot across the bow of the SEC. Librarians may find the site useful for business research or for sharing with their library users.

To explore companies by industry, use the block navigation elements in the middle of the page. The size of each block corresponds to the size of that industry. After you select an industry, subsequent block sizes correspond to size of exchange and company.

You can also browse by state or conduct a keyword search for individual companies. Knowing a sought-after company's ticker symbol will make using the site a little easier.

Company information is displayed in a series of charts and graphs, which you can navigate through using the left-hand menu. You can browse SEC filings by date, see detailed financial filings, chart the influence of
executives between different companies, research executive histories, and more. It’s very functional, once you get the hang of it. And it’s also quite beautiful, if you’re into this kind of thing.

Stock ownership by Google executives.
Heat map showing word frequency within Apple’s “Discussion and Analysis” sections from past annual reports, where companies detail the major issues they face.
ROI at Fall Library and Education Conferences

Beth Staats

ROI is gearing up for what is sure to be a busy fall attending library and education-related conferences around the state. Last Friday I presented ELM, and specifically LearningExpress Library, at the 2014 ABE (Adult Basic Education) Summer Institute: Building on Success. This was a great conference and the perfect
audience for presenting *LearningExpress Library*. This conference combines Literacy Action Network (LAN), Minnesota Community Education Association (MCEA) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) Summer Institute.

If you're attending ITEM (formerly MEMO), MLA, Education Minnesota, or TIES, please be sure to stop by our exhibit booth for some ELM literature, or just to say hello.

We will be presenting the following sessions at ITEM (MEMO) and Education Minnesota:

**ITEM (MEMO), October 2-4, 2014, St. Cloud**
*Discover What’s New in ELM*, presented by Jennifer Hootman
Friday, October 3, 2014, 3:45 – 4:30 p.m.

**Education Minnesota, October 16-17, 2014, St. Paul**
*Discover What’s New in ELM*, presented by Carla Pfahl
Thursday, October 16, 2014, 9:20 – 10:20 a.m., Room 11

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**LearningExpress Library in ELM**

*Beth Staats*

Now that we've had a couple months to get familiar with *LearningExpress Library* and all of its offerings, I thought I would write up a little bit about what it is and what it contains. For those who aren't aware, *LearningExpress Library* is now part of ELM. On July 1, 2014, *LearningExpress Library, Job & Career Accelerator*, and *Computer Skills Center* were all added to the ELM package.

With the addition of *LearningExpress Library* to ELM, Minnesota residents now have access to additional practical tools and resources. No matter what type of learner you are, K-12, college, adult, or ESL, *LearningExpress* offers tools for skill improvement and review, test and exam preparation including practice tests and tutorials, and job search skills and strategies. *LearningExpress Library* is the umbrella which all of its centers fit under:
Along with all of these LearningExpress Library Centers, we also have access to the Job & Career Accelerator and the Computer Skills Center. Once you are logged in to LearningExpress you will be able to see and have access to ALL of these centers.
ROI is offering several *LearningExpress Library* webinars this fall. For more information or to register for one of these web-based training sessions go to [https://www.minitex.umn.edu/Training/](https://www.minitex.umn.edu/Training/).

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**New ELM Webinars including LearningExpress Library**

Register now for our upcoming ELM webinar offerings. They begin September 16th!

Minitex Reference Outreach & Instruction has a new group of ELM webinar offerings highlighting LearningExpress Library and Job & Career Accelerator. Whether you need a refresher or want to learn something new, these webinars are packed with practical information you can apply to work or personal interests.

Click below for more information on specific class dates, times, and descriptions.

- LearningExpress for Public Libraries
- LearningExpress Library
- LearningExpress Job & Career Accelerator
- LearningExpress for Academic Libraries
- LearningExpress Library K12 Resources
- ELM for Public Libraries
- Britannica School Educator Resources
Results Are In!

Jennifer Hootman

We've received a good number of responses (211) to our survey, ELM Needs Assessment for Library Staff, which will help inform our services. The survey was launched in late spring and closed June 30th.

The survey results will help Minitex Reference Outreach & Instruction staff continue to create relevant support materials, workshops, and webinars for ELM and focus our efforts on current needs and interests.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or comments that you have. We look forward to another great fiscal year and welcome any training and workshop ideas or invitations!
ELM Needs Assessment for Library Staff
2014

1. I work in the following type of library:
   - 41% School Library
   - 24% Public Library
   - 20% College/University Library
   - 9% Special Library
   - 2% System/Consortia
   - 5% Other

2. The following best describes the type of work I do:
   - 35% Reference & Instruction
   - 18% Circulation, Collection Development, & Manager
   - 17% Electronic Resources & Cataloging
   - 12% Information Technology

3. I have worked in a Minnesota library or system for:
   - 24% - 20+ years
   - 22% - 11-15 years
   - 19% - 6-10 years
   - 15% - 16-20 years
   - 15% - 1-5 years
   - 4% - less than 1 year
I have the following degree(s) and/or certificate(s):

- 24% School Library Media Certification
- 20% Other (e.g., B.S., B.A, M.A., J.D., Minnesota Voluntary Library Certification)
- 13% None

Please rate your current knowledge of the ELM resources in the following areas:

- I know which databases are a part of ELM.
  87% Strongly Agree or Agree
- I know the content and subjects represented in ELM.
  84% Strongly Agree or Agree
- I know how to set up ELM on our library website.
  48% Strongly Agree or Agree
- I know how to gather ELM usage data.
  62% Strongly Disagree or Disagree
- 24% Strongly Agree or Agree

Please rate your current knowledge of the ELM resources in the following areas:

- My ELM searching skills are best described as:
  76% Excellent or Above Average
  13% Below Average
  9% Have not yet developed skills in this area
- My skills in applying ELM to on-the-job situations are best described as:
  72% Excellent or Above Average
  18% Below Average
  8% Have not yet developed skills in this area
It would be great to have more training - either in person or online - for teachers and teacher candidates across Minnesota. Thank you again for providing such valuable resources!!!!!!

Thank you so much for your continued offerings. I have attended some webinars in the past and think they are good quality. The only request I would have is to offer some advanced searching techniques that fit with the products.

I have found your webinars to be helpful, particularly as changes and improvements are made to the databases.

We really appreciate your online and face to face training. I hope we will be able to invite you to our media training again this year.

ELM is fantastic, one of the very best programs for schools and students.

ELM is wonderful for students to use for school work and finding information they may need. Our patrons are very surprised when they learn about ELM and that they can search from home as well as on the library catalog.

Because I was part of MILI, I now know how great the ELM databases are. I use them to teach reference skills annually. Thank you.

Yes, I do agree with you. All school media people need training in the ELM resources. I do a better job because of ELM.

ELM Workshops in SW MN

Matt Lee
Two excellent groups of librarians in Southwest Minnesota convened to discuss and learn more about ELM this August. The workshops were hosted by Slayton Public Library and Willmar Public Library and were organized by the Southwest Area Multicounty Multitype Interlibrary Exchange (SAMMIE). We spent quite a bit of time on LearningExpress Library, the newest ELM resource, but also reviewed a number of other databases that have been a part of ELM for some time.

It was fun to hear attendees discuss how these resources will help them to augment existing programs and services and to brainstorm ways that they might help their libraries to reach out to new partners and community members.

Thanks to all who attended, to SAMMIE for organizing, and to Plum Creek and Pioneerland Library Systems for promoting.

Order Promotional Materials for Your Library

Getting ready for returning students, teachers, faculty, and staff? Don't forget to order ELM, AskMN, MnLink, and other informational materials on the statewide e-resources and services. LearningExpress hasn't been added to the ELM brochure yet, but all the other valued resources are included. These materials can be displayed in your library; used in welcome packets; distributed to patrons, teachers, students, and parents; and for a multitude of other uses. Minitex will send materials to you free of charge. To order, visit https://www.minitex.umn.edu/Contact/Order.aspx.

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AskMN Welcomes New Libraries

Carla Pfahl

Please welcome East Central Regional Library to AskMN! Sarah Hawkins, newly appointed Resource Librarian, will be coordinating the training for ECRL staff that will happen sometime in September.

Scott County Library has just completed their AskMN training. My colleague Beth Staats and I visited the Scott County Library administrative offices in mid-August and were given a warm welcome by Eva Poppen and a group of enthusiastic librarians who will be ready to go live with their service in October.

Pew Research Center Study: Ten Facts About Americans and Public Libraries

Carla Pfahl

A recent Pew Research Center study looked at how technology and the Internet are changing Americans’ relationship with libraries. While most Americans still love books, their format for access is starting to change, given that over 50% of Americans now have a tablet device. Here is the list of ten facts about Americans and public libraries:

1. E-Book reading is growing, but printed books still dominate the reading world. In just three years, ebook reading has risen from 17% to 28%.
2. The rise of e-book reading is tied to the steady increase in ownership of tablet computers and e-readers.
3. Americans appreciate libraries, especially for the role they play in communities.
4. Mothers love libraries.
5. Access to books, media, and quiet, sage reading places top the list of favorite library services.
6. The public’s highest priorities for libraries center on kids and literacy.
7. Library websites are catching on.
8. Older teens and young adults are sometimes the most likely to desire new library technologies.
9. One challenge libraries face is simply making people aware of all the services they offer.
10. Library use ebbs and flows for many Americans.

Click here to read the full article with data and more information for each fact.

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One-Second Poll: The Best Fair

What's better?:
- MN State Fair
- Valley Fair
- Vanity Fair (or some other book or magazine to read quietly to yourself)

Submit

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

This form was created inside of University of Minnesota.

Report Abuse - Terms of Service - Additional Terms

Thanks for taking part in this month's poll! And here are the results from last month's.
How many hours per week do you devote to professional development (including reading library blogs, Twitter, etc.)?

- 0-1 HRS: 20%
- 1-3 HRS: 63%
- 3-5 HRS: 13%
- 5-10 HRS: 3%

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