LibWorld

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LIBRARY BLOGGING WORLDWIDE

Edited by
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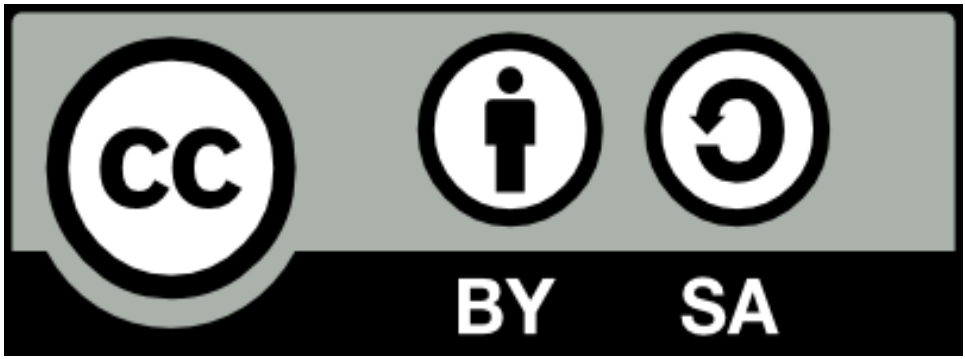

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Notes of the Editors

In early 2007 we started a journey through the world's liblogs. We tried to find blogging librarians throughout the world, and we found a lot. And almost everytime when we asked for an article we received positive resonance. This is the time to say…

Thank you!!

We would like to thank all those people who contributed to this book:

The authors: obviously this book would never have existed without you!

Our cover artist **Jaume Josep Llambrich Brull** and all the others who took part in our book cover contest. All the contributions can be seen at Infobib.de[1].

Walt Crawford for taking the time to write an excellent foreword.

You, the reader. Yes, we are talking about you! We would never have had the perseverance to make this book if all those people all over the world gave us such an overwhelming feedback since we started the LibWorld project.

Where are all the links?

At first we wanted to integrate a complete list of all mentioned links. Soon we surrendered. To make things easier for the reader the links are marked in italic. You can find all those links at our delicious account (http://delicious.com/libworld). All bookmarks are tagged with the name of the country it belongs to.

1http://infobib.de/blog/2008/07/08/libworld-cover-contest-the-contributions/

Foreword

By

Walt Crawford

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Walt Crawford is a writer and occasional speaker in the library field, after five decades as a library systems analyst and programmer. He has written extensively on library blogs and liblogs in his free ejournal, Cites & Insights, and in two books examining English-language library blogs. His book-length examination of 607 primarily English-language liblogs (blogs by library people but not official library blogs), including notes on how most of them have changed from 2007 and 2008 and how some have changed since 2006, is available from Lulu.com: "The Liblog Landscape 2007-2008, A Lateral Look."

Foreword

What can you say about library-related weblogs and how they're changing?

The library field has many blogs, both liblogs (blogs by library people) and library blogs (blogs officially published by libraries). Liblogs offer some of the most current and interesting discussions on professional topics-and help us know some of the most interesting people in the library field. Library blogs can serve a variety of purposes for libraries of all sorts, both within the library and as tools to communicate with patrons.

This fascinating compendium offers thirty commentaries on the state of library-related blogs within 29 countries. I've been investigating library-related blogs for some time, but primarily English-language blogs and primarily those visible within the USA. I learned quite a bit from these essays; I suspect you will too.

How Many?

Library-related blogs date back to 1998 (in several nations, as far as I can tell), with more showing up slowly each year until 2003. Since then, many more have emerged in many more nations. As you go through the essays, you'll see starting points in 2001, 2002, quite a few in 2003 and even more since.

How many library-related blogs are there? Nobody knows-and any number stated here would be obsolete by the time this book sees print.

Taking the larger of the number of blogs mentioned in each of the articles here (other than USA) or the number available from some directory I could identify on the web-and adding a count for the United Kingdom, almost certainly the largest center of library-related blogs that is not represented in this book-I come up with roughly 1,350 blogs in all. That includes blogs that have ceased and blogs that "fly under the radar"-ones that are not intended for a broad readership. If I had to guess, and based on U.S. trends, I'd guess that nets out to perhaps 1,000 active and publicly accessible library-related blogs in all.

Within the U.S., there are at least 800 library-related blogs that are active, publicly-available and intended for an open readership, split roughly equally between liblogs and library blogs. That's a very conservative number.

If I had to guess, and eliminating "project" blogs that disappear after a few months, I'd guess you might be able to double these numbers but not quintuple them: That there may be 1,600 or more active library-related blogs in the U.S. and 2,000 or more elsewhere—but that there probably aren't anywhere near 8,000 in the U.S. or 10,000 elsewhere.

People start new liblogs because they have something to say or because they're expected to do so for library school courses or continuing education—after all, it only takes a few minutes to start a free liblog. Some people explicitly shut down liblogs; more simply walk away—but most, I believe, continue to blog, at least once in a while.

A Few Select Quotes

These essays speak for themselves. I'm taken by the fact that the longest essay describes the situation in a nation that appears to have almost no public library-related blogs at the moment, and it's a fascinating essay.

A few of many comments I found intriguing and telling—both for problems with library-related blogs and some of the potential:

Spain: "What is the blogosphere if not a sum of individuals throwing their thoughts to the large and wide world?"

Hungary: "We are still at the beginning, most of the librarians just started to get familiar with the web (and also with blogging). The main group of blogger librarians is formed by younger people and some 'brave' libraries…"

Norway: "Judging by the number of comments, few Norwegian library blogs have a large readership. The sheer number of blogs makes library blogs an item for people with special interests, which in practice means other librarians. As an exercise in writing and publishing and as a practical introduction to web 2.0, blogging is an excellent tool and I think this is at the moment the greatest value of blogging in libraries in Norway. At some point there will probably be a need to establish a

professional practice and set of requirement as to what a library blog should be, but so far it is not a part of the professional toolbox for most librarians." [Emphasis added.]

Denmark: "It seems that the blogs are an excellent way to run an online debate and share information within the library, but when it comes to libraries and their communication with users the situation seems a bit desolate. Of course I don't know the statistics from other library blogs but if you look at the responses they are not overwhelming."

Iran: "It is interesting that each LIS school or association has a blog, especially a collaborative blog. Of course there are many old librarians and LIS professionals who have not yet a blog for personal or attitude reasons. The country has more than 2000 librarians, with less than 200 popular blogs. It should be noted that every week new blogs born." (But note that, if the U.S. had one blog for every ten librarians, there would be more than 13,800 U.S. liblogs!)

Brazil: "Still, after almost five years since the pioneers, little is articulated in the direction to use blogs as an extra resource of information inside the productive processes of public and private libraries and as part of librarians' life."

France: The vast majority of libloggers use pseudonyms. Why? "1. To have greater freedom of expression, not really to criticize their hierarchy (they don't) but just because they think the fact of them having a professional blog will be frowned upon… 2. Some think that the fact that they use a pseudonym does not reduce the impact of their blog since, it is being argued, the web of liblogs acts a self-validating disciplinary field: you write good posts, you have an audience, other libloggers link to your blog; if you're talking rubbish, people just won't come…"

Russia: "To my mind, any subject-oriented blogosphere consists of two core components--authors, who keep a blog, and readers, that read posts and comment on them. But in Russia both these components are poorly developed."

Switzerland (German): "Unfortunately, it seems like many Swiss librarians don't care too much about blogging, at least not professionally. Some assumptions on my part: A lot of users

aren't very confident about writing in public. They might be afraid of mistakes. A lot of users aren't very confident with Web 2.0. Blogging takes a lot of time. Switzerland is a very small country, and librarians know each other personally…"

Italy: "The reaction of Italian librarians to blogs and other tools of Web 2.0 has not been enthusiastic. Still today many librarians are doubtful about the potentials of blogs as a mean of communication and interaction with customers-some of them look at it from an ideological point of view instead of considering the good and the bad realistically."

Belgium: "Critical views about the inertia of the Belgian library sector are not done, not even in an ironical way."

U.S.: "The library blogosphere of the United States is hugely diverse and more multifaceted than in most of the rest of the world. Reasons for this could be traced to the rise in popularity of blogging in general in the United States, or U.S. librarians' quickness to jump on board this elegant method for communicating ideas."

Changes in the Landscape

My sense has been that creation of liblogs and posting to liblogs in the U.S. (and probably Australia and Canada) peaked around 2006: That we're seeing fewer new liblogs and existing bloggers are posting less often. I also have the sense that posts are getting longer-and we're seeing more comments per post.

In other words, my sense is that liblogs are maturing. No longer the shiny new toy, they've become an established mechanism that works well for people with something to say. Those who still use them may use them less often but to more effect.

I don't think that can be said of library blogs-or, for that matter, of non-English liblogs. There, I suspect, we're in earlier days, a suspicion certainly reinforced by some of these essays. Librarians and libraries within many nations never went through a "shiny new toy" phase; blogs are emerging as they're needed or useful. It would be fascinating to see updates on these articles two years down the road. Will libraries find more effective ways to use blogs? Will librarians maintain healthy, well-read blogs in more nations and on more aspects of the field?

The international landscape is complex, as this collection clearly shows. I thank the editors for starting this project and look forward to its continuation.

Walt Crawford, 2008

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LibWorld

The Spanish biblioblogosphere - a personal view

BY

GAMOIA

author: gamoia

blog: http://gamoia.wordpress.com/

La bibliotecària gamoia is blogging in Catalan, but in her considerations she does not only concentrate on Catalonia but on the whole Spanish biblioblogoshere.

Spanish bloggers

I have been asked to present a short overview of the Spanish biblioblogosphere. So, trying to accomplish this task I reviewed some recent papers dealing with this subject by more qualified bloggers than me. I give these papers in the bibliography for those of you who can read Spanish and also for those of you who would like to follow more links than my few examples.

Let's start by a short presentation. I am a professional librarian, around 50 years old, working in an academic institution. I am a blogging librarian too, since January 2005. Furthermore I am a Spanish librarian blogging on Catalan since it is my language and the language of my primary community. Please keep in mind that this is not the common profile for bloggers in the Spanish biblioblogosphere. But what is it the blogosphere if not a sum of individuals throwing their thoughts to the large and wide world? So, from this my particularity, here I present my personal appreciation on the Spanish biblioblogosphere. And I encourage you simply to browse. Be assured that you will discover talks of your own interest!

The first biblioblog that caught my attention and that still retains it was *Deakialli DocuMental*. It is the creation of two Spanish librarians, Catuxa Seoane and Vanesa Barrero, who started it during their university studies so long ago as 2003. They

review technological news for the information professional and by doing so they publish a bulletin which I highly appreciate for maintaining me up to date. Catuxa is the main authoress and she is widely recognized and frequently asked by media as a representative of the Spanish biblioblogosphere.

Catorze.blog is the loudspeaker of *Javier Leiva*, a librarian engaged in his own company adventure. He is recognized as the creator of the first Spanish blog dealing with library matters, the historical *Bibliotecario desordenado* (Untidy librarian) in the early 2003. He uses the blog as part of its business strategy and he is an important and appreciated member of the informal Spanish biblioblogosphere community. His company specializes in information management, architecture and web design. He carries out frequently courses of introduction to the publication in blogs for librarians and he also produces blogs to order as Quotes & Jokes.

Documentación, biblioteconomía e información is the third of my favorites Spanish blogs. It is written by Álvaro Cabezas, a young Andalousian information specialist who brings his fresh capacity of criticism to the review of old librarian practices. He is particularly interested in scientometrics as he is engaged in a research team, called EC3, dealing with Evaluation of science and scientific communication in the University of Granada.

Last but not least, a Catalan blogging librarian like me. Daniel Gil is maintaining *Bauen_blog*, which deals with libraries and architecture. In his blog he offers a good overview of new library buildings in Spain and abroad. Besides this he is actively engaged within his local community, in the South of Catalonia, on the Ebre river, which reflects on his blog.

No doubt there are many other excellent blogs in the Spanish biblioblogosphere. This is only a selection of those which I specially appreciate. Through their links and with the help of the bibliography below, you should be able to locate many more. Let me be cautious and note here some of the very serious blogs: *SEDIC blog*, *El Documentalista Enredado*, *Bibliometría*, *Véase además*, *Biblioblog*, *ALFIN*, *DosPuntoCero*, *Gardalivros* (Galician). And some humoristic too: *Frikitecaris*, *La Imagen Social del Bibliotecario*.

Regarding library blogs there are still very few examples, although it seems that the professionals are already taken heart. *Blogueteca da BETSA* (Galician) is one of the oldest university library blog, initiated in 2006, serving the Library of the Architecture School at the University of La Coruña. *Notícies de la BUS* (Catalan) started in 2006 too and serves news of the Schools of Business and Computing Studies at the University Autonoma de Barcelona. It is worth to keep an eye on the recently started blogs by the University of Barcelona (Catalan): *Bloc de*

Lletres (Humanities), *Bloc de Dret* (Law) and *Bloc de Bellvitge* (Health).

Just to finish some examples from the public libraries: *Biblioteca Municipal Ramon Bosch de Noya*, *BiblioSort* (both in Catalan) and *Pestañas sobre la almohada* from the Library of Muskiz.

Today, 23rd of April, is the Day of the Book and the Rose. To celebrate it on a Catalan style you should buy a book for you and a rose for your partner, or both or lots of books and roses ☺

I would like to offer you the opportunity to hear the sounds of Catalan language by using a literary audio anthology specially prepared by the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya for the *2006 Diada de Sant Jordi*. With my best wishes!

One year later…

My favourites bloggers matured and got involved in projects and jobs that prevent them to dedicate so much time to their hobby as they previously did although most of them regularly maintain their blog. There have been some deceases: *Véase además*, *Gardalivros*, *La imagen social del bibliotecario.* But some migrations looking for a better positon too: *Catorze* to *Javier Leiva Aguilera*, *BiblioSort* to *Biblioteca Municipal de Sort*), *Notícies de la BUS* splitted into *BUS Informàtica* and *BUS Empresarials*. Even *Gamoia* recently changed her hosting.

Fortunately new librarians took the torch and started blogs both as a personal challenge and as a professional development. So let me introduce these newcomers as they deserve.

Two collective blogs are my new favourites: *Bib botó* (Catalan), dedicated to child and youth librarianship, first known as *Jimbotó*. And *AMPLI* (Catalan), which groups librarians dealing with music collections at the public libraries and it is well connected with French colleagues. Both of them transmit energy and passion.

Lluís Anglada is the director of the *Consortium of Academic Libraries of Catalonia* and he entered the blogging arena recently with *Bdig* (digital libraries and cooperation) (Catalan). He is the only one of Spanish library directors so far having decided to start a professional blog. It uses it as a personal notebook where he reviews professional articles and reports from his area of interests. In my opinion this is an important step in our professional panorama.

There is a blooming of library blogs in the Catalan area, both at public and at university libraries. I enjoy particularly the reading of *University of Barcelona blogs*.

As an example of an specialized library, it is worth to mention

the effort of *La Biblioteca del CEJFE* (Catalan), the library of the Justice Department Studies Center of the Regional Government (Generalitat). It seems to obtain a noticeable result.

On the humoristic side let me bring your attention to *Burgostecarios*, the librarians with scarf, blogging from the cold part of Spain, well connected with the *Frikitecaris* team. Both of them conform a much needed counterweight to the rigidity of the profession.

On the serious part I would propose you the articles and analysis by Dídac Margaix in his blog *DosPuntoCero* and the dynamism of Nieves González, with *Bibliotecarios 2.0* and the boost she gives to the creation of *blogs in the University of Sevilla*.

Regarding Galicia I am impressed by the good work performed by the group of school libraries and the blog *A Nosa Biblioteca*. I also appreciate work done by the association *ANABAD Galicia* and the personal blog *Documentos*. It is worth to keep a close eye on this community.

Just to finish I appreciated the intensive use of ephemeral blogging during events and courses. Three examples: *III Saló del Llibre de Barcelona* (Catalan), *11es Jornades Catalanes d'Informació i Documentació* (Catalan) *and Web social para profesionales de la información*, a course organized by the team

of *SEDIC blog*.

Hungary

BY

Daniel Takacs

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blog: http://ek.klog.hu/

daniel takacs from budapest is working as a weblibrarian at the Library of the Moholy-Nagy University of Applied Arts and Design. Besides he studies library and information science and Hungarian literature at the Eötvös Loránd Science University Budapest.

Hungarian bloggers

1. History

Hungarian libraries are using blogs for a short time - if they are using. The first blog dealing with librarianship, libraries, librarians was the *Könyvtároskisasszony* (”Library Mistress”), it runs since 2003. It doesn’t belong to any library, and it’s typical for the earlier liblogs. The publishers were also from the younger course. The Könyvtárkisasszony’s publisher, Sorsha was a guest editor on a very popular communal blog, called *Kispad*. She was writing about librarianship for a month (march, 2006).

The real break-through was in 2006. Most of the blogs were born at that time, including *the first Hungarian blog for library patrons* and the *KLOG.hu*. The main idea of the KLOG.hu (Könyvtár-LOG, Library-LOG) was to make a free blogging space for librarians and libraries. The first posts were written in the middle of october.

The first four blogs were quite various: a *testblog* for the University Library of Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE EK), the *Fiatalos / Könyvtár / Szemlélet* (FIKSZ), the *Élet és Könyvtár* (ék) and the *Könyvtárépítészet* (see them below). This community had been growing to 23 klogs in a half year.

The central portal was launched a month ago, including a forum, a wiki, a news blog and also an advertising platform for librarian and library related jobs. We made *our own social network* on

ning.com, and began to collect libraries and librarians on the biggest Hungarian social network, called *iWiW* (international Who is Who, with over 1 million users) - we've got 544 relations until now (and still counting). At least, we're doing all of this under the *Creative Commons licence*.

There are a lot of liblogs outside KLOG.hu, some of them decided to move to our domain, but some moved under it's library's domain (this is the ideal solution, one of our main ideas to spread) and also there are others, running on free blog-hosting spaces (for them KLOG.hu wants to be an alternate decision when choosing a hosting service).

Now, as I wrote before, there are *23 klogs* and *12 liblogs* - these 35 library-related blogs make up the Hungarian liblogosphere at this very moment. We're just at the beginning, the hardest thing is the self-identification and -determination, and generally to get familiar with "2.0" and honoring the advantages it offers. The klogs want to help in this with referring to and translating foreign materials and also with creating own texts (guidelines, tutorials, examples etc.).

2. Three blogs

It was difficult to decide which blogs I should introduce. At last I chose the *FIKSZ* (which is the most active klog at the moment), the blog of the Justh Zsigmond City Library (the first liblog for the patrons) and my own one (as it was in the task).

The FIKSZ (”YA is in Focus”, if I have to translate) is a personal-professional klog. It originally run under the name “Olvasónapló” (Reader’s book), then it was moved and renamed when KLOG.hu was started. Probably it can be described as the Hungarian equivalent of the Yalsa-blog and the TeenLibrarian, it tries to help young adult librarians and deals with young people, what tools methods can be used to get them into the library, and how to keep them after getting in. The Library 2.0 and Web 2.0 transfixes his viewpoint, he’s looking for these tools and methods, shows and uses them. He is standing out for the need of the young adult librarians beside the child and adult librarians, who’s specially concerned with the claims of this age-group. He is also writing English resumes for the foreigns, who are reading this klog. As the editor, Ádám Paszternák told me, ‘working, telling and inspirating’ are the main actions. He guesses his work is underground and absolutely nonprofit, but hopes that the situation will change and the FIKSZ will be followed by others, may overtake the tendency.

The *Justh Zsigmond City Library* (JUSTHVK) of Orosháza has a *liblog* since september 2006. As its editors said, the idea came from the need of change. They have a static library portal, and wanted to develop it to more dynamic platform. Then the final decide was made: they leave the portal as it is and launch a new one as a blog. They made one at a free blog-host. It seemed to be a good choice because of its directness. They wanted to reduce the distance between library and patrons by using the blog as a

tool, moreover they can deliver the news of the librarianship in a much more personal intonation. The title came from this feature, too: 'The librarians of justhvk.hu say so…'

Every colleague has a permission to blog (everybody posts with her/his own name), but still there are colleagues who haven't got familiar with it. Finally the blog managed to be uploaded to the domain of the library, and nowadays *the old one* is edited by a librarian as a professional/selfblog.

The list of benefits is endless. The most important points: the subject is just the same, the point is the view of a librarian. Furthermore the disclosure is far not so formular as on the main page of the library. The virtual interaction with the librarian makes the patron-library relation a closer one, the librarians are able to get a quick and informal feedback on their work and opinion. The librarians of Orosháza organized a blogger-patron meeting not much ago - this turned the virtual contact into a real one, and successfully drew on a new group of readers. At last it gives feedback also for the Hungarian librarian community in general.

The Élet és Könyvtár ("Life and Library") is my own klog, it's a "semi-selfklog". Originally I launched it for documentating a measuring in december 2005 but after I finished, it began to deal with the whole world of the Library 2.0. I'm writing about web applications for libraries, Web 2.0, databases, news from outside Hungary, but sometimes I reflect to the Hungarian news, events

and also write about my job and related problems. I like to blog "live" from conferences. The original blog is on the domain *wordpress.com*, later (october, 2006) I grew it out and this gave the idea of the KLOG.hu.

It's important to emphasize: these blogs are just pieces of the whole picture. It's just a bit extreme to say that almost every week a new liblog or klog is born. So it is a very dynamic area of the Hungarian librarianship.

3. A valuation of the degree of utilisation

The Hungarian liblogosphere is still far from the mainstream at the moment, so I think we cannot speak about general utilities. I can emphasize just single cases, like the ELTE EK or the JUSTHVK. But the librarian-librarian line is much stronger, it's progressing fast.

One of the head utilities could be transvaluing the Library as an idea in the society. The libraries have unfortunately low prestige in Hungary these days, it is also measureable in the financial support. We would like to change this on long distance.

The personal liblogs in addition could (and some already did it!) facilitate cooperation, so we can read about each other, about the projects of the others and works of other people constantly and applicate the things done and new tools developed.

4. The future

It is hard to say what is going to be. When I launched KLOG.hu last october, I would have never thought that it will be so prosperous. We are still at the beginning, most of the librarians just started to get familiar with the web (and also with blogging). The main group of blogger librarians is formed by younger people and some "brave" libraries, but there is also the personal initiative what is typical and important. I see two real goals:

1. the "older" librarians get this form of the communication

2. and the number of the library-related blogs will increase.

It is interesting to see that this tendency is thrown back by the iWiW social network. It has a message-board what fits better for a big percentage of the librarians than the blog, because it is more simple, easier and they have a relatively big number of partnerships, so they must not "hunt" the users and patrons. From their point of view blogs are pointless but the experiences of the JUSTHVK shows the opposite.

5. …and the other things

Ideas of Web 2.0 and Library 2.0 came to Hungary mainly from the foreign liblogosphere. The community of the KLOG.hu wants to explore and utilize their opportunities both from social and technological aspect. Our colleague, Sándor Koroknai (his klog's name is *Open Library*) is prospecting and using open source

integrated library systems (to be exact it is the *Koha*). He sets up Koha in some school libraries and besides this he is developing his web applications and databases (the newest one he customized is the *VideoDB*).

Ádám Paszternák made the KlogWiki and the *KataKer* which is based on the *Google Custom Search Engine* and searches in the Hungarian librarian mailing list (called *Katalist*). He also created *FIKSZ E-ngine* which searches 1000+ sites (more than *LISZEN*…). I created *Hungarian librarian community* on ning.com and began searching after the libraries and librarians on the iWiW. There is also an OPAC-project, called *UTCA*, currently being developed by András Kardos and Iván Csámer at *konyvtar.info*. They would like to make a complete OPAC for the whole country, with integration of tools of the social web. This means they want to invite the patrons to build and correct the database. It's going to be something like *LibraryThing* but with features and possibilities much more than that; it is going to be an independent catalogue. At last to mention, we are planning to build a site, similar to the *Google Librarian Central*.

Norway

BY

Thomas Brevik

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Norwegian bloggers

1. History

Norwegian librarians started blogging in 2001. At first it was individual librarians who started blogging for personal reasons, but soon the professional blogs appeared. The first generally read professional blog was "*Blogg og bibliotek*" (Blog and library). This blog was co-written by three librarians from around the country. Until 2004 the number of blogs increased slowly, but in 2004 blogging became a more accepted form of professional communication, and although personal blogs still dominated the first official library blogs appeared. The best example of this was the *Fauske public library blog* , where the stated aim of the blog was to be the place you could find all blogs from or about Fauske. But it was not until 2006 that blogging really started in Norwegian libraries. That year 36 new blogs where started and several of them where institutional blogs. Most Norwegian library related blogs are indivudual blogs written by librarians.

The next largest group are project blogs or special subject blogs, i.e. library science students blog, school librarians blog etc. So far only a few blogs are actually library blogs aimed at the general public. Literary oriented blogs are also a large group with childrens literature dominating this category. In one area blogs have become successful is as a replacement of the traditional regional library newssheet that where publised as an

internal information channel for public libraries within a regional authority (fylke). New blogs appear constantly, but still individual and personal blogs dominate the scene, and there are still no blogs from the largest public or academic libraries. A timeline and list of Norwegian library related blogs can be found at: *norske bibblogger*.

2. Introduction of some exemplary blogs

The best and most well known Norwegian library blog in 2007 is no doubt *Plinius*, written by Tord Høivik, a lecturer at the Oslo College library science department. His blog is analitical and political with a large readership and it is probably the most commented of all Norwegian library blogs. Tord also blogs infrequently in English at *Pliny the librarian*.

Blogg og bibliotek - blog and library - is where I blog. Exerpts of this blog are published in the Norwegian Library Journal (Bok og bibliotek). Blogg og bibliotek has been a collaborative blog with a shifting set of authors and have commented on both library policy, library practice and library related news.

Of the official library blogs I will again mention Fauske bibliotek which has probably the oldest still running library blog in Norway. Other library blogs that are interesting are the Buskerud regional library authority blog -*Blogg fra bredden* where regional library news and general library related items are blogged.

One thing that has limited Norwegian library blogging to a certain degree is that the tools available for free blogging has been in english, Blogger, Wordpress, or demanded a certain degree of technical knowledge that few librarians posess. There is a great reluctance to start official blogging in open commercial blog services and few libraries so far have dedicated resources to set up and run blog software on their own server, if they have one.

3. A valuation of the degree of utilisation

Judging by the number of comments, few Norwegian library blogs have a large readership. The sheer number of blogs make library blogs an item for people with special interests, which in practice means other librarians. As an exercise in writing and publishing and as a practial introduction to web 2.0, blogging is an excellent tool and I think this is at the moment the greatest value of blogging in libraries in Norway.

At some point there will probably be a need to establish a professional practice and set of requirement as to what a library blog should be, but so far it is not a part of the professional toolbox for most librarians.

4. The future of library and library blogs in Norway?

I think the greatest challenge is the need for education and professional updating of a majority of librarians as to what

blogs are and how they relate to libraries as a tool for communication and as a source of information. Another thing is that I would love to see a library related blogging tool, preferably in Norwegian, that gave libraries and librarians an easier start to blogging and which could also be the place for official library blogs.

Hopefully the next growth in blogging in Norwegian libraries will be from the larger libraries where the professional communities must have a lot to communicate both to the public and to the profession. The blog I would really, really, like to see in the future is a personal blog from the director of the National Library. *(sigh!)*

5. ...and the other things

One thing that is quite exiting at the moment here in Norway is the establishment of the Library Lab (Biblioteklaboratioret) where we hope to create a network of librarians with high technical skills to create Library 2.0 application for Norwegian library needs. The Library Lab can also become a clearinghouse for useful web 2.0 tools for librarians and maybe a place to learn how to use and create services for library users. Hopefully the Library Lab will also be initiating a blogging tool for librarians based on Wordpress. The Library Lab will be operational during 2007.

Denmark

BY

Thomas Ellegaard Langholz

author:thomas ellegaard langholz

blog: http://dalumbib.blogspot.com/

thomas ellegaard langholz from Denmark works in Dalum Bibliotek in Odense.

Denish bloggers

Blogging in the public system is still a very new phenomenon in Denmark. In general the libraries seem to be slow to adopt and accept new internet technologies as e.g. many of the web 2.0-features. One of the blogs I mention later started in 2002 but all the blogs aimed at the public has been created within the last two years.

I was only able to find three Danish libraries with a blog aimed at library users or the public audience. Typically the library blog will be concerned with issues that are related to the library itself - e.g. this could be:

- News from the library itself (primarily new or changed opening hours)
- Events at the library (concerts, theatre etc)
- Promotion of library materials - books, music, movies, databases etc.

I'm currently blogging for the library when I'm working at *Dalum Bibliotek*. The content is very much like what I described above. I should mention that this blog is an experiment and I'm trying out the media to see what it requires and for what it can be used. I haven't received any response from the public but I also admit that I haven't made much PR for the site.

Still, I see the blog as a good way to communicate with our end users. The blog is easy to use both for the "authors" and the

user. However it would be wise to consider whether the blog should have its offspring in the library or the subject. As it is now with "my" blog the library is the offspring. This means that I write about a lot of different things making the blog very wide (and maybe less interesting for many users). If I was blogging about a special subject e.g. music, children's books etc. this might attract user with interest in this subject.

A funny thing that has been going on is the *Bookbrother project* in Odense. The essence of this game is that you put a number of books into a "house" and then people vote for the book that they wanted to leave the house. The greatest thing about this promotion project was that people really got into the thing and made comments on the related blog. The winner was "The exception" by Danish author Christian Jungersen.

A bigger number of public libraries has started blogs that are used to share information within the staff. These blogs can be access by the public but are as mentioned only intended to be used as a tool by the staff. These blogs can be used to share information about events in the library, to share knowledge from courses, seminars etc, and to pass on tips and tricks regarding OPACs, internet, books and other items. An example is *kkbpaatur.blogspot.com* which is a blog from the main library in Copenhagen. In this blog they write about courses, seminars and visits at other libraries and in that way they share their knowledge with colleagues.

Librarians, libraries, librarianship and the library system in Denmark is the subject of a number of private or semi-private blogs. We have three very well visited blogs that are writing about libraries, internet and information technology. One - *Bib-log* - is written by two members of staff from the main library in Copenhagen while another one - *e-klumme* - is written by a senior lecturer from the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Denmark. Web 2.0 is one of the main themes of these blogs but they also write about other subjects related to the libraries.

Within this last group we also find the online debate about the libraries and the future of the libraries and librarians. I'll try to mention some of the subjects that are being discussed:

1. *OPAC*: A group of people have been working on developing a search system which would enable end users to search in different data sources at the same time. The system also uses a interface à la Google and ranks the results. The debate evolves around the question of simple vs. advanced search and ranking results vs. bibliographic ranking.

2. *Future of the library service*: It was argued that what the public is interested in is free information - and this could be achieved by providing the library users with e-books which they could download (for free) and keep.

3. In Denmark we have an OPAC that covers all the public library and the educational libraries (e.g. the university libraries) and it is also discussed how this website could be improved - e.g. Google-interface, more personal à la Amazon.

A few blogs are heavily concentrated on this library debate, e.g. *Jens Hofman* and *Thomas Angermann*.

In general I think that the librarians are worried because it seems that the libraries are lagging behind the development. It seems that we need to change the library quite a lot to keep up with the technical changes, the way people use libraries, and the way people find information and knowledge.

It seems that the blogs are an excellent way to run an online debate and share information within the library, but when it comes to libraries and their communication with users the situation seems a bit desolate. Of course I don't know the statistics from other library blogs but if you look at the responses they are not overwhelming.

I'm asking myself if the users really want to communicate with the library in that way or if we should use more energy on the things that we know they use (the OPAC as the most important

one). Maybe our communication could be integrated into the OPAC. The blog is popular now but the hype will disappear and then we' ll see the real popularity and utilisation of the blog.

Iran

BY

ALIREZA NORUZI

author: alireza noruzi

blog: http://www.noruzi.blogspot.com/

alireza noruzi is faculty member of the Department of Library and Information Science at the University of Tehran, he received his Ph.D. in Information Science from the University of Paul Cezanne in France. Besides Alireza Noruzi received a M.A. degree in Information Science from the University of Tehran in 2001 and B.A. degree in Library and Information Science from Shiraz University in 1998.

Iranian bloggers

Introduction

Blogs, as a Web 2.0 tool, have grown rapidly in Iran and are becoming an increasingly popular and influential source of information, communication and opinion. Biblioblog or liblog, as a Library 2.0 tool, serves as a forum for discussion of the latest developments in library and information science (LIS). In fact, Persian-language biblioblogs or liblogs are windows to the world of library and information science (LIS). The year 2001 is the year of biblioblog release in Iran.

From the content point of view, Persian-language biblioblogs can be divided into several groups. For example:

1. scientific activities
2. news (covering national and international news)
3. personal and social communication
4. pleasure
5. book review

The blog is a communication medium for Persian-language librarians, especially students (i.e., Bachelor, Master and PhD) and young librarians, to disseminate and to share information; to ask questions; to write about their experiences; and to diffuse LIS news. Persian-language biblioblogs are either individual or collaborative. In fact, 2006 was the year of collaborative blogs, because many collaborative blogs launched by LIS students and

librarians. It should be noted that the blog is widely accepted by young people, while old librarians and teachers rarely blogging. Therefore, the main group of librarian bloggers is younger librarians and students.

It is interesting that each LIS school or association has a blog, especially a collaborative blog. Of course there are many old librarians and LIS professionals who have not yet a blog for personal or attitude reasons. The country has more than 2000 librarians, with less than 200 popular blogs. It should be noted that every week new blogs born.

A general look at Persian-language biblioblogs shows that the majority of bloggers are concentrated in the large cities (e.g., Tehran, Shiraz, Isfahan, Mashhad, Ahvaz and Tabriz), where they have broadband Internet access from their homes or libraries, while small towns and rural areas have relatively low densities of bloggers. The majority of biblioblogger s are PhD, Master and Bachelor students. Lin and Halavais argue that urbanization level, higher education, and age distribution affect blogger densities.

It is noteworthy that Persian-language blogs stand somewhere between 10 and 15 positions in the world. This means that the blog is accepted by Persian-language users. Persian-language blogs are hosted by blog-hosting sites, of which *Persianblog.com*, *Blogfa.com* and *Mihanblog.com* have the most users.

If bloggers want to attract readers, they should write for readers, consider their needs and save the time of readers. Bibliobloggers need to continue adding unique content to their blogs, because the high quality content is everything. It should be noted that blogs without contents and without readers are nothing.

Five Laws of Blogs

Five laws of library science is a classic of library science literature, as fresh today as it was in 1931. These brief statements remain as valid today as when they were promulgated, concisely representing the ideal service and organizational philosophy of libraries and user-based systems. 'Book, reader, and library' are the basic elements of Ranganathan's laws. Even if we replace these keywords with other elements, Ranganathan's laws still work very well. Ranganathan laws can be applied to blogs:

- Blogs are for use.
- Every reader his or her blog.
- Every blog its reader.
- Save the time of the reader.
- The Web is a growing organism.

A list of persian blogs

A list of the most active Iranian Weblogs of Library and Information Science is available via this link. It is difficult to decide which blogs should be introduced here. Some of well-known blogs are categorized here:

Collaborative blogs:

- *Ferdowsi University Librarians*
- *Free Librarians*
- *Ghasedak*
- *Iranian Librarian Bloggers*
- *Iranian Library and Information Science Association*
- *Isfahan Medical Librarians*
- *Knowledge Management*
- *Mazandaran Librarian Bloggers*
- *Shiraz Library Science Association*
- *SIMA*
- *Tehran University of Medical Sciences Librarians*

Individual blogs:

- *Bookworm*
- *Future Librarian*

- *Information*
- *IMLA*
- *Liblog*
- *Knowledge Science*
- *Notes of an Information Professional*
- *Persian Gulf Librarian*
- *Persian Librarian 2.0*
- *Theories of Library Science*

English-language blogs:

- *The Invisible Web Weblog*
- *Library and Information Science Miscellaneous*
- *Persian Librarian 1.0*
- *Virtual Ehsan Real Blog*

Concluding remarks

A blog is like a newspaper and a blogger is its journalist. Thus, the blogger should be a good journalist, posting the best contents and accepting national and international laws. The author, as a librarian, is blogging since 2003. As a librarian blogger, I enjoy blogs for many purposes: knowledge dissemination, self-expression, criticism, evaluation, interpretation, news, etc. I have several blogs in specific fields, but my own favorite blog is Knowledge Science, where I

write about knowledge elements (i.e., Data, Information, and Knowledge), Scientometrics, Bibliometrics, etc.

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Brazil

BY

Moreno Albuquerque de Barros

author: moreno albuquerque de barros

blog: http://extralibris.org/blog/

Moreno Albuquerque de Barros is a Brazilian librarian and editor of ExtraLibris and BSF ("Blog direcionado aos profissionais e estudantes de Biblioteconomia, Ciência e Gestão da Informação") blog and has already written a few articles on the blogging subject.

Brazilian bloggers

The year of 2003 marked the beginning of blogging increase in Brazil, through the dissemination of simple-to-use online publication tools as *Blogger* along with the fever of emerging social networks like *Fotolog* and *Orkut*.

The phenomenon occurred just like in many other countries, but with a considerable span of time, since the United States and a few European countries were already using blogs in the late 1990s and early 2000.

It was possible then to number a few blogs, amongst those related to libraries and librarians.

The first appearance of library related blogs isn't reliable dated, but after a survey I completed at the end of 2003, four blogs were identified as the most productive: BSF, Renaland, USPortunistas and Pergunte ao Ranganathan (the last two no longer exist).

Browsing online as the years passed by, I was able to verify a small growth in the number of library related blogs in Brazil. Still, after almost five years since the pioneers, little is articulated in the direction to use blogs as an extra resource of information inside the productive processes of public and private libraries and as part of librarians' life. I did a bit of mapping, talking, invitations, keynotes, but overall, libraries and librarians in Brazil don't seem to be much excited about

blogging and new technologies and attitudes. However, I myself am excited that, considering the numbers, it is already possible to speak in terms (effective and semantic) of a Brazilian biblioblogosphere, one that is composed by blogs related to the librarian profession and libraries as well.

Some exemplary blogs

Throughout my researches I evidenced the existence of blogs within the three sets of functional bodies in the Brazilian Library and Information Science field. Blogs produced either by professionals, professors and students are found. Let's check some of them:

Learning blogs, promoted and managed by the students (or those who were students at the moment of creation) and apprentices in the area:

- *BSF* – Bibliotecários Sem Fronteiras, multi editor blog directed to the library and information science community, edited by Moreno Barros, Tiago Murakami, Diego Abadan, Viviane Silva, Dener Anjin, Gilberto Américo and Iara Vidal. It's the first library related blog created in Brazil and is still running.

- *ExtraLibris* – multi editor set of blogs covering theoretical issues and epistemology of Library and Information Science, hosted by Moreno Barros, Fabiano Caruso, Gustavo Henn, Alex Lennine and Rodrigo Galvão.

- *Abrindo espaço* – knowledge management, information architecture, library and information science, hosted by Katyusha Souza.
- *Infofagia* – library stuff related, by Tudor Mendez
- *Web Librarian* - presenting the library innovation created by Alexandre Berbe.
- *Biblioteconomia de Babel* – perfectly driven multi editor girly blog.
- *Jackson Medeiros* – new trends in library technology and web 2.0, hosted by Jackson Medeiros, student at the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande.
- *Bitbiblio* – technology and information focused on information science. Maintained by Vânia Lopes.

Academic blogs, either focusing in specific topics or used as additional tools in education:

- *Renaland* – Information technologies applied to the Library and Information Science, edited by LIS teacher Renate Landshoff, of the FESP/FaBCI school.
- *Roosewelt Lins* – related to library automation services, open source, intellectual property and innovation. Created by Roosewelt Lins, a professor at the Universidade Federal do Ceará.

- *Blog do Kuramoto* - hosted by Helio Kuramoto, general coordinator of Special Projects at the Brazilian Institute for Information in Science and Technology – IBICT.

- *Encontros Bibli* - communication channel of the electronic journal Encontros Bibli, edited by professor Francisco das Chagas de Souza.

- *Educação Bibliotecária* – personal blog of professor Francisco Chagas de Souza, covering political issues of the information society and other topics.

Professional blogs, focusing on the practice of the librarian profession and topics related:

- *Biblio Design* - beautiful blog covering library design and daily random stuff, edited by Claudia Tarpani.

- *ExtraLibris Concursos* – job offerings by the government, detailed in the words of government employees Gustavo Henn and Rodrigo Galvão.

- *Fabiano Caruso* – innovation, marketing and creativity in information services.

Institutional blogs:

- *Biblioteca Central* – blog of the UFRGS' central library, until now the only active blog officially promoted by a ibrary in Brazil.

A full list of blogs related to libraries and librarians in Brazil is found on my del.icio.us bookmarks at *delicious.moreno.* It is important to notice that most blogs produced in Brazil are driven by librarians and are not strictly related with their work environment, be it a library or another information unit. They are of personal scope, related to the expectations of the professionals facing the area and do not possess institutional value.

As participant editor of the BSF blog practically from its beginning, I was capable to make a historical rescue and visualize its initial intentions.

BSF – Bibliotecários Sem Fronteiras

BSF was born in 2001, as a tool for information sharing, with the intention of being a vehicle that promotes topics in an extension beyond the academic community. Back then, Library Science student Viviane Silva had the intention to make of the interest of more people the aesthetic of her course, deliberately using her personal blog as an introduction in the explanation of the essence of librarianship to laymen and students - potential librarians – and leave them to follow the development of their own interpretation of the field. This practice eliminated the tension related to the unfamiliarity of the profession and the interest in knowing it, on the part of the laymen. At the same time, blogging allowed Viviane to establish a permanent presence online that proved that she was a clever and creative girl, creating affiliations with other Library Science students.

The posts published by Viviane actually received diverse commentaries from visitors who did not belong to the Library Science field, attending the initial intentions of the blog. However, with the spreading in public lists in the area and an efficient retrieval in search engines, students and professionals of Library and Information Science in Brazil had started to know and visit BSF, creating bonds. Diego Abadan, my co-editor and one of the blog's initial editors, explains that with the growth of visits of people interested in LIS (and those who already knew it), the blog was modifying itself, promoting subjects and news related to the area.

Viviane managed to gather a group of people interested in collaborating in the production of blog, what actually meant new positions and points of view, technical arrangements and less dependence of a single author for content update. Since then, the blog has been in constant development, reaching the structure that it has today.

BSF became a community of people that wanted to be in front of a new modality of expression and communication. And this modality could not exist without a structure and a focus. The spirit of BSF - after the initial phase and entrance of the new editors, with new perspectives, and the visitation on the part of people who in some sort participate and act in the LIS area - started to be one that spread information inside the thematic area, for the biggest possible number of people and to stimulate the participation of these people among the information provided.

Degree of utilization

The aspect of virtuality must be taken in consideration. Although the majority of LIS professionals and students in Brazil possess access to the Web in its personal computers or work environments, much of them are reluctant in actively participate in a sphere of production and sharing. The existence of a digital barrier was diminishing with time, as people are making use more intensely of social softwares (Orkut, MySpace and MSN Messenger) and solidifying their amount of time permanence online.

Biblioblogger's great challenge was to make people capable to find their blogs, and to keep them coming back. A good spreading would help to minimize the problem, however, the students, who are the great visitors of blogs, insist on making their presence online marked only for bonds in social softwares. The BSF blog can serve as a factor of verification of use of LIS related blogs, acting in two fronts: for being one of the pioneer blogs in the area and visible at the top of the results in Google searches related to library blogs or especially new subjects on LIS, it started to be a reference in the distribution of brand new (emergent topics) and constantly updated information (recent topics) for the visitors. For long time, being the only one around, the readers visited the blog as a way to get information in the web, without having to cover innumerable websites for such task. That is, in a front, BSF acts as filter and in another, acts as a reference blog,

considering that for long time it was the only one. We receive more than 1000 single visits each day, but it does not have to serve as base in Brazil, since great part of the others blogs do not have this margin of popularity. One blog that has grown sufficiently in the last months is ExtraLibris Concursos, directed toward information about public competitions and job opportunities in the area. For dealing with a subject of such appeal in Brazil, and being produced with quality, it's gaining notoriety and guaranteeing trustworthiness. It already has around 500 visitors each day.

There aren't any major studies on the levels of use of blogs and in which extension the flow of information in biblioblogs produces knowledge within its thematic area. I am just finishing my masters program in Information Science with research subject that analyzes the dynamics of information distribution in Brazilian LIS related blogs.

Future expectations

There is a comparative advantage of blogs against the specialized publishing market, which is its publication power in real time and low cost. This is a great bonus that we can expect for the next years in the Brazilian biblioblogosphere, since the production of knowledge in LIS is still strongly tied with the universities and research institutions. With blogs being object of study inside the graduation schools, the current students, professionals to be, will recognize the importance and will know

how to take blogs to their libraries and institutions, not more as an object of personal yearning, but as informational tools capable to add value to the institutional work.

Opinion

Many of the library related blogs in Brazil were launched essentially by students. They appealed to the construction of these communication systems based on emerging technologies, to be heard inside its sphere of education and acting. Teacher and blogger himself Roosewelt Lins, argues that the systems conceived by the students still face contribution problems today, where the students can't recognize a structure that runs away from the academic publication standards. But on the other hand, only a system in these molds of information transmission would be capable to present insights that come from the student's reality.

Library related blogs are affected by an existing vast gap between academy and the learning body, and guilty for this, as friend Fabiano Caruso explains, seems to be an educational structure based on the authority, not in innovation. Therefore, the students, who are the major blog producers in Brazil, can't work collaboratively. This creates a culture of attention on the superior, where professional and academic ascension is tied in fulfilling with procedures and associating with the "right club". That is, the profile is not based on the intellectual ability or the meritocracy (of the student), but on the

hierarchic and historical authority of the compromising (with teachers). We are already capable to recognize the victims. It is important to point out that the viability of blogs' initiatives, either in the personal or institutional sphere, depends only on good intentions and little technological knowledge for the system management. Diego Abadan believes that the initiative of the BSF and other blogs serve as examples for other people, showing that it is possible to make something with quality and relevant for the field, without having great structures, nor famous names. BSF was a project initiated by students, and it worked out great. I'm glad I had the opportunity to watch the birth of most LIS related blogs in Brazil and proud to be a part of it. I am also extremely proud for being part of the LibWorld project. I would like to thank the people behind Infobib for having such a wonderful idea.

The number of library related blogs tends to grow and this generates a competitiveness that benefits technical improvements and the participation of readers.

Sweden

BY

Peter Alsbjer

author: peter alsbjer

blog: http://www.bloglines.com/blog/PeterAlsbjer

peter alsbjer is director of the county library of örebro.

Swedish bloggers

The status of the Swedish biblioblogosphere spring 2007

Blogging is a fairly new activity for Swedish library staff. Most of the Swedish blogs I've found have been around for just one year - or less.

This way for transmitting knowledge and ideas over the internet has showed similar problems in the start, if you compare to other information systems: Is there an audience? Does anybody really care? Who am I writing for?

Veterans

One of the first, and most important blogs, started by a librarian was Erik Stattin's *mymarkup.net*. This was back in 2001. Erik was at that time working at the Parliament Library in Stockholm. His bloggings were in some quarters considered a bit controversial. Being not only a civil servant but also in the neighbourhood of power, would it be OK to share ideas, thoughts and knowledge in this way during work hours? Soon Erik was identified as one of the most important bloggers in the country by Swedish business intelligence experts Observer. He was recognized as Sweden's "blogger of the year" two years in a row 2003 and 2004. Not bad for a librarian. However Erik's blog has a broader theme than just libraries, it is at times still

brilliant.

At the same time 2001, in a different part of Sweden, some 430 kilometres from Stockholm, to the north, university librarians Lars Våge (University Library of Härnösand) and Lars Ilselid (University Library of Umeå) started the *Internetbrus* blog. Internetbrus is focused on information for fellow librarians on what was going on on the web and mainly on search engines and information retrieval. Nowadays Lars and Lars claim to have a broader, and more public, audience. They have roughly 52 000 visits a month and it is still one of the most important tools for library business intelligence.

Second generation

After this first generation bloggers there was a second generation picking up the idea around 2002 - 2003. Important bloggers from the Stockholm area, like Åke Nygren and Kia Gumbel, experimented with blogs with different subjects, mainly with a professional audience. Worth mentioning of these blogs is *Biblioteksbloggen*, a cooperation between the inter-lending centres in Malmö, Stockholm and Umeå, and Åke Nygrens *bibl.se* blog. If Biblioteksbloggen is created by cooperating colleagues for fellow-librarians, Åke's blog, with up to hundred visits per day, is a one man show, with the ambition to inform library staff about ICT and web 2.0 - and to inform 2.0ers and ICT people about library 2.0 and libraries.

Malin Cantwell's and Åsa Jenslin's blog *Biblioteksrelaterat* had

from the start in 2003, a more personal touch, including suggested professional and leisuretime reading. Of course it also brought up news, not only about technical development, but also issues about library imagebuilding, movies and whatever.

Library blogs

Although most of the early blogs were made by the occasional enthusiast which had colleagues as target groups, it is around 2005 the first libraryblogs started. Library staff starts blogging information to their users as well as recommended reading. Early adopters were the P*ublic Library Of Vallas*, soon followed by others. Vallås is a small branch library outside Halmstad. One of the most successful blogs in this category is the *Humaniorabloggen*, a Stockholm Public Library blog which blogs information and gives comments about what is going on in society right now.

Regional and individual

The way I see it, third generation bloggers are divided into two branches:

1. the regional level, giving information to colleagues, picking up ideas, giving advice etc: my own *[OMV] Lite IT*, *Orbiter* by Lo Claesson at Jönköping County Library, *Anns Agenda* by Ann Östman, Gävleborg County Library, *BD-Nytt* by colleagues in Luleå as well as *Bibliotek25* by colleagues at South East County Libarray are

all good examples but with different ambitions. Talking for myself I use the blog more as an instrument to push information to the library staff in my county. It's easier than doing it by mail or via a newsletter.

2. the personal librarians blog: A lot of smart often young librarians adopt blogging as a way to give library users and others ideas of further readings of literature and other media. *Lottas boktips* is a good example of a small town librarian using a blog to comment on her contemporary reading.

Some really cool librarians like *Librarianishish is the new black*, *Librarians of the world - unite and take over* and *Den onde bibliotekarien* are pushing the limits of alternative librarianism closer to the fringe.

Library 2.0

One blog is specially worth mentioning in the Library 2.0 context. The Swedish *bibliotek2.0* blog edited by 2.0-veterans Peter Giger and Eva Norling, both librarians at Blekinge Institute of Technology. Today Bibliotek 2.0 has some 270 subscibers according to Feedburner. As the name of the blog says it is devoted to stuff related to Library 2.0 things.

The Ning thing

The next big thing could be Ning. We haven't really seen the impact of social library communities using Ning as a tool yet.

However there are some examples of starting communities for library staff. In Örebro we have, for instance, a community powered by Ning for the library staff of all libraries in the area: *biblorebro.ning*

Social library webs do exist but are few: *Stockholm Public Library* and the *Region of Umea´s* are two examples. If they provide user blogging like Ning could or not I do not know.

I have collected information of 40 - or so - Swedish library blogs on *bloglines.*

Singapore

BY

Ivan Chew

author: ivan chew

blog: http://ramblinglibrarian.blogspot.com/

ivan chew current job is to manage and develop the Adults & Young People services, looking into collection, programmes and services. He is serving a 4-year term (2005 - 2009) in the IFLA Standing Committee for Libraries for Children and Young Adults Section.

Singapore bloggers

Overview of library-related blogs in Singapore

It's hard to say when librarians in Singapore started blogging. My sense is that blogging began to gain momentum in Singapore in 2003 or 2004, when people started to hear more about "blogs". I know of some librarians who were already blogging by that time, but I've been told that I was the first to openly announce that I'm a librarian and the first to start a library-specific personal blog in Singapore. No one has disputed that so far. :)

Now, there are about 15 active blogs written by Singapore librarians. Back in 2005, there was perhaps a quarter of that number. But compared to 2004 and 2005, there is definitely a lot more Singapore library and librarian blogs - enough for me to publish a monthly post on "*Highlights from Singapore LibraryBlogLand*".

Singapore "Liblogarians"

Here are some Singapore "Liblogarians" who post regularly:

- *ExLibrisOLKGAL*
- *QQ*Librarian*
- *WrkShy* (who's taking a break from librarianship to pursue an arts degree);
- *Treasure Trove of Useless Information*
- *Blogging Librarian*

They don't necessarily write about library-related matters. Which is fine, if you ask me. They probably have their regular friends and readers, who connect with what they post. There's value in just being "available" on the Internet.

My own blog is at *Rambling Librarian*, where I try to post a mix of library-related issues, as well as personal views and social commentaries. I started the blog in June 2004, after a blogger took issue with my remarks that "blogs were platforms for verbal diarrhea". I decided I didn't know what I was talking about so I plunged into the Blogosphere to educate myself. Over the last two years, I've become a skeptic to a person who maintains *six blogs and one podcast*!

Library-institutional blogs

The first library in Singapore to start a blog was Ngee Ann Polytechnic library. It's called *Readers´Choice* and started in December 2004. Their blog features book summaries and reviews by students and library staff.

Here's an excerpt of a *phone interview* with the librarian who was directly involved in setting up the blog.

Other institutional library blogs followed in 2005, mainly by the National Library Board:

1. *Programmes @ 100 Victoria Street* (featuring programmes from the National Library of Singapore);
2. *High Browse Online* (a book blog by the Public Library); (a

book blog by the Public Library);

3. *ASK!* (featuring selected questions and answers received by the public libraries);
4. *DigiTalk* (a blog that highlights NLB digital resources and online promotions). These blogs were started between November 2005 and June 2006.

In September 2006, the *Library Association of Singapore* started a blog called *Singapore Libraries Bulletin.* It served as an online replacement for their print newsletter.

What do I expect from the future of library and library-related blogs in my country?

In the last 10 years, the reputations of many libraries in Singapore have improved tremendously, due to the many proactive changes adopted by the public, national and academic libraries. The image of librarians has also improved generally, although many people still do not really know what goes on within the profession. Stereotypes still abound.

I sense that younger librarians recognise they will be the ones to effecting that change in mindsets, about what the profession is about. So I think there will be more librarians taking up Social Media (like blogs, podcasts, and wikis) as a way to engage and connect with users and non-users alike.

Or to learn new skills in order to keep up with whatever's happening on the Internet. I can personally attest to this part -

I’ve learned so much from my blogging “experiments”, and you tend to meet many helpful people in the blogosphere. The amount of genuine sharing is tremendous. It works both ways.

I’d expect libraries and librarians to be around in Singapore for a long, long time. It’s clear to me that library and information professionals in Singapore have the fortitude to adapt and evolve according to circumstances and changing user needs.

France

BY

Nicolas Morin

&

Marlène Delhaye

author: nicolas morin & marlène delhaye

blog: http://www.nicolasmorin.com/blog/

http://marlenescorner.blogspirit.com/

nicolas morin and marlène delhaye are academic librians. Nicolas works at the university d´Angers and marlène works at the l´Université Aix-Marseille III.

French bloggers

French speaking liblogs in 2007, a personal take.

The first two librarian weblogs in French (liblogs) appeared in 2003, a good eighteen months to two years after the first liblogs emerged in the United States.

Nicolas Morin's was the first, in june 2003: he wrote it alone until 2004, when he deleted that first blog to write another one, *BiblioAcid*, with this post's co-author, Marlène Delhaye, before they both went back to their own "personal" blogs in 2006. Nicolas is a systems librarian in a university library, Marlène is an online resources specialist at another academic library. Computers and e-journals: that pretty much sums up the subjects covered in that blog; they are still the main subjects of most French speaking liblogs in 2007.

The second French liblog born in 2003 was *Figoblog*, still going strong and thus the oldest blog alive in the area. Manue, the author of "Figo", claims to write about "the internet, librarianship and fig jam". But she really does not cast that wide a net: aside from some odd posts about fig trees, the bulk of the posts talk about digital libraries, metadata, or repositories. Manue works for the digital library division at the national library (BnF).

During 2004, 2005 and 2006 the number of liblogs slowly increased. A lot of liblogs were born and died after a few

months. A few lived. Our feeling is that it's this year (2007) that things have really changed: in particular, we see a lot of incoming librarians starting blogs now and as a result the number of "living liblogs" is steadily rising. How many are they? It's difficult to say. Our own blogrolls contain about 20 French-speaking liblogs. We probably don't read all French-speaking liblogs, and it's very hard to put precise figures on this, but our bet (it's just a guess, really) would be that there's currently something between 30 and 50 French-speaking liblogs.

Most of them are French, but there's a bunch of Belgian, Swiss and Canadian blogs, about 10 to 15 in all.

Two particularly interesting Canadian liblogs come out of EBSI, the LIS Department at the Université de Montréal: one is a collective blog by the students, *EBSI 2.0*, the other is a blog by the Department's head, Jean-Michel Salaün: *le bloc-notes de JMS*. French LIS school students followed the way with the *DCB16* blog.

Who are the French-speaking libloggers? Some, as we have seen, are LIS students: they represent a healthy chunck of the libloggers, varying from one year to the next as their authors become "real" librarians, obviously, but year in year out, there's always 5 to 10 of them. A few are teachers in LIS: the already mentionned JMS and Olivier Ertzscheid at *affordance.info* are the most influencial. These two talk from time to time about libraries as such but are more focused on Information Sciences; JMS's specialty is the "economy of digital documents".

A majority of authors work in academic libraries. Some authors do work in public libraries, but they are in a minority so far. The reasons for this situation are unclear. I have hinted already that liblogs talk a lot about digital libraries, web sites, online ressources and the like (that's also one of their limitations, more about that below): in France, public libraries lag far behind university libraries on these aspects. It might also have something to do with the lack of human ressources in French public libraries: when one has to fulfill a daily workload that should normally be split between two or three librarians, one doesn't write a blog.

Paradoxically, there are more public libraries weblogs than academic ones : maybe the aforementionned overloaded public librarians just have time to feed the library's blog?

Pseudonyms

Most french liblog authors use pseudonyms. That's very unusual when compared to the practices of libloggers in the English-speaking world, who usually give their names and indicate where they work. Very few French-speaking libloggers do that: Fabrizio Tinti at the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium), Jean-Michel Salaün at EBSI (Canada), Nicolas Morin at the Université d'Angers (France) are rare examples. In a few other cases, libloggers tell their names, but withold information as to their library: so does Marlène Delhaye on *Marlène's Corner* ou Clotilde Vaissaire on Klog. But the vast majority use pseudonyms. That's

bizarre to us. When we asked them what they thought about it and why they did that, libloggers gave us a variety of responses:

1. To have greater freedom of expression, not really to criticize their hierarchy (they don't) but just because they think the fact of them having a professionnal blog will be frowned upon. Which is rather disturbing, because they seem to have made this choice right away, that is, before we could have any example of a local hierarchy actually saying anything; it's indicative of distrust rather than of actual "danger".
2. Some think that the fact that they use a pseudonym does not reduce the impact of their blog since, it is being argued, the web of liblogs acts a self-validating disciplinary field: you write good posts, you have an audience, other libloggers link to your blog; if you're talking rubbish, people just won't come. And it is true that the process of validation by the libloggers peers does play a role. But we argue (and have argued with our French libloggers colleagues) that it can only have a mitigating effect and should not be considered an alternative to the public statement of who you are, and where ou are speaking from. We also argue that this mitigating effect exists only within the biblioblogosphere, and is of no value when speaking to librarians generally.

Audience

It's very difficult to have any precise indication about the audience of these liblogs.

Feedburner.com tells us Nicolas Morin's blog had 384 subscribers on average from mid-march to mid-april 2007, while Google Analytics tells us the blog had 94 daily visitors on average during that same period, with as high as 199 visitors and as low as 40 visitors in a day. As you would expect, visitors come from French-speaking countries: France (80%), Canada (4,7%), Belgium (3%), Morocco (2%). What do these numbers mean? Hard to tell. Our guess would be that it's in the top third of French liblogs but that's just what is it: a wild guess.

But then the targeted audience is rather small: the National Association of Librarians (Association des Bibliothécaires Francais) has a mere 2800 members, and French-speaking librarians are not as numerous as, say, French-speaking rock music fans. Global figures show a potential population of ca 8000 librarians in French public and academic libraries.

Are those libloggers influential? Yes and no. They do get invited to speak at conferences, usually on stuff relating to library web sites, wikis, library systems and, generaly, things that have either "Open" or "2.0" in the title. But so far they don't seem to have any real impact on the profession at large: they still mainly talk to a core section of the profession that's interested in online systems and contents, and their word has not spread very far beyond that. For instance, none of the main libloggers has a managing position in the profession as library director, or as elected within the National Librarians' Association, or anything of the kind. But there's anecdotal

evidence that the libloggers influence is growing, or at least that they’re beginning to represent a recognized “brand” among French librarians: since a year or two, both authors of this post rarely go to any outside meeting or conference where, upon meeting new colleagues, they’re not being told something along the line that they know about their blog. We even attained “rock star” status once when someone came up to us at a conference because the person “just wanted to shake your hand”… : weird feeling.

http://blogbbf.enssib.fr/ offers a monthly roundup of the French-speaking biblioblogosphere with additional posts about many subjects of interest to librarians. It goes alongside the best-known peer-reviewed journal on librarianship in French: Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France.

Bibliopedia maintains an exhaustive list of French-speaking libraries and librarians blogs. Among these, and in addition to the blogs already mentionned in this post, we particuly like *Bibliobsession*, *Klog*, *Vagabondages* and finally *Le Bebouin*, which is written by two librarians working in a Medicine Library and is focused on the issues specific to this subject area.

Australia

BY

Peta Hopkins

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blog: http://inn0vate.blogspot.com/

peta hopkins is working as information systems librarian at the Bond University Library in Robina on Queensland's Gold Coast

Australian bloggers

Librarian blogs

Australian library blogging has grown significantly in the last two years although the total number of librarians and libraries publishing blogs is overall quite small, reflecting the relatively small population of the country. Before 2004 there were only a few librarian bloggers, but 2005 and 2006 saw an increase in both personal and institutional blogs.

The earliest library blogger I know of is Fiona whose blog has archives going back to 2001. Other early library blogs include *Morgan's Exploded Library* and *snail's trail*. I followed their archives back to 2002, but I suspect that they may have been blogging prior to that time.

Library blogs

Official library blogs didn't really take off until 2005 and 2006. There are now at least 13 Australian library blogs. The University of Southern Queensland was an early starter in January 2005 writing about the library, electronic resources and systems news. It was followed by the *State Library of Victoria's Read Alert* a blog about youth literature and Mosman *Library's offerings* of a general web log and one for teens.

Experimenting

There have been some interesting experiments in the use of blogs in Australia. In July 2006 a collaborative blog was established by a small group of librarians scattered across the continent. *Libraries Interact* is designated as "blog central for Australian Libraries" and is a blog that welcomes contributions from almost anybody providing that the content is relevant to Australian libraries and librarians. It also maintains a list of Australian library blogs and provides a Google customised search across those blogs listed. It is one of the blogs that I contribute to, and I am one of the founding group. The members collaborate using Google groups, email, instant messaging and a wiki to manage the blog. It is a good starting place for exploring Australian biblioblogging.

I also write on two blogs that are published by Bond University Library. One is newsletter type blog, but the other blog that the library manages is used to provide information about *Bond's institutional research repository*. This blog was set up as a communication channel specifically for the project to implement the repository, but has now morphed into a news blog about the repository itself.

Another inspirational use of a blog by an Australian library is *Mosman Memories of Your Street*.

It is essentially a Textpattern blog which allows community members to create their own accounts and post photographs and

memories of the streets. In this way a unique view of the town is built by the community. It is another Mosman Library project to create a living history.

Community

There seems to be a thriving community of library bloggers in Australia, however I don't really have any indication of how well official library blogs are reaching their intended audiences. *The L files*, Bond University's newsletter blog is one that I can comment on. The number of subscribers is hovering at about 80, many of which may be librarians from other institutions rather than students. However, one of the main benefits for us is that the content can be generated by a number of staff who are not experts at web page construction and the headlines and some content can be syndicated to the Library's home page for regularly updated content.

See the content on the home page *bond.edu*.

Research

Chelsea Harper and Kate Watson have been doing some research into the use of blogs and wikis by libraries. Their wiki and a conference presentation provide more useful information on the Australian library blog scene, including some charts on the types, numbers and management practices of library blogs.

- *Libraryblogswikis* – A wiki that looks at how blogs and wikis

are being used in Australian libraries

- *Powerpoint presentation* from Information Online 2007 conference paper

Puerto Rico

BY

Rossana I. Barrios-Llorens

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Puerto Rican bloggers

LibWorld Puerto Rico: A Short History

Puerto Rico has very strong electronic communities. There is a history of our explorations and interest in every type of digital communications. Therefore, blogs are a very popular media in Puerto Rico to share information and create new collective knowledge.

Weblogs have gained increasing interest for their role in the way it contributes to spread news and information. There is a whole culture of people who daily share thoughts and our very typical "joie de vivre" (Puerto Rican's joy of life) commenting about the news and our daily life.

Until 2005, there were just a handful of sites that could be considered as biblioblogs. There is a curious merge in our Island between educational blogs and library blogs. From 2005 until the present there is a sudden community that has sprung up. More and more librarians, professors and teachers began publishing their own blogs. Each was a mixture in unique proportions of links, commentaries, personal thoughts and essays.

There is a great academic movement toward the cooperative use between academia or education and libraries, in the uses of blogs. They are viewed as possibilities to create learning communities, promote collaboration to make projects and to

stimulate the independency and empowerment in students.[2] The biblioblogs and edublogs movements in Puerto Rico go hand in hand in creating knowledge between peers and working towards effective learning communities. Blogs are playing a part in education and librarians are taking advantage of this great instrument to create new effective ways to improve their services for the community of users. Its impact in Puerto Rico's library world stretches beyond communication. Librarians are sharing and creating knowledge.

Exemplary Blogs

On February of this year (2007) the First Puerto Rican Congress of Educational Blogs was held in Mayaguez, on the western coast of Puerto Rico. They created a website for the *event* which includes more than ten videos and presentations from teachers, university professors and librarians. With this, it's worth mentioning the work of an excellent blogger and psychology university professor: Mario Nuñez. As a librarian, his blog: *DigiZen* has been a wonderful source of information and guidance. School librarians in Puerto Rico are very active with blogging, creating a library that is an interwoven and dynamic organization in their school. Some blogs are used to announce school activities and promote library programs; others are developed to work directly with students and sometimes, both activities are included. In it, students read and write comments, share ideas,

2 Quintero Heredia Noelia. (2007, March 27 2007). *Blogs y educación.* DigiZen blog entry. Retrieved on May 14, 2007

ask questions and feel as part of the library environment. A whole school community is developed through the library blog. Puerto Rico's Educational Department has a big reading program called Rincón de la Lectura which is developed and promoted in and through every school library in Puerto Rico. Blogs are being useful tools to work and announce the Rincón de la Lectura Program.

School Librarian Angelica Carrillo, in addition to her library blog, developed a blog addressed to school library professionals: *Maestros Bibliotecarios de Puerto Rico* which is an outstanding blog, full of valuable information. On it, she shares tools and work related information to improve their library achievements. There are many excellent school library blogs. These are a few examples:

- Gladys Velez with *Biblioteca Escuela Cristobal Colón*
- Ileana Falcón's blog: *Biblioteca Escolar Nemesio R. Canales II*
- Ivette González's blog: *Biblionotitas*
- Elizabeth Carrasquillo's blog: *Escuela Elemental El Conquistador*
- Deborah Ortega's blog: *Mi Escuela Francisco Valdés*

In academic libraries blogging is slowly entering the field, for it has become a convenient way for library staff to communicate with faculty, peers and user community to share information. It

is used mainly to communicate with colleague and contribute to the culture of a library community.

The *Graduate School of Information Sciences and Technologies* of the *University of Puerto Rico* is working toward this new trend creating courses that include blogs and other social software as part of the educational activities. Puerto Rico's information professionals are learning to build online communities through the use of blogs and other Web 2.0 resources. An excellent example of these is *Bitacoras Egectianas*. It includes, among other things like conceptual frames and theory, the web addresses of the blogs created by students.

Examples of Biblioblog in academic and other special libraries fields:

- Cristino Montañez's blog *Información en red* in which the author shares information related to the information sciences, is an expression forum for the readers and law related information to libraries in themes like copyrighting and legal information resources.

- Yesenia Hernández's blog: *Información Puente Hacia el Bien Social*, which as she states it: is a virtual space dedicated to promote the use of information for the social development of teaching-learning communities.

- The library of the University of Sagrado Corazón's blog: *Para*

la Facultad which is specifically address to their faculty. They work together a special project integrating information skills in the curriculum. This blog is a way to communicate and do team work.

- My blog: *Alusión…Llamada Virtual* is dedicated to the virtual reference services. It is a journal of my academic virtual reference librarian experience, my musings, point of views, tools and explorations of the Web 2.0.

And…what do I expect from the future of library and library-related blogs in Puerto Rico?

I expect change and transformations. Librarians in Puerto Rico are very actives professionals. They are involved in many professional associations: local, in the United States as well as international. They are constantly exploring and exposing themselves to new technologies and trends. Social software and library 2.0 concepts have increasingly been used as a source of information, communication and ideas. We are building digital spaces to improve collaboration and the creation of collective knowledge. They are seeing the new technologies for what they are: new tools to do more and to do better services.

The Netherlands

BY

GERARD BIERENS

author: gerard bierens

blog: http://www.gerardbierens.nl/

gerard bierens from Eindhoven is working for Fontys Hogescholen (the Fontys University of Applied Sciences). He describes his job as 'library (web)developer/trainer/writer' and he is engaged in projects involving federated search, weblogs, wikis, knowledge management, repositories, screencasting and other web/library 2.0 tools..

Netherlands bloggers

The state of the Dutch Library Blogosphere

Usually an article like this would start with how it all started, then explain about the current situation and end with a view into the near future. That was the idea at first, but then I logged into the Dutch '*Bibliotheek 2.0 Ning*'-community and checked the number of members. Last time I checked was about a week ago, and the *number of members* was about to reach the magic 100. But today I was totally shocked, just like that it went up to 136 members. Considering the fact that this social network site was setup less than two months ago and has not been mentioned too often on library blogs, this is amazing, and very promising!

So what is it that suddenly attracts all those librarians into this new social network? Well, there is a lot of activity going on; new blog postings, photos and videos are being posted every day, the forum is being used for all kind of library related discussions and maybe most important, librarians get to know each other and make new (professional) friends. But an active community like this of course doesn't just fall out of the sky.

Blogging

It did take some time before Dutch librarians became aware of the potential of a new trend in the online world, blogging. But then somewhere around early 2004 there was a small group of devoted pioneers who were willing to spend a lot of their spare time and

energy into something new at the time, which was not just blogging, but blogging about libraries.

Among the first on the scene were blogs like *Inter-net-viewer*, *Moqub* and my own, Weblog *Zonder Haast*. Interesting detail: none of these three bloggers are actually librarians, and none of the three really see themselves as library bloggers. All do work for library organizations though and share a common interest in information, education and technology.

It didn't take too long before others saw the potential of blogging and soon new library blogs were started. Important initiatives at that time came from *Rob Coers*. He started *OBlog*, an ambitious public library blog, and he also started doing 'Weblogs & RSS' workshops for the public library sector. Rob wrote articles about the blogosphere (and *interviewed library bloggers* for that) and organized the *first Dutch libraryblog-dinner*. These occasions offered (potential) library bloggers a chance to meet each other face to face. As a bonus well known library *bloggers Michael Stephens*, *Jenny Levine* and *Paul Miller* were present at the dinner party!

Blog top 10

The first 'top 10 list' of Dutch library blogs was *posted by Rita Niland* in june 2005. Not much later Wouter Gerritsma took it to a new level, he put *a first 'state of the Dutch library blogosphere' article on his blog WoW!ter* and started to keep track of new arrivals in the Dutch biblioblogosphere. Up until today he

maintains a still growing list of Dutch library blogs in the sidebar *of his blog*. WoW!ter is also one of the few library bloggers who blogs in both Dutch and English, a dilemma most bloggers in non-English countries are struggling with.

Collaborative Library Blog

Also in 2005 at the Fontys University of Applied Science the first institutionalized library blog went online. At *Fontysmediatheek.nl* a group of 40 librarians started using a topic-arranged weblog to support their work as domain-specific informationspecialists. Later also a wiki was added, and both tools are still in use today and fast-growing. The basic idea was that the weblog provides library related and educational news (dynamic content), the wiki holds the library background information (static content). Although it's probably too early for conclusions, but two years of library blogging has definitely put the Fontys Library on top of the library 2.0 map. Also an unexpected, but pleasant side-effect of the Fontys Library Weblog was that it inspired individual librarians to start personal blogs. For instance, one of those is *Blogparty*, a highly interactive personal blog about not just libraries, but also about music, and sports.

The network at work

All of the happenings described above are signals that show how the Dutch library blogosphere is developing itself from a random group of individuals into a solid social network of experts. The

'outside library world' (the non-bloggers) now also starts noticing the power of library blogs. This became evident when at a big congress in 2006 *Jan Klerk got chosen as 'informationprofessional of the year'*. People could vote for candidates by SMS, and Jan's online presence as a library blogger with a strong opinion was part of his succes. Something similar happened with *Edwin Mijnsbergen*, a librarian for the Zeeuwse Bibliotheek, a public library in the provence of Zeeland. On a low-profile and no-budget basis Edwin started *ZBDigitaal*. With great enthusiasm he conquers the web and puts his mark on the Dutch library blogosphere. Not surprisingly it was Edwin who setup the Bibliotheek 2.0 community. His enthusiasm and dedication worked so well that blogging could soon become his dayjob. Which is good, because probably every Dutch librarian has put ZBDigitaal in their list of favorites and even marketing-blogs take great interest in his writings.

The Long Tail

Next to the internet, there is of course still the 'old media'. In the offline world library bloggers are now being noticed. For instance, in *InformatieProfessional*, which is considered to be the leading journal for librarians in the Netherlands, more and more articles written by library bloggers appear. Also, at congresses you will find a lot of library bloggers in the audience now. Even better, they are on stage, giving workshops and presentations about social software, web 2.0, library 2.0 and more.

Maybe this is what somehow explains some of the success of the Bibliotheek 2.0 Ning community; being part of a social network of library professionals is fun, but more important, it can be rewarding. The group of library bloggers (who all are present in the Bibliotheek 2.0 community) are living proof of how rewarding it can be to share your knowledge without asking a favor in return. Sooner or later that favor will come, because as we all know, the web has a *long tail*.

Austria

BY

Monika Bargmann

author: Monika Bargmann

blog: http://library-mistress.blogspot.com/

Monika Bargmann is working as a librarian in the provincial library of Vienna and as a lecturer at the University of Applied Sciences Burgenland and considers herself a cybrarian. Through her private main blog she is also known as Library Mistress.

Austrian bloggers

When I was invited to portrait the Austrian liblogarian scene – meaning weblogs by librarians, by libraries and/or dealing with librarianship – merely four weblogs came to my mind. One of them was my own… So I consulted the directories *Libdex*, *LISwiki* and *LISZEN* in 2007 and 2008, but in vain. I only found there what I had known before. So I asked about library-related weblogs on the Austrian mailing list *voeb-l* and got several answers. Conclusion: This post gives a broad picture but maybe is not entirely complete. You were ignored? Feel free to post your weblog's address in my *Infobib article's comment section* or contact me directly.

Librarians' weblogs

The weblogging pioneer among Austrian librarians is most probably Horst Prillinger, a librarian of the University of Vienna library, who designed his personal website in 1996 and started his weblog "*The Aardvark speaks*" in August 2002 – promising subtitle: "Essence, effervescence, obscurity". The weblog even has an ISSN! *One of his very first posts* – prophetic, isn't it? – dealt with blog information overload: "Having joined the blog community and sifted through some of the links to other blog sites that comes with my new software, I have one overwhelming question: Just how much time do these people have on their hands? Can Jenny, the Shifted Librarian, really read all the blog sites

she is scanning in her news aggregator? And just what will I turn into once I have caught the blog bug? Or am I immune? And, of course, the most important question of all: with all those blog sites everywhere, is anybody actually reading this? “.

The Aardvark speaks rarely about librarianship, but about various topics ranging from Indian food and music to poetry and strange incidents. In February 2008, *Prillinger explains* why library stories are so seldom found in his weblog: “The number of stories from the library that are actually worth telling is very small. From this number I have to subtract the stories that can't really be published because people might recognize themselves in it and sue me. Both our customers and the powers that be seem to have lost all sense of humour over the past few years. This leaves the number of library stories that I can tell without repercussions at the current rate of about one per year. Sad, but true”.

Over the years, Prillinger became more sceptical about blogging – on March 28, 2007, *he wrote*: “The diminishing posting frequency on weblogs all around me (and, let's admit it, here too) has led me to believe that the golden days of weblogging might be over. Sadly, I'm not saying this as somebody who jumped the hype, but as somebody who started a website only to discover that he was actually writing a weblog”.

Public librarian Wolfgang Kauders maintains a weblog called “*Haftgrund*” including a category “bi-ba-büchereien” in which

he throws a critical light on cultural policy, style of leadership and management of the Viennese public library system and provides an insight into public library work, e.g. self-check systems on strike, red tape, and shrinking budgets.

In July 2006, members of the then newly-founded task force for information ethics, part of the association of Austrian librarians (Vereinigung österreichischer Bibliothekarinnen und Bibliothekare, VÖB), started a weblog *named "Info ethic"*, which is quite rarely updated.

A bunch of Austrian library students blog about their study and work experience in a very personal blog *named "Die Mädls von Royal Bid"*.

Constantin Cazans weblog has been in beta modus since March 2007; *Andreas Hepperger* plans to write about library history and monastery libraries.

Finally, I'm in the quite peculiar situation to introduce my own weblog „*Library Mistress*". My first post on July 18, 2003 stated that "I will post stuff about libraries, librarians, books, writing & reading that I come across during my work hours or leisure time". Basically, that is what I am still doing. My weblog fulfils several functions: I started it with the agenda to chronicle Austrian librarianship, now I use it as an electronic notepad and link collection for myself, as kind of "micro-publications" and a method to make contact with other librarians from Austria and beyond. Main topics include librarianship as a

profession, fictional librarians, library news from around the world, humanities, social software, and science fiction. I started my second weblog "eGovernment, eDemocracy, ePolitics" to accompany a research project in the field of electronic democracy which I have worked at for two years. Since the project was finished in March 2006, the weblog's main focus has shifted to government libraries and public sector information, so I renamed it in "*amtsdruckschrift.at*" recently (title with a wink).

Institutional weblogs

The "*Van Swieten Blog*" is maintained by the Medical University of Vienna Library and was named after Gerard Van Swieten who was not only personal physician of Austrian sovereign Maria Theresia, but also an important health service reformer. This medical library weblog informs about a variety of library services – such as database trials, opening hours, new eBooks and scientific information for PDAs – as well as about publications of university staff and findings from provenance research.

In March 2008, the blog series "*Displaced 1938*" was started. Library director Bruno Bauer writes: "Each day one out of 143 displaced professors and university teachers is introduced in a separate weblog posting. Biographies from a dissertation in the library's repository were scanned for this particular purpose. Moreover the corresponding publications from and about the displaced persons in stock of the branch library of the history of medicine were electronically catalogued in the library's OPAC.

The postings also refer to pictures and documents in the picture archives and manuscript collection at the Medical University Vienna"[3]. In my personal opinion, the "Van Swieten Blog" has developed into one of the most remarkable library weblogs.

The "*Orbis librorum*", a weblog about rare books and manuscripts, incunabula and digitisation, is maintained by the Graz university library's department for special collections and started on June 25, 2007. About three posts per month in the categories manuscripts, incunabula, fragments, exlibris, digitization, useful tips and restoration are published.

Library-related weblogs

Author and advertising copywriter Petra Öllinger, author and journalist Hans Walter Grössinger, and librarian Georg Schober maintain the weblog „*Duftender Doppelpunkt* ", the title of which can only insufficiently be translated as „fragrant colon ", lacking the charm of the German original. Duftender Doppelpunkt is not a core library weblog, dealing with a broad range of topics in the humanities, but it includes the categories "library-related" (" Bibliothekarisches") and „libraries and archives " (" Bibliotheken und Archive").

Monika Himsl has initiated and still runs *the „Cin Ali*

3 Bauer, Bruno: „‚Vertrieben 1938' - Sonder-Blogserie im Van Swieten Blog der Medizinischen Universität Wien: Work in Progress über die mehr als 143 an der Medizinischen Fakultät der Universität Wien entlassenen Professoren und Dozenten". In: GMS Medizin - Bibliothek – Information 2008;8(1):Doc04, *http://www.egms.de/en/journals/mbi/2008-8/mbi000101.shtml*. - See also: Hartl, Margrit and Bauer, Bruno: „Ein Weblog als Informations- und Kommunikationsinstrument an der Universitätsbibliothek der Medizinischen Universität Wien : 1 Jahr UBMUW-INFO". In: GMS Medizin - Bibliothek - Information 2007;7(1):Doc08, *http://www.egms.de/de/journals/mbi/2007-7/mbi000060.shtml*

Lernklub “, a physical and virtual library and learning place for children with Turkish or Kurdish mother tongue. She blogs about “Sprachen lernen mit Kinderbüchern! Sozial-integrative Bibliotheksarbeit für Migranten aus der Türkei “ (Learning languages with children’s books. Social-integrative library work for migrants from Turkey). As of July 2008, the last entry dates from November 2006. Besides *she writes* about bilingual reading animation.

Mark Buzinkay was responsible for the continued education programme Brainpool within the Austrian national library before he founded his own company, MBI Mark Buzinkay Informationsdesign. – In his “*MBI Blog*”, he keeps track of trends and developments in information and process management, library marketing and search tools. Buzinkay recently founded a new weblog and community named “*Bibliothek 2.0*” that serves for sharing of know-how about library 2.0 among librarians. In the weblog “*Wissensmanagement 2.0*”, Buzinkay, Annette Hexelschneider, Regina Schlager, and Attila Kosahe write about the relations between knowledge management and Web 2.0.

Library(-related) news via RSS feed

Increasingly, library news can be subscribed to via RSS feed. If those news feeds can really be considered as weblogs, is debatable. Anyway, examples should be listed here:

The University of Vienna library offers two feeds: one *feed with library news*, where users can subscribe to all news or to news of

particular branches, and a special *feed for news about electronic resources*.

The Library of the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences (Boku) in Vienna offers information about databases, remote access, trainings, exhibitions.

The Technical University of Graz library "feeds" its users with information about acquisitions, opening hours, and events.

The University library of the Catholic-theological private university Linz (KTU) offers an acquisitions feed via LibraryThing.

The Provincial library of Lower Austria offers a feed which probably shows changes in the static website.

The library of the University of Applied Sciences Burgenland experiments with micro-blogging its acquisitions via Twitter.

Finally, it is possible to subscribe news concerning the "*Österreichisches Bibliothekswerk*", a forum of over 1300 catholic public libraries.

Belarus

BY

Alexey Skalaban

author: alexey skalaban

blog: http://inf.by/library

alexey skalaban is working as e-resources librarian in the National Library of Belarus, Minsk. He writes a blog for Belarusian Library Association, called "Librarians of Belarus: library weblog". His blog is the only library related one in Belarus, so in this rather short episode of our LibWorld series he will introduce his own blog.

Belorussian bloggers

I write in Russian and sometimes in English. My blog was created on 13th July 2005, and now there are about 2000 posts in it. I write about events in Belarusian library world, conferences, librarians of Belarus, web 2.0, library 2.0, library Toolbars, RFID, library weblogs, e-resources, etc. Also there are a lot of photos from conferences, and very often I report online from conferences.

Blogging is very popular among librarians and readers of libraries. Every day there are about 400 visitors on my blog. A lot of libraries in Belarus have links to this blog on their web-sites, so Google Page Rank went up to 6.

This is the only one library weblog in Belarus, but I know that a lot of librarians write weblogs, but they are personal and not about libraries.

In my humble opinion library blogging will become more popular in Belarus. Some days ago the Russian State Library started a *blog* and our countries (Russia and Belarus) are very similar, so I think that Belarusian libraries will also start blogging.

By the way, *National Library of Belarus* (NLB) uses some Web 2.0 technologies. I have created a *toolbar* for patrons and staff of NLB with the help of *Conduit.com*. I think that this is one more step to use Web 2.0 and start library weblogs.

Of course other libraries also know what blogging is. In winter 2007 there was a seminar (see *here* and *here*) where I took part and talked about blogs, RSS, Toolbars, wiki, mash-ups etc.

Russia

BY

KATERINA EFIMOVA

author: katerina efimova

blog: http://bonariabiancu.wordpress.com

katerina efimova comes from Yekaterinburg. She works as a reference librarian at the Ural State University Library.

Russian bloggers

The situation with library related blogs in Russia has changed dramatically since the review I made last year. Many new interesting blogs have appeared, but still in in comparison with the whole amount of Russian blogs – it is negligible. And I want to focus your attention on the fact that still it is too early to speak about Russian biblioblogoshere. To my mind, any subject-oriented blogosphere consists of two core components – authors, that keep a blog, and readers, that read posts and comment them. But in Russia both these components are poorly developed.

I think that the absence of library related blogs in Russia can be explained by a number of reasons.

- The first reason is the lack of information about blogotechnologies. Most librarians don't know what a blog is, how to create and maintain it, and how libraries can use blogs for professional purposes.

- The second reason is the lack of motivation even among young promising librarians. I don't know why it is so. Maybe, some of them think they have nothing interesting to say, someone is afraid to say something wrong, incorrect or stupid. May be someone has a stereotype that a blog is not a serious occupation, that takes a lot of time and effort.

- The third reason is the lack of time. Librarians, that have a lot of interesting thoughts, ideas, and useful knowledge to

share with others, are usually so busy with their main duties, that they often have no time for any other occupations.

Theoretically, all these problems can be solved as they are personal and depend on librarians themselves. We try to promote this technology among our colleagues. We speak about them on the conferences, meetings, workshops. And I hope our efforts are a success, it can be traced by the increasing amount of readers, comments, blogs.

If to speak about the reader's audience, the reasons for its weak activity are likely the same – lack of information and technical facilities and undeveloped culture, experience and habits of internet communication (communications in blogs, web forums and conferences).

But I am sure the picture will change for the better in the nearest future. We try to promote this technology among our colleagues. We speak about them on the conferences, meetings, workshops. And I hope our efforts are a success, it can be traced by the increasing amount of readers, comments, blogs.

Now I can say with confidence that 2007 is the year when Russian biblioblogoshere was born. Last summer I reviewed only tree blogs, on the conference in February I spoke about five. Now there are 10 "living" library blogs. I will not speak about all of them, as some blogs are updated very seldom and don't add any value to the development of blog movement in Russian libraries.

I am glad, that now not only individual librarians, but libraries are blogging. Unfortunately, the promising blog of the *Russian State Library* is not updated now, as its only author has quit his job there. But instead two more blogs appeared: Книги и библиотеки (*Books and Libraries*) belongs to the Sverdlovsk Regional Scientific Library (The Belinsky Library of Belinka) and *the Blog of the Krasnoyarsk Regional Scientific Library*. The authors of these blogs share interesting facts about libraries, regions they live in, books they read and problems they have. They also use their blogs to promote some library events, such as conferences, workshops, exhibitions, concerts and so on.

There is a number of personal blogs, managed by individual librarians.

The author of the blog "*Thoughts Aloud*" is my friend and coworker Marianna Ponikarovskaya. She started blogging in March 2007. Since then the blog rather regularly is filled up with interesting and useful information on various library topics which Marianna finds in the Net. And being a psychologist by education, she devotes many posts to psychological fundamentals of librarian-reader communication, psychology and sociology of reading, conflicts in libraries.

Ekaterina Shibaeva is the author of two absolutely different blogs "*Library Items*" where she gathers various things that have some relations to libraries all over the world and "*The*

News of the Library Assembly of Eurasia" where one can find the latest Assembly news.

And one more personal blog I want to mention is my blog "*Library Bat*". The topics I try to cover are absolutely different – from comics to problems with wi-fi and education, but all of them somehow are related to librarianship and the library I work in. The core issues I am interested in are – the development of virtual reference services in a library and technologies and tools of library 2.0. And of course most of my posts are devoted to these topics. As there is no information about library 2.0 in Russian, I do a lot of translations from English. In this situation it is very difficult not to violate other persons' copyright, so I have to post citations or reviews. And I want to thank all the authors that gave my permission to translate their posts or articles.

There is also a blog, managed by a group of librarians "*Innovations in Libraries*" as one can guess from the title, they discuss the problems of innovations applied to libraries.

So, what conclusion have I come to about library blogs in Russia? Absolutely positive! There is always room for improvement, as my teacher of English used to say, and we – Russian librarians – have a lot of opportunities for development. And what is most important – we have lot of examples to follow, much experience to take into account.

Canada

BY

GENEVIEVE GORE

author: genevieve gore

blog: http://infopill.blogspot.com/

genevieve gore is web services librarian in the mcgill library in montréal.

Canadian bloggers

History of library blogs in Canada

Pinpointing the first Canadian library blog is a bit of an ordeal. The main problem is definitional: if a blog is defined as containing journal-like entries organised in reverse chronological order, haven't libraries been "blogging" since the late 1990s with their "What's New" pages? McGill University Library, for example, has been posting news on its website *since 1997*. However, pages such as these, although blog-like, lack certain elements which we tend to consider exemplary of blogs today: They lack participatory features, they are not personal or do not contain commentary/opinions, and they are often part of conventional websites which are just as difficult to update as any other web page.

However, setting this issue aside, in the May 2001 issue of Online, Darlene Fichter listed "Library News Daily," by Peter Scott of the University of Saskatchewan, as a recommended blog. "Library News Daily" can be traced as far back as *October 2000*. Susan Herzog even dedicated her *BlogBib CARL 2002* bibliography "to Peter Scott who opened up the wild, wonderful world of blogging to me @ Internet Librarian 2001." The name was formally changed to "Peter Scott's Library Blog" in February 2003.

Amanda Etches-Johnson is another early adopter in the Canadian biblioblogosphere. Her first library blog, *www.bibliolatry.net*,

can be traced, thanks to the Internet Archive, back to June 2002. In *September 2003* she started *www.blogwithoutalibrary.net*, which remains an important Canadian blog to this day. She also put together a blogroll, i.e. a list of library blogs, which she later moved to a "*Blogging Libraries Wiki*" where anyone can add content or edit entries, thus releasing her from the formidable task of keeping track of library weblogs on her own.

Survey of library bloggers

In terms of use, library blogs have mushroomed, although many still remain library-less. Meredith Farkas conducted a *2007 survey* of library bloggers and reported that 54 (or 6.5%) of 839 respondents were living in Canada. Approximately 598 (or 71%) of the respondents were living in the USA, and Canada is roughly 10 times smaller population-wise than our neighbours to the South. In her *2005 survey*, 16 (or 10%) out of the 163 biblioblogging respondents were living in Canada, indicating a proportional decrease but an absolute increase in the number of Canadian library blogs.

Readership: The question mark

On the other side of the issue remains the question: how many people read library blogs? That one is much more difficult to ascertain. In fact, I was unable to find any information on this. However, it seems that Canadians who use the internet are certainly reading blogs in general: the estimates range from *36* to *58%*, depending on who you believe.

Some exemplary blogs

Canadian libraries have institutionally adopted blogs even if many library blogs still remain library-less. Some universities, for example, have librarians officially blogging on their institutional websites, e.g. Dean Giustini's *UBC Academic Search – Google Scholar Blog* at the University of British Columbia (hosted on the University's teaching and learning website), Art Rhyno's *LibraryCog* (which began in the Fall of 2003 and is currently on hiatus) to name but a couple. The more conversational or opinion-oriented blogs still seem to be addressed to other librarians rather than non-librarians or the public-at-large. Some interesting blogs directed at other librarians include *Blog on the Side* (Darlene Fichter), and *Librarian Activist* (created by Danielle Dennie in *2003*).

Talking to the public

"What's New" blogs are largely directed at the public. *McMaster University* provides an example of such a blog: It is organised in a similar fashion to conventional "What's New" pages, and doesn't include commenting functionality. This is fairly common practice. Examples of public library blogs include Pelham Public *Library's Fahrenheit 451: Banned Books* and Waterloo Public Library's *WPLBOOKCLUB*.

What have I done?

A colleague and I used a blog called *InfoPill* for communications related to an RSS workshop we've taught several times in the past. Given our use of feed readers and the availability of an RSS feed, we found it was a nice way to lower the amount of email exchanged between the two of us while also making our posts publicly accessible. I suspect the number of library blogs operating under the radar in this vein is significant, not to mention the number of blogs used for internal communications.

Predictions

As blogs are embraced increasingly at the institutional level, librarians and other institutional bloggers, I predict, will be careful to avoid discrediting their workplace while at the same time incorporating somewhat more opinion into their posts. This caution could have a censorial effect in one way, but could also potentially increase the quality of blogs as well as open up a more colourful dialogue with library clients. Personal blogging will continue to flourish on the side. It's still not entirely clear how personal blogs will affect career development.

Where do we go from here

If library blogs are to successfully define themselves as web 2.0 or library 2.0, then I believe they will have to be less risk-aversive and more open to public comments at the institutional level. It remains to be seen whether the public is truly

interested in library blogs. The University of Alberta might be onto something though: their post on "*Library Services Available Through Facebook*" actually did garner some attention if the comments are at all indicative.

The more innovative libraries are, and the more we put ourselves out on the line so to speak, the more we will hear from our "clients" as they become increasingly inclined to engage in a dialogue, challenging us to defend new services or practices. It certainly promises to be stimulating for those libraries willing to take the risk.

The Greek biblioblogosphere according to “Wicked Librarian”

BY

GGK

author: ggk

blog: http://librinfoscience.blogspot.com/

Greek bloggers

Before starting this article I would like to thank the people behind Infobib for inviting me to write a few words about the Greek biblioblogosphere and for doing such a good job in Infobib.

I started blogging in September 2006 and until a while ago I was the only librarian to blog in Greece. At the beginning, the title of my blog was "Librarianship and Information Science" but then I decided that this was too formal for a blog title and I changed it to "*Wicked Librarian*" which is more humorous. The topics I cover are general but I am greatly interested in everything that has to do with new technologies in libraries, online services and Library 2.0.

The first 6 months the blog had 15-20 unique visitors per day and then I decided to promote it a little bit by informing other librarians about its existence through a mailing list. Since then, the unique visitors per day are 45-50 which is a great success if we take into account the low interest of other librarians on such means of information and communication. The majority of librarians do not leave comments and very few times participates in discussions that may rise. This situation surprises me because more and more Greek librarians nowadays hold an MLS and more and more are going to the UK to gain one which means there is an interest in librarianship (or not?).

I can't be a hundred per cent sure about the reasons Greek librarians do not blog but one of them may be the small number of

broadband Internet connections in Greek houses. Broadband Internet is not that cheap as in other European countries and moreover it's not available to every single place. Of course everybody can steal some working time to blog but at the same time I understand that things cannot work out like this. Moreover, we must take into account that in Greece there is a big number of unemployed librarians who have limited access to the Internet.

The other Greek biblioblogs that appeared into biblioblogosphere community rather recently are Contemporary Art Library, Information Avenger, For information scientists and... others, Tobaccorri and the blog of openarchives.gr. They also cover general topics and we communicate by leaving comments to each others posts. It's nice not being alone in the biblioblogosphere!!! Unfortunately up to now the only library in Greece that I know having a blog is the Blegen Library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Hope to see more in the future because it's time for us to build a network and communicate with each other in a daily basis to exchange opinions and ideas. We must not be left behind. not this time!

Trinidad & Tobago

BY

Jennifer Papin-Ramcharan

author: jennifer papin-ramcharan

blog: http://thecaribbeanlibrarian.blogspot.com/

jennifer papin-ramcharan orking as an Engineering Librarian on the St. Augustine Campus at the University of the West Indies. Trinidad and Tobago.

Bloggers in Trinidad & Tobago

Introduction

Blogging in Trinidad and Tobago is very much alive, at least for the relatively small sector of the society that has access to a computer and the Internet. It is not yet "institutionalized", as those formal organizations, businesses or libraries that use blogs can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Thus if I were to write only about the biblioblogosphere (library and librarians' blogs) in Trinidad and Tobago, this would be an extremely short article. In a word, the biblioblogosphere in Trinidad and Tobago is very much in its infancy, really more at conception. What is positive is that there is awareness of the possibilities and potential of blogging for librarians and libraries in Trinidad and Tobago and so one expects participation in the biblioblogosphere to increase.

Trinidad and Tobago Background

Trinidad and Tobago is the southernmost in the chain of Caribbean islands and is located very close to Venezuela. The twin islands of Trinidad and Tobago were colonized by the British in the 19th century but achieved independence in 1962. With a population of just about 1.3 million people, both islands cover an area of 5,128 sq km (1,981 sq mi).

In 2003, the adult literacy rate was estimated at *98.6 %*. According to the World Bank Development *Indicators 2006*, the

Gross National Income (GNI) per capital of $8730 is relatively high due mainly to petroleum and natural gas production and processing. Trinidad and Tobago is therefore ranked fairly high as an *upper middle income country*. Yet like all developing countries, it faces challenges in translating its wealth into development. Modern, Information Communication Technologies (ICT) diffusion, particularly computer ownership and Internet access, still can be improved considerably.

The *Trinidad and Tobago E-Readiness Assessment report* which was published in 2003 indicates that:

- Less than 10% of the population uses the Internet, and those who do typically use it for e-mail or entertainment (p.37).
- Only 16% of people own personal computers (p.35).
- About 3% of the population accesses the Internet through the public library system, and about 5% from schools/colleges/universities.
- There are about 121 computers in the new National Library in Port of Spain with Internet access for use by the public. Internet access is also provided at about 25 other library branches.
- An estimated 75% of the rural population does not have Internet access because most people there live more than fifteen minutes away from currently available access centres.

- The use of ICT in the workplace is also fairly limited. Although virtually all businesses have computers and access to the Internet via telephone dial-up, a significant number of employees share computers and only a few have personal e-mail addresses for use in the work environment (p.36).

- 0-87% of companies have Internet access

- 3,000 ICT professionals exist in the economy (p.38)

At the same time, Trinidad and Tobago has:

- A good telephone infrastructure, with reasonably good availability, speed and quality.

- Dial-up Internet and broad band access is fairly reliable, and accessible, though expensive.

- A strong educational system that has created an informed communicative population that is prepared and eager to learn.

- Some work has started in introducing ICT to schools (p.54)

Generally, Trinidad and Tobago is well known for its success in football (soccer), cricket (producing world renowned Cricketer Brian Lara) and for its Carnival and Steelpan. Its people are also well-known for being great talkers – liking the excitement of discourse and debate more than anything else. It should therefore not be surprising that there are three daily newspapers and several weekly newspapers as well and well over 22 radio

stations and nine local *television stations*. Talk radio and call in programmes discussing societal issues and politics are very popular. It is not surprising that the online or Internet discourse is somewhat representative of these interests (e.g. *Caribbeancricket; trinidadtobago.worldcupblog; saucytrini.blogspot*).

Blogging in Trinidad and Tobago

Although the Internet penetration rate in Trinidad and Tobago is relatively low, there is a fairly well-developed group of Internet users. For example, the *Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society* has been in existence since 1997 when publicly accessible Internet in Trinidad was only two *years old*. The TTCS is well-known and cited worldwide for making available a compilation CD of Free/Open Source Software (TTCS OSSWIN CD) for the Windows platform. Interestingly, the TTCS also hosts a blog at *ttcs*.

Taran Rampersad, a computer consultant, software developer, educator and now self-described Second Life Consultant (*Nobody Fugazi*) stated emphatically in a 2004 post that there are indeed blogs in Trinidad and Tobago and lists some of *his favorites*.

More recently, Karel McIntosh of the *Caribbean Public Relations blog* has set up a Facebook group for Caribbean bloggers (Caribbean Bloggers Massive). There is even a *Caribbean Bloggers net ring*.

Some well known blogs with location identified as Trinidad and

Tobago are:

- *Allyuh*
- *TriniGourmet*
- *Trinidad and Tobago News*
- *The Freedom Chambers*
- *The Manicou Report*
- *IZATrini*
- *KeithinTrindad*
- *Trinidad Junction*
- *Caribbean Beat blog*
- *Caribbean Free Radio*
- *The Bookman*
- *Antilles : Weblog of The Caribbean Review of Books*
- *Francomenz*
- *Jeremy Taylor*
- *KnowProSE*
- *This is a Trinidad ting*

- *Lifespan of a Chennette*
- *The Society of Children's Book*

Writers & Illustrators

Nicholas Laughlin a local writer, editor and active blogger talks about blogging in Trinidad and Tobago in a 2003 *interview* at. There he describes his early motivation to make a Caribbean blog and his surprise at the extremely small number of Trinidadian or Caribbean visitors to the blog. His opinion about blogs in Trinidad and Tobago is worthy of noting here:

"There's no mass audience here for Caribbean-interest blogs, I think, & the big "international" blogs are so deeply concerned with US politics that they aren't of much interest to most of us Trini web-surfers. The global-Internet-geek culture which seems to fuel the blogosphere hasn't achieved critical mass here yet. (And few of us have broadband.) But I wonder if it isn't just that the right kind of Trini blog hasn't been started yet - a blog with lots of gossip & politics & bacchanal, updated tirelessly! Perhaps an energetic enough Trini blogger could make it happen - & one popular blog might create enough of an audience to feed many smaller, more specialised ones."

Not much has changed since 2003 when his interview was given.

Following the worldwide popular use of such social networking

services as Myspace and FaceBook, some sectors of the population of Trinidad and Tobago have indeed jumped on this bandwagon. Many Trinidadians who live outside of the country also have authored blogs about things Caribbean. Thus, there are indeed several active blogs present in the Trinidad and Tobago blogosphere, but these are outnumbered by many attempted and abandoned blogs.

Some blogs of Trinidad and Tobago are listed at *search.co.tt*. A search of *Blogger* indicates that there are over 1400 blogs from users from Trinidad and Tobago. This just gives an idea of the number of blogs since there will be several other blogs on other platforms like WordPress, Movable Type, Typepad. A cursory examination of the profiles of bloggers of Trinidad and Tobago in Blogger indicates that it is populated in the main by those in their teens to early thirties. This is confirmed by Web developer *Nigel Mahabir* in an article on blogs in Trinidad and Tobago by Kayode James in the daily newspaper, the Trinidad Guardian.

Indeed, the blog Allyuh.com discusses the (to some disappointing) content of most *Trinidad and Tobago blogs*. An attempt is made to give reasons for the lack of blogs dealing with societal issues like crime etc.

"Blogging as a medium inherently allows one to discuss what interests them personally and not based on any agenda or specific topics. We find a lot of local blogs to be more "micro-blogs" using it as a conversational tools or diary where the authors are keeping everyone updated as to their specific details or rants. We have not moved to "macro-blogging" where we discuss topics

that may affect us on a larger scale."

There has also been some limited use of blogs by teachers (as a course website) and by students either as a class project or as an outcome of class work. These are some examples:

The University of the West Indies (UWI), Communication Studies Association

Technology in Education (UWI)

IT Fundamentals (course at UWI)

Introduction to Information Technology (course at the UWI)

Diploma in Educational Technology (UWI)

From looking at the profiles in Blogger one can also recognize blogs from several local journalists, artists, writers and other media people. In Trinidad and Tobago, several consultants and independent professionals and entrepreneurs also see blogging as useful for communication and marketing purposes. A few activists, community and student groups and other non-governmental organizations also make use of this medium for communication.

Schools Can be *Joyful Places* (educational consultant)

Andre Baptiste Blog (sports journalist)

TT Citizens Against Noise

Rights Action Group T&T

Trinidad and Tobago Medical Students Association

One can conclude that the Trinidad and Tobago blogosphere is typical of those in other countries except for the absence of institutions or formal organizations. From my own knowledge and by careful searching, I was unable to discern only one or two libraries, schools or major businesses with blogs. For example, the UWI Graduate School of Business has a blog to communicate with its user community. A corporate entity on Trinidad and Tobago, Guardian Holdings Limited, also recently set up a blog for a charity event.

Additionally, the individuals with blogs, probably represent the small relatively "elite" sector of society that has access to the Internet. Indeed, in a recent post (September 03, 2007) entitled "Devil's advocacy, with a dash of optimism" at caribbeanfreeradio.com, concerns are expressed about the lack of representative ness of the blogger community in Trinidad and Tobago,

"What I worry about is whether the online community, with ready access to computers and the Internet, are an accurate representation of the general population. What about the political opinions of those on the other side of the digital divide? And it may be that the Internet is just the latest forum for Trinis to do what they do best, talk. How much this translates into action is another question. Like a friend of mine, wary of all the online talk that has been taking place,

recently wrote: "While we, 'the future', sit and occupy our time amusing ourselves with all these…discussions, the true leaders in the real world are doing as they please."

On the other hand some believe that blogging can challenge "the elitism that pervades the Caribbean and is a great experiment in the democratization of data", and suggest that, by making national boundaries and geographical barriers irrelevant, blogging could serve as a means of fostering a sense of transnational Caribbean identity (From Jamaican blogger *Geoffrey Philp* in a 2006 post.

The potential for greater use of blogs by libraries, schools and organizations for what many may consider a "higher purpose" is not lost on some in the society. For example, at the 31st Annual Caribbean Studies Association conference in Trinidad and Tobago in 2006 there was a panel presentation and discussion on Caribbean blogging and other participatory web media called inspiringly "Global Voices Caribbean Accents". A report of the panel contributions can be viewed at *globalvoicesonline.* This panel discussion included a virtual presentation by Alice E. Backer entitled "4 Reasons Caribbean Scholars Could Benefit from Blogging".

A librarian at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago (Portia Bowen-Chang) also wrote an article about the benefits of blogging in the March 2006 newsletter of the local Library Association of Trinidad and

Tobago called *BIBLIO* (p.6). This newsletter is widely disseminated to librarians in Trinidad and Tobago. More recently, Jessamyn West did a presentation at a regional conference of librarians in Puerto Rico on Web 2.0 and blogs.

Libraries in Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago has always had a public library presence. Indeed since 1851 the first public library was set up in the capital city Port of Spain and as early as 1919, the Carnegie Free Library was established in San Fernando, Trinidad and Tobago.

The public library system has been rejuvenated recently with the creation of the National Library and Information System (NALIS) and a new national library building in Port of Spain. *NALIS* has an impressive web and physical presence. There are, as well, several libraries in government departments, in companies and in the education sector. Not all of these have a web presence. For example a small listing of these can be seen at *webjunction.org*.

Furthermore, the Main and Medical Sciences Libraries of the University of the West Indies campus located at St. Augustine in Trinidad and Tobago have always had a very good *online presence*. The University of the Southern Caribbean based in Trinidad also has a web presence at *usc.edu.tt* and with its *library*.

There are several other tertiary educational institutions with libraries but many do not have an online presence e.g. COSTATT; School of Accounting and Management; School of Business & Computer Science (SBCS). The new University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) has an *online presence* and a link to its library but the link appears to be that for its intranet. Thus UTT's library has no online presence at this time.

In terms of libraries' presence online, noteworthy is that of the UN/ECLAC's Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain's site at *eclacpops.org* where a very informative Caribbean Digital Library is hosted. The United Nations Information Centre for the Caribbean is also based in Trinidad and Tobago and its library has a presence online.

There is also a very active local association of librarians, the Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) with a website. Communication of these libraries and associations with their community or user groups has been generally via email notices, e- and print newsletters. There is also a very active regional association of libraries and librarians with an excellent online presence, the Association of Caribbean University, Research and Institutional Libraries in the Caribbean (*ACURIL*). ACURIL generally communicates with its members with an email newsletter called Cybernotes. Google or Yahoo groups have also sometimes been used for communication between librarians and their community (e.g. the Caribbean Association of Law Libraries).

Blogging by Librarians/Libraries

LIBDEX lists library weblogs worldwide. There, the only library/librarian blog from the region, the Caribbean, is from Antigua. None are listed for Trinidad and Tobago.

Gerada Holder's recent blog (August 21st. 2007) post describes the situation well as regards blogging and libraries and librarians in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Generally Trinidad libraries and librarians are all for getting the work done is the shortest period of time, with max amount of satisfaction for the user. That said I do not think that we actively cultivate user-centered change, reduced institutional boundaries, and a heightened awareness of social software and related technologies. We mostly do not have the resources, or the time".

The use of blogs in libraries and by librarians worldwide is well-documented. Although the use of blogs as an effective communication and marketing tool for libraries is well known (Goodfellow and Graham, 2007 ; Vogel and Goans, 2005; Reichardt and Harder, 2005), the use of blogs by libraries and librarians in Trinidad and Tobago is relatively insignificant. Some libraries have used blogs for internal communication, e.g. the Systems Unit of the University of the West Indies Campus Libraries in Trinidad and Tobago, recently set up a blog to communicate with the staff of the library about issues relating to the new Aleph 500 integrated library system. This blog is

available only on the library's intranet and so is not visible on the Web. It is difficult to say how many other internal library blogs like this exist in Trinidad and Tobago.

Also, the NextGen librarian set up a blog (called NALIS Teen Lime). This has not been updated recently and appeared to be created for a programme of activities for a group of public library users. This author has started experimenting with blogs (The Caribbean Librarian). There is also the newly created Caribbean Connector which was:

"Created to 'connect' Caribbean Librarians; a Clearinghouse which delivers the information you need directly to your desktops; a creative commons to record your thoughts."

Thus blogging in libraries and librarians is still very much in its infancy. It is expected that the number of biblioblogs in Trinidad and Tobago will increase with time because of the obvious benefits and ease of creation/implementation of these. Reasons for the lack of activity in blogging by libraries can include, as mentioned previously, a lack of time and resources. It may also be that since such a small portion of the library community/users in Trinidad and Tobago have access to the Internet, librarians and libraries have realized that (for now) blogging initiatives are not likely to be effective for communication and marketing.

The most active librarian blog in the region (the Caribbean) appears to be the LibInfoSpace blog by J. K. Vijayakumar

Assistant Director of Library Services at the American University of Antigua. Though not a Caribbean blog in terms of its content, it is authored by someone based in the Caribbean.

Towards the Future

The future is not all doom and gloom in terms of blogging in Trinidad and Tobago. We are indeed on the wrong side of the digital divide. This does not mean that blogging, social networking etc. does not exist or will never develop, it simply means that there is a delay in the widespread adoption of many modern ICT associated tools and services like these. But we are well on the way to getting there. In Trinidad and Tobago,

- the government is rapidly moving to implement *e-government/e-services*
- highly skilled ICT personnel exist,
- the younger generation of "digital natives" are using every available Web 2.0 service/tool,
- de-regulation of the telecommunications sector should result in less expensive Internet access,
- librarians and others have been using and exploring open *source software* (the UWI is using open source Moodle as its preferred course management software)
- librarians and others have been creating *open access journals*

- librarians have been participating in subject archives (http://eprints.rclis.org/view/countries/TT-.html) and setting up institutional repositories (Dspace at UWI Campus Libraries, St. Augustine).

- digitization initiatives are flowing including plans for a collaborative *Caribbean Digital Library*

With librarians and others willing to explore new and creative ways of reaching people, the use of blogs and other new communication, interaction and dissemination tools will only increase.

Literature

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Finland

BY

PÄIVI HOLLANTI

author: päivi hollanti

blog: _http://amkit.wordpress.com/

päivi hollanti is working as a librarian at the suomen virtuaaliammattikorkeakoulu, the finnish online university of applied sciences.

Finnish bloggers

It appears that the history of Finnish library blogs is even younger than in other Nordic countries. Among the first library bloggers was Jenni with her Jemory that started in 2004. In the beginning it was more library related. Since the birth of Hämeenlinna town library blog Jenni has done much of her library blogging there, keeping Jemory as a more personal blog.

In 2005 a few library students joined together to create and update Näkymätön kirjasto (Invisible Library). It started as a place where people told about books worth reading, but today it also incorporates other library-related stories.

There seem to be no more than a few dozen Finnish library blogs in existence at the moment, most of them librarians'personal blogs. Good examples of these include Kirjastossa töissä [Working in a library], Kasenkan metsä [Kasenka's forest], Kirjastotäti [Library Lady] and Kirjaston antitäti hyssyttää [Library's anti-lady shushes]. Antitäti is a children and youth services librarian who welcomes her readers behind the scenes of a small local library. Her individual, good-humoured style has made her one of the most popular librarian bloggers in Finland.

Also worth mentioning are the professional blogs kept by some of the high-profile librarians in the public library sector. Maija Berndtson's blog deals mainly with international co-operation, while Heikki Poroila focuses on music library and copyright

issues. Vesa Suominen, a lecturer in information studies in the University of Oulu, blogs about the development of our profession. The latest addition to the world of high-profile bloggers is Kimmo Tuominen who co-authors Parlamenttikirjasto [Parliament Library]. Tuominen provides insightful comments on the use of social media in libraries.

There seem to be only a few blogs directed at library patrons: the already mentioned Hämeenlinna town library blog and possibly Viisahampi vierelläsi [Wiser by your side]. Both Tuhat elämää [Thousand lives] and Kirjasto Omenan kirjapuutarha [Library Apple's book garden] introduce books worth reading. Kirjavinkit [Book tips] started as early as 2002 and has an excellent keyword list.

An interesting mixture is Opinelli [Learn Nelli], a project blog that concentrates on a Metasearch portal (a.k.a. Nelli) and its use in the Turku University of Applied Sciences. Apart from reporting on the project, Opinelli also provides information for library patrons.

Another project blog is Kirjastosuunnittelijan muistiinpanoja [Notes from Library Planner] that deals with library service development on the Helsinki University Central Campus. eAineistot oppimisen resurssi [eCollections as Learning Resource] is a project blog aimed at the library staff in Finnish polytechnics (or, universities of applied sciences) and focuses mainly on library marketing and the advocacy of information fluency.

An example of specialized library blogs is Digijulkaisut [Digital publications] by the experts in the National Library on all things digital. A few librarians involved with IL education have started edublogs like Tuutori [Tutor]. It seems likely that the number of edublogs will increase in the future, at least in the world of higher education.

All in all, there is no doubt that the public library sector in Finland has been more ready to embrace blogging. The first library services based on social web technology will almost certainly be introduced in the public libraries. University libraries together with the polytechnic libraries are only beginning to awaken to the possibilities of Web 2.0.

List of mentionened blogs:

- Jemory
- *Hämeenlinna*
- *Näkymätön kirjasto*
- *Maija B*
- *Heikin blogi*
- *Vesa Suominen*
- *Parlamenttikirjasto*
- *Kirjastossa töissä*

- *Kasenkan metsä*
- *Kirjastotäti*
- *Kirjaston antitäti hyssyttää*
- *Viisahampi vierelläsi*
- *Tuhat elämää*
- *Kirjavinkit*
- *Opinelli*
- *Kirjastosuunnittelijan muistiinpanoja*
- *Digijulkaisut*
- *Tuutori*

Latvia

BY

JĀNIS ZIEDIŅŠ

author: jānis ziediņš

blog: _http://www.b20.lv/

2007 jānis ziediņš started the first library related blog in Latvia. He aims to promote the flow of information concerning library 2.0 in Latvian.

Latvian bloggers

Historical view

I was thinking about my professional blog in the end of 2006. I am in cultural information technologies and library sphere since 2001, so I wanted to share my thoughts and ideas more public, not only in my notepad.

The push to start my blog was on well known conference ELAG 2007 at May 2007. At that moment I can say that my blog *Bibliotēka 2.0* was really the first library related blog (but not real library blog) in Latvia. I am writing mostly about Library 2.0 issues related to situation in libraries of Latvia. My aim is to try to give more information in Latvian language – both my own written articles and also adopted and translated, including hot news form librarysphere in the world.

Small, small libraries blogosphere

Latvian libraries blogosphere is just born and now is growing up.

As I mention above, the blog *www.b20.lv* was the first one. Actually there was a small try to blog on January 2007 by National Library of Latvia, but that stopped after two posts.

In my blog I was trying to show librarians that blogging is easy and give them ideas how to start.

Summer 2007 was silent until August which came with surprises –

one small library started their own blog – *Pārlielupes library*. So they got the title – First library blog in Latvia. This blog is really active and consist of posts about library related things, and is used as connection with users of library. As I noticed there is more than one author and it makes me think that blog will survive.

Next which follows is *Aizputes library blog*. Actually this blog more looks like a small homepage, but information is good, mostly related to library, and what makes sense – it goes to library end users.

Last, but not least I found out that Inga Marriotta student of University of Latvia (The Faculty of Social Sciences) is writing her blog *bibliotekari*. As she wrote on her first post that purpose of this blog is to have connection with other students, exchange with information, and share ideas. I think, great and easy way.

Make it happen

Librarians in Latvia are relative new to such Web 2.0 activities as blogging, tagging, wikis, community building, RSS, but slowly everything changes.

As far as I see my blog visitor statistics is increasing week by week.

That shows we are going the right way and I expect the growth of

library related blogs, wider use of Web 2.0 services, and changing libraries.

Literature

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New Zealand

BY

Simon Chamberlain

author: simon chamberlain

blog: http://www.chamberlain.net.nz/blog/

simon chamberlain is reference librarian at the victoria university of wellington.he is the longest-writing new zealand librarian blogger.

New Zealand bloggers

The New Zealand biblioblogosphere is not large, but it is growing as more librarians and libraries move online. Library-related blogs in New Zealand focus on similar subjects as blogs in other countries; there is a strong interest in the technological side of librarianship, but librarian blogs also consider more general issues including the author's personal life, career, and study. The most well-known New Zealand library blog is an almost exclusively personal blog - and a work of fiction (more on that below). New Zealand libraries are also beginning to launch blogs, though they are limited to some extent by the law in New Zealand, which apparently holds bloggers liable for comments made on their blogs. Apparently, some years ago a local government agency in New Zealand was taken to court for comments made on their website.

The most well-known blogs in New Zealand tend to focus on politics and technology. Among these, check out Kiwiblog, written by David Farrar. His posts sometimes discuss technology issues as well as politics.

The group blog Public Address is also worth reading, especially Russell Brown's Hard News. Brown is a media commentator on political and technological issues, has spoken at many information and library-related conferences and forums, and has been involved in various library-related projects including the development of the draft New Zealand Digital Content Strategy

(led by the National Library).

An important library-related blog from a non-librarian is Paul Reynolds' blog. Reynolds is "an Auckland based commentator and thinker on the topics of information access and cultural/techno change". Paul has a long involvement with the library community and number of his posts focus on library-related issues within New Zealand, especially those involving the internet and other communications technologies.

An increasing number of New Zealand libraries are setting up blogs to communicate with their users. Among these are:

- Wellington City Libraries

  which mainly carries library news and information about new books.

- Christchurch City Libraries

  which carries general news about libraries and related topics, and currently includes a series of posts on the Auckland Writers and Readers Festival.

- Waikato University Law Library

  uses a blog format to publish news about the library and about legal topics in general. Access is only available to staff and students of the university, though.

- University of Canterbury:

  subject-specific blogs with roundups of news stories from the mass media, news from the library, and information about new databases or other resources.

The National Library has recently launched two blogs: *LibraryTechNZ*, which looks at the intersection of libraries and technology, and Create Readers, which shares ideas about how to keep children reading.

The National Library, is also using MySpace to promote its legal deposit programme. Check out the MySpace page Be Heard

Forever which has received some positive feedback and has gained around 250 friends in a short time.

Brenda Chawner, a lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington, maintains a blog as part of the MLIS paper INFO 541: Electronic Publishing. Topics include wikis, print vs online publishing, and social networking tools.

A list of other New Zealand library weblogs can be found on the LIANZA (Library and Information Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa) wiki, at http://wiki.lianza.org.nz. [4]

Several New Zealand librarians have personal weblogs, including myself - Simon Chamberlain. I'm a reference librarian

4 *http://wiki.lianza.org.nz/index.php/Resources/NewZealandLibraryBloggers*

at Victoria University of Wellington. As far as I know, I'm the longest-writing New Zealand librarian blogger. I blog about a range of topics; many of my posts are summaries of what others have posted, but I try to publicise what is happening in New Zealand, because no-one else is blogging about it.

A more recent New Zealand library blog is Timothy Greig's blog which focuses mainly on the technological side of librarianship. Greig is especially interested in gaming in libraries, and in tools such as Second Life. He is completing his Masters in Library and Information Studies, and has recently taken a position at the Architecture Library at Victoria University of Wellington.

Alt+tab+lib is "the blog of a wannabe systems librarian". The anonymous author completed his or her MLIS in 2006, and works in a special library somewhere in New Zealand. " *alt +tab+lib* is a site where I can explore my developing interest in being able to 'do' web programming, share my experiences in trying to learn PHP, SQL, and API's, and attempt to address issues of interest to systems and web librarians in a practical sense".

Both the last two mentioned blogs seem more focused on particular topics within librarianship than on New Zealand issues as such.

Finally, a mention of New Zealand's most well-known library blog - the now-discontinued Bizgirl written by Natalie, a

librarian at Wellington City Libraries. The blog focused more on personal issues than on professional ones, and attracted a large readership with its smartly written and humourous posts. Bizgirl even won Best Personal Blog at the 2004 Netguide Web Awards. There was only one problem. Bizgirl wasn't real. The blog was a work of fiction, created by James Guthrie, a real-life librarian and creator of the New Zealand music website Noizyland. The blog has been dormant for the past two years, with no signs of it being revived.

Review of the biblioblogosphere in the German part of Switzerland

BY

HEIDI STIEGER

author: heidi stieger

blog: http://infobib.de/

heidi stieger is working in the information centre of the Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich (Teacher Training College of Zurich). (http://iz.phzh.ch/) She is a contributor to infobib and became wellknown in the German speaking biblioblogosphere for her Bachelor's thesis about German blogs concerning libraries..

Swiss bloggers

I am pleased with the invitation to write this article because I wrote my Bachelor's thesis in 2006 about the library-related blogosphere in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland (Fachblogs von und für Bibliothekare – Nutzen, Tendenzen. Mit Fokus auf den deutschsprachigen Raum:

(*http://www.informationswissenschaft.ch/fileadmin/uploads/pdf/csi/CSI_16_Stieger_FINAL.pdf*)

During my research, I learned that only a few library-related blogs existed in Switzerland. As a matter of fact, the subsequent listing is not exhaustive. Therefore, if I have forgotten any relevant sites, I would be glad to be made aware of them.

Library-related blogs in the German part of Switzerland

The German-speaking part of Switzerland, which accounts for almost 70% of Switzerland, is the focus of our attention.

The first library-related blog to be published was probably "*Blogthek*" in 2003. It is part of Digithek, which is a project of the grammar and training schools of the Canton of Zurich (Mittel- und Berufsschulen des Kantons Zürich) and helps students, their teachers, and school librarians to find information. Besides a selection of appropriate links, the weblog "Blogthek" was established and can be used for up-to-date references of Digithek, new information offers, and tips concerning classes in grammar school. Although every school

librarian in the Canton of Zurich is allowed to contribute to this blog, it is mainly written by Silvia Meyer, the head of the library of the grammar school in Wetzikon, near Zurich.

The second important blog to mention is the *"Recherchen Blog"*, although its focus isn't only library-related. The blog is an offering of InfoLit, an information broker company. The weblog was founded by Andreas Litscher and assembled together with Beatrice Krause in the year 2004. It's a blog about internet research. It should serve all professionals, who get in touch with search engines and internet research. At this time, five authors are writing the blog. They are experts in areas like information and documentation, librarianship, journalism, and information management.

In my opinion, these two weblogs are the most important contributions to the biblioblogosphere in the German part of Switzerland: both are institutional and collaborative.

Since 2007 some new library-related blogs have appeared. But they are mainly institutional blogs concerned with particular projects. An example is "*E-lib.ch - Swiss electronic library*", a weblog providing up-to-date information about the project of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and other institutions to establish a national online portal to scientific information.

Until now there aren't many blogs related to librarianship in Switzerland. But fortunately, there are some from Germany and Austria that also offer news about Switzerland from time to time. LIS Wiki maintains a list of German-speaking blogs by librarians

or libraries: *http://liswiki.org/wiki/Weblogs_-_Non-English*.

There are some Swiss blogs that are more distantly related to librarianship. Some examples are listed below:

- Blog4Search: *http://blog4search.blogspot.com/*
- Information Literacy/Informationskompetenz (hasn't been updated for some time unfortunately): *http://www.naege.li/infokomp/*
- Medienspiegel: *http://www.medienspiegel.ch/*
- Netzlernen.ch: *http://netzlernen.kaywa.ch/*
- Records Mgmt & Archiving: *http://jhagmann.twoday.net/*
- Netzwertig.com: *http://netzwertig.com/*
- Weblog zu Geschichte und digitalen Medien: *http://weblog.histnet.ch/*

Library news via RSS feeds

There is a quite popular mailing list called swisslib that delivers current information for information and documentation specialists. A poll earlier this year indicated most Swiss librarians aren't familiar with the RSS format and prefer to get e-mails. The results of this poll are at *http://campus.hesge.ch/gorinm/question/admin_Formulaire_rss.asp*.

Recently, the library of the ETH Zurich (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich) has begun offering its news via RSS feed: *http://www.ethbib.ethz.ch/aktuell-d/rss-aktuell_d.xml*. I don't know of any further Swiss libraries offering this service.

Why Swiss librarians aren't very active bloggers

Bloggers and librarians have a lot in common: they are always up to date, cite sources, put everything in context, select and assign subject headings, communicate, and archive information. Their activities seem to be connected in a natural way.

Unfortunately, it seems like many Swiss librarians don't care too much about blogging, at least not professionally.

Some assumptions on my part:

1. A lot of users aren't very confident about writing in public. They might be afraid of mistakes.
2. A lot of users aren't very confident with Web 2.0.
3. Blogging takes a lot of time.
4. Switzerland is a very small country, and librarians know each other personally.
5. Due to the same language being spoken in Germany and Austria, many Swiss librarians seem to consume blogs from there.

Furthermore, not every user is a blogger. The author of a professional blog has to fulfil some qualifications: expertise, individuality, authenticity, spontaneity and endurance (Robes 2005, S. 5). I respect bloggers who write in some library-related blogs for sharing their knowledge.

Future

I'm curious about the future of library-related blogs in Switzerland. I am not aware of any individual or institution-independent blogs, only collaborative and institutional ones. Will this change in the near future? Will they finally become more numerous? I am hopeful, since there seem to be some signs of progress. It is maybe typical for Swiss people not to be on the front line, but to wait and see.

Literature

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Argentina

BY

Edgardo Civallero

author: edgardo civallero

blog: http://bitacoradeunbibliotecario.blogspot.com/

edgardo civallerois worked for years developing libraries in aboriginal communities in NE Argentina and in rural villages in northern córdoba before studying librarianship at the national university of córdoba.

Argentinean bloggers

Some time ago, I was asked to outline the current situation of bibliogosphere in Argentina, the country where I was born, live and, since 2001, work as a librarian. I liked the idea and began to search the Web for interesting sites. My first findings allow me to know how recent the development of Argentinean LIS-related weblogs was: most of the sites were only one or two years old. One of the pioneering works in the field was my own personal/professional weblog, "*Bitácora de un bibliotecario*" (The log of a librarian), launched in December 2004, which one year later tried out an English version. At that time, it was mainly inspired by the proposals developed by colleagues in Chile, Colombia and Spain. As time passed, the space followed its own path and the weblog format has allowed me to publish several other contents, from an on-line guide about oral tradition collected by libraries ("Tradición Oral", Oral tradition, 2005), to a workshop for librarians serving indigenous populations ("*Taller de Bibliotecas Indígenas*", a workshop on indigenous libraries, 2006) and, finally, a blog on indigenous libraries ("*Bibliotecas y Pueblos Originarios*", Libraries and First Nations, 2007). In three years the starting weblog has turned into a complex website with different sections, improving its design and widening its contents. 800 visits per day and more than 300.000 total hits have made this site very popular among professionals and non-professionals.

Since 2006, new proposals have been developed and Argentinean librarianship has witnessed a real explosion of LIS weblogs. Public libraries realized how blogs could become an excellent way of advertising new services and activities, and a privileged arena where on professionals and users might discuss issues of common interest. Some of them have been able to put these spaces to good use in their daily tasks. In their sites, those libraries publicize new acquisitions and literary reviews, including their patrons' opinions and other external collaborations. One of my favourite digital pages, which is a perfect example of the kind of activities mentioned, is the *weblog "Compartiendo lecturas"* (Sharing readings) edited by Fernanda Rodríguez Briz from the Public Library "Sarmiento" in Ushuaia, the southernmost city in the world. This site consists of one main weblog dedicated to adult readers, and of its twin space devoted to children. Public Libraries like "Sarmiento" in the city of El Bolsón (Rio Negro province), "Vicente Cacuri" in the city of Tres Arroyos (Buenos Aires province), "José Barbero" in the city of Santa Teresa (La Palmpa province) and the one in the village of San Marcos Sierras (Córdoba province) are also very good examples of how public libraries can use free web-based tools in order to strength their relations with their community.

With a more socially committed profile can be highlighted a few other public libraries in Argentina. Public Library "*Cava Joven*" in Buenos Aires and "H.G. Oesterheld" in the city of

La Plata (Buenos Aires province) include, in their blogs, news on social struggles carried out within their community, as well as a series of services and activities that could be labelled as "alternative" by orthodox librarians.

I would like to underline two weblogs also connected with public libraries that, in my opinion, have a very particular background. The first one is "Ave Félix", a blog where a girl from Buenos Aires explains her project of turning her own books collection into a public, community library. The second is a weblog where it is described the history of Tablada neighbourhood and its public library "Constancio C. Vigil". Both of them are emblematic places in the main city of Rosario (Santa Fe province) since they were one of the settings of government repression during the last Argentinean military dictatorship.

Little by little, librarians discovered that, in addition to being platforms for promoting services and activities, blogs could become excellent meeting places for information workers living in certain geographic areas. This way, spaces for sharing experiences, doubts and concerns were created, and new weblogs appeared. "*Bibliotecarios de La Matanza*" (Librarians from La Matanza, edited by Norma Cancino), brings together librarians from La Matanza city and allow them to use the virtual space for exchanging news. Other examples are "*Corazón patagónico*" (Patagonian heart, edited by Diana Rodriguez) for Patagonian librarians, and

"*Bibliofaro*" (Biblio-lighthouse) for librarians working in the neighbourhoods and cities surrounding Buenos Aires.

School libraries, as public ones, soon became aware of the great power of having a free, easy to update space on the web. Then, blogs like "*La biblio 32*" and the one belonging to the school "José Ingenieros" began to be known online.

At the same time, specialized librarians and LIS researchers started using weblogs as easy-to-use and widely-accessible platforms. Carolina De Volder launched her blog "*Acceso Abierto*" (Open Access) with useful OA contents and reliable sources being continuously published. On her part, Diana Rodriguez created "*BiblioTICando*", a trade-mark weblog where she puts forward ideas related to Library 2.0 and sets out new ICTs. Ana Chiessa added a new proposal to the existing ones presenting "Alfabetización informacional" (Information literacy). These blogs were designed as real websites where scholar news, specialized links and current up-to-date research are published, providing the same benefits as a site but avoiding its costs and technical problems.

Blogs development has help professionals understand the increasing possibilities of such spaces. Nowadays they include valuable and interesting resources, ideas, experiences and news to be shared, turning them into a community centre where information is placed to other participants and occasional readers' benefit. With this view were created both the

cooperative *space* "*Club de ideas del bibliotecario escolar*" (The school librarian's club of ideas) and María Elena Bonora's "*De biblioteca*" (About the library).

Associations and official library or library-related groups also noticed the opportunities that weblogs offered, and developed their own proposals, in order to provide updated information to their members and encourage their participation. One of the first blogs of this kind was the one edited by the "*Asociación de Bibliotecarios Profesionales de Rosario*" (Rosario city association of professional librarians). Other examples are the excellent platform created by "*BookCrossing Argentina*" - where stories and ideas are included-, the institutional blog of "*Argentina BNC Bibliotecas*" (Libraries of bi-national centres in Argentina) and the one belonging to the "*Asociación de literatura infantil y juvenil de la Argentina*" (Argentinean association of literature for children and young people).

Finally, it can be observed that different contexts have given birth to a wide range of experiences according to the needs and interests that motivated them. The Library of the Medicine School of the National University of the Comahue (Rio Negro province) has developed its own blog to present their services. A similar goal is fulfilled by the virtual library blog of *IEF CTA* (Studies and Training Institute of the Argentinean Workers Union) in the city of Rosario. With great satisfaction anyone can notice that even little, alternative

libraries have discovered the "magic" of weblogs: the *Association of theatre actors and workers in the province of Chaco* (ATTACH) has developed a virtual library blog called "El Público" (The public).

I believe that LIS bloggers will continue to increase their number in the future, and a good reason for this growth might have any relation with the amazing possibilities that these digital tools provide to users with little knowledge on web-page edition, and the almost inexistent maintenance costs. The final products depend mainly on the imagination of the author(s): with simple, creative designs and adding other basic elements (videos from YouTube, pictures from Flickr, music from Radioblog, links to fotoblogs, free file downloads from RapidShare and so on), any weblog can display a very attractive and interesting interface. In addition, blogs offer opportunities for multi-authorship and active participation of readers/users, as well as the chance of including links, book fronts, literary quotes and excerpts, pictures and last-minute information. And, what is probably the most important point, though I have left it to the end: weblogs allow independence. In a world of ideological pressures, censorship and mainstream, globalised culture, this is a remarkable feature.

If you have not "swallowed the weblogs-bait", just give them a try. The experience can change you… and make some difference in many persons of your community.

Italy

BY

Bonaria Biancu

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Italian biblioblogger*

Librarianship in Italy could probably be defined as a *true science*, given that scientific and professional reflection has been developed for more than a century in our country on topics regarding libraries and their management. Although there are examples of technology adoption and experimentation, the reaction of the Italian librarians to the blog and the other tools of Web 2.0 has not been enthusiastic. Still today many librarians are doubtful about the potentialities of the blog as a means of communication and interaction with customers - some of them still look at blogging from an ideological point of view instead of considering the good and the bad realistically. It is worth noting that young librarians - in particular in 2006 and 2007 - have created many blogs, which have quickly become living places of debate and discussion. We will meet some of them, here, with the caveat that this post doesn't cover all the italian biblioblog(ger)s but only those who have joined the collaborative experiment started in October 2007. On that date I sent an email to the main mailing list of italian librarians - *Aib-Cur* - asking the biblioblogger for information on their activities for an article to be published on LibWorld. In addition, I have not taken into consideration blogs that have not been active for at least for four months.

Among the first biblioblogs that have seen the light in Italy, there are (Bibl'aria - Fresh air in the library), founded by a group of librarians that have been called for the renewal of the

Italian librarianship for some years now; (Groups of readers), a blog that collects posts from users and book lovers of the public libraries of Cologno Monzese and Cervia (small towns respectively near Milan and Rimini); and *SfogliaWeb*, born in 2003 to show off the most interesting resources for reference activities and bibliographical searching with suggestions and tips. Also in 2003 the *CONBS - Coordinamento Nazionale Bibliotecari Scolastici* (National Coordination of School Librarians) blog was born out of the desire of school librarians to share their abilities and experiences.

There are also the very interesting contributions of two academic librarians from University of Pisa (Tuscany). One writes *Il Paesaggista Digitale* (the Digital Landscape Architect), that makes an accurate selection of electronic resources about gardens, landscape and ecology. This includes thematic data banks and websites, recommendations of events of professional interest, short articles inherent the management of the natural heritage in Italy. The other librarian from Pisa has *the blog of the library of Philosophy and History faculties* and publishes above all posts on open access resources of historical and philosophical interest. The *History Sciences and Documentation Library* at the University of Milan, publishes a rich and wide-ranging blog with the purpose of selecting history resources on the Web and promoting the library's books and journals to the students and researchers of the faculty.

To let their colleagues stay informed and help users of Metalib, the librarians of the University of Padova have created *Aire-Metalib*, a blog that disseminates news about software implementation and interface customisation, shows off new resources activated, spreads the word about activities organized for the libraries and, last but not least, warns the customers of any service outages. At the University of Padova there is also *BiblioNews*, by the libraries of Biology and Pharmacology, created to inform the users about the initiatives (seminaries, conventions, courses, modifications of timetable etc), but above all to showcase newly enabled disciplinary resources.

Another important academic institution in Italy is the University of Torino, that has open recently *Servizi Bibliografici Digitali* (Digital Bibliographical Services - Opinions & emotions on digital information environments) and *Sviluppo Collezioni* (Collections Development) dedicated in particular to new technologies and open access. In the same region of Italy (Piemonte), the younger University of Piemonte Orientale has two blogs - one for the *Pharmacy library* and the other for the *Literature and Philosophy library*. Still looking at univerisity but this time in the South of Italy, *Lab Library*, is a place committed to sharing professional knowledge, expertise, best practices and abilities. It is addressed to librarians, readers and students of librarianship and it acts also as a support to the teaching activities of the blogger, a professor at the

University of Catania who writes also on *Bisiblog*, a sort of virtual showcase of the library of Cultural Heritage faculty and a dynamic place of exchange and communication with the customers. *Biblioragazzi* is a blog managed by a group of women librarians and is focused on the activities for the children and youg people in the libraries.

If you want to take a tour of the Italian biblioblogsphere, don't miss the public librarians' blogs like *Non bibliofili* (it is really worth translating the title: Not Booklovers!). This is the blog of a librarian who works in a very famous public library, the Sala Borsa, in Bologna. Her blog challenges the idea of the book as a sacred object, but instead to support culture as a vital and urgent need to be fulfilled by bringing library services to all kinds of people in society.

An example of strong will and creativity is *Bibliogarlasco*, the blog of the library of a very small town near Pavia, Garlasco, created by a self-taught woman librarian to supply information about the library. Her blog also encourages the love of reading with posts and links on books - from hits to classics. A major librarian's association that has put its trust in the blog is CNBA - Coordinamento Nazionale Biblioteche di Architettura (National Coordination of the Architecture Libraries). The CNBA blog *Rainbow* makes use of this easy and nimble communication

channel to inform associates on innovations in the field of architecture.

Another association equipped with Web 2.0 tools is the BDS - Bibliotecari e Documentalisti della Sanità (Information Professionals in Health) that has created a *blog* as a virtual meeting space for the Italian biomedical librarians. Here they collect proposals, comments, news and experiences in the field of medicine.

One of the blogs that most has marked the history of the young Italian biblioblogosphere is *Biblioatipici* (Atypical librarians), a place for workers in the fields of documentation and information (libraries and archives). It offers useful tools and resources, and its posts are categorized with a sort of facet categorization system.

Bibelot is a blog born from the namesake review about Tuscany libraries. *Darwin Italia*, not regarding professional topics, is written by a librarian with a scientific passion. Among the blogs of information professionals who do not work for libraries is the one of *Shaitan*. This blog is useful for those who follow the trend of the new technologies in LIS world. *Scuola 3D* (School 3D) also deserves a visit. This is a blog by teachers with a

passion for libraries and virtual realities.

There is also the blog of *Francesco Piras*, product manager for an italian ILS vendor. The paper journal *Biblioteche Oggi* (Libraries Today) has included until december 2007 **Biblioweblog**, bi-monthly column exploring LIS blogs in Italy and in the rest of the world.

Finally it has been approximately one year since I have created *Biblioteca 2.0* (Library 2.0), a social network based on the Ning platform. Everyone - also librarians from abroad - can join! If you would like to have an idea of the kind of libraries and librarians we have in Italy, you can take a look at the photos of the Flickr group *Biblioteche e bibliotecari/e in Italia* (Libraries and librarians in Italy).

The Italian biblioblogosphere is not greatly populated yet, and above all it can not count on big numbers of readers. This may be because of the customers' habit to not to have interactive or technological relationships with librarians and libraries. Nonetheless there are blogs rich with authoritative information, scientific hints, and professional thoughts - blogs maintained by willing librarians, who often write their posts during the night or the week-end. That they are will to give up their free time to maintain these blogs is proof that these librarians have come to

consider their blogs as a vital way to share information and establish contact with their colleagues and with their users.

* I wish to thank *Karen Coyle* for her generous advice

Malawi

BY

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Malawian bloggers

Dedication

This posting is dedicated to a friend and colleague Steven Phalula who passed away on 18th August 2008. He was an enthusiastic librarian and blogger. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Blogging in Malawi

Blogging among librarians in Malawi is in its infancy. In fact, it is just beginning. In 2006, the Malawi Library and Information Consortium formed a Technology Research Group. At the first meeting of the group, blogging was introduced to librarians who attended the event. Whether the enthusiasm that ensued would translate into blogs was yet to be seen.

The birth of two library blogs!

I organised the blogging session because I had been trained by Electronic Information for Libraries (eIFL). I am always excited with technology and blogging was equally exciting to me. I started *my blog* in 2006. After the workshop another library blogger came on the scene. Steve Phalula, an enthusiastic Librarian working with the Malawi National Library Service had heard about blogs and was struggling to create one. The workshop gave him the expertise he needed to move into blogging.

Aside: In Malawi, the Public Library is called Malawi National Library Service. I have discovered that this is the opposite in the UK. The National Archives is what UK calls National Library.

Back to my story. Steve created *phalulamoyo*. Steve's blog is exciting as it has a wide coverage of issues. Within it are posts that promote the mission of the National Library.

Future directions

Library Blogs in Malawi have a promising future. You can tell this when you look at non-library blogs. Soyapi Mumba's Blog discussing IT developments, *William Kamkwamba* discussing general technology issues and *Mike Mckay* on a wide range of issues. There are many examples of successful blogs in Malawi that could be cited here. With these examples it would appear that it is only Librarians that are lagging behind. I would say, No. There are others sectors lagging behind as well. However, Librarians can benefit more if they use blogs.

The next step for Librarians in Malawi is to organise another workshop. It is hoped that the next workshop will showcase the blogs that are born since the last workshop and then discuss about adding value to the blogs. To add value the blogs we plan to explore use of RSS feeds and IM.

RSS feeds will be an important feature if the blogs will be used for current awareness. Members of the libraries will only have to subscribe to the RSS feeds and get information on new

developments in the libraries on their desktop.

In conclusion blogs in Malawi Libraries have come to stay and will revolutionalise service delivery.

Japan

BY

Sho Sato

author: sho sato

blog: http://d.hatena.ne.jp/min2-fly/

sho sato an undergraduate LIS student of the school of library and information science at the university of tsukuba, wrote the main article. The second contributor is known as katz3. He wrote the introductory part of this article.

Japanese bloggers

There are so many Japanese biblioblogs that I asked for te cooperation of anyone to help writing the article *Ihn my blog*. Many biblioblogger*s* in Japan sent me comments and trackbacks, and *Katz3*, one of the Japanese biblioblogger*s*, offered to write Introduction. I'd like to thank all cooperators.

From time out of mind, Japanese like to write diary. The internet is certainly public. It may be out of your knowledge, but many Japanese have published their diaries on the internet before blog tools became common in Japan. Japanese authors write everyday matters, and Japanese readers take reading them for granted.

For almost all Japanese, personal websites are a place of daily conversation, not for discussion. Although blogs have been used for discussion or other purposes, even today blogs have been used as a useful diary writing tool in Japan.

When early Japanese bloggers began to use blog tools, numerous diary websites had already existed. Those diary websites certainly had neither functions of trackback nor commenting, but authors used linking by HTML and BBS. Not just a few Japanese learned HTML only to write a diary.

It is not clear how many diary websites by librarians, library users and library scientists (bibliodiaries?) existed before blogs. As far as I remember, there are not so many. If this impression is correct, I could say that blog-tools loosed the

tongue of Japanese people concerned about library!

History

The first Japanese biblioblogger was Koichi Ojiro who is an academic librarian. He published blog named *学術出版と学術コミュニケーションブログ* (”Gakujutsu Shuppan to Gakujutsu Communication Blog, Scholarly Publishing and Scholarly Communication Blog”) in 2001 and reported news of scholarly publication, communication and library. (Unfortunately, the blog went down about six months ago.)

From 2003 to 2004 the dissemination of blog tools and services led some people to start new biblioblogs or to switch from HTML site to blog.

Liblog JAPAN is a blog about news of Library and Information Science. It was started by Shinji Mine, who was a graduate student of Keio University in 2003, based on his friends' idea. Updating stopped, but we can find past articles at the *Internet Archive*. Mine is now publishing the blog *Open Access Japan* and provides trends of Open Access. Another two people who are related to the Liblog JAPAN team has looked back at that time in *another blog*.

Similarly, *Copy & Copyright Diary* was established in 2003. The blogger is called Tsuneo Suehiro. He has written mainly news or essays about copyright, and sometimes writes about the relation of libraries and copyrights. Tsuneo Suehiro is leading

biblioblogger in the field of copyright, and his comments on other biblioblogs are also important.

Early biblioblogs in Japan were almost academic and they were for LIS researchers or academic librarians. Their authors were also researchers or academic librarians. But since 2004, some librarians (including those of public and school libraries) have established diary blogs and they write about library topics with their daily logs. Many of them blogged anonymously and used a handle. It has been a custom of continuing up to the present time (e.g I (min2-fly) and katz3 don't use our real name when we write blogs).

Moreover, in 2003 *Yokoshibahikari Public Library* and in 2004 the *YAMANAKAKO Library for the People's Creativity* established their official blogs. They were not for librarians but patrons. Official biblioblogs like these have been increasing today in Japan. And recently, as will later be described in detail, some people have established biblioblogs not for news or diary but mainly for discussion (You know it's ordinary blog, but it's in a minority in Japan).

Some exemplary blogs for library patrons

Public Library

- *立図書館ブログ* ("Yokoshibahikari Choritsu Toshokan Blog, Yokoshibahikari Public Library Blog") is the most famous public library blog in Japan. The library was nominated for

"Library of the Year 2007" in Japan because of its excellent services through Internet. The blog provides bibliography of books in the book review columns of newspapers everyday, and it gives some path finders.

Aademic Library

- *From KYOTO* is written by the staff of Kyoto Seika Univ. Library and Information Center. It gives information of books, music, movies, events and even bars in Kyoto for the university students.

For Librarians, LIS Researchers and Students

- *ACADEMIC RESOURCE GUIDE* (ARG) - ブログ版 (Blog edition) (for librarians and researcher)
- *SENTOKYO* Blog (for special libraries)
- *Current Awareness Portal* (written by National Diet Library)

Personal blogs

I introduced many institutional biblioblogs above, but the most interesting biblioblogs in Japan are personal blogs.

図書館退屈男 (Toshokan Taikutsu Otoko) is written by *AFFRIC's* staff tzh. He is the leading Library 2.0 expert in Japan, and reviews library systems in the blog. The article about National Diet Library (NDL) news portal service PORTA became hot issue and led many other bloggers (not only biblioblogger) to watch PORTA.

Myrmecoleon is another famous web 2.0 librarian. (”Myrmecoleon in Paradoxical Library. はてな新館 (hatena-annex). Using his library 2.0 tool “Library Map”, people can look where the libraries are located, which have the book he/she is searching. He is also famous because of using bibliometrics to analyze web tools, but recently he has got hooked on *ニコニコ動画* and *Twitter*.

Katz3 (”図書館断想 (Toshokan Dansou)”) (an academic librarian and co-writer of this article) is a clever speaker and sharp debater. For example, he referred to recent Japanese biblioblogs' discussion about Can public library charge users the charge? and *said*: We can fill academic interests through that discussion, but there is no other meaning. We knew that has been sentimental problem. Discussion about that issue will make nothing for us. His articles are always stimulative but logical and persuasive, so sometimes it stirs up an argument in biblioblogosphere, or calms an argument down quickly.

Tohru (”Tohru's diary”) is also a keen speaker, and he has been writing mainly about public library. He has written how public libraries survive in the recent financial crisis.

And today, many LIS students'(graduates and undergraduates) blogs have been established.

I write my blog *かたつむりは電子図書館の夢をみるか* (”Katatsumuri wa Denshi Toshokan no Yume wo Miruka, Do Snails Dream of Electronic Library?”) to communicate and discuss with other

students, librarians and bloggers. Before blog tools spread, it was difficult for Japanese LIS students to communicate with library practitioners. But now we actively exchange comments and are discussing with librarians through blog.

Trends of biblioblogs

Today the main usage of personal blog has been switched to discussion between biblioblogger, with topics like:

- Can public library charge users the charge?
- Can we call librarians professional in Japan?
- Why does the National Diet Library not hold some comics for adult?
- and etc…

But sometimes, when the biblioblogs' topics have spread to people who are not librarians or LIS students, they become a large controversy in Japanese blogosphere. For instance, the Public Libraries are really necessary? issue has occurred from a quarrel with two bloggers (one is biblioblogger and the other is not). Finally over 30 unique bloggers referred to the issue (one is most famous Japanese *blogger Dan Kogai*), 60 articles written in 3 weeks.

This could only happen because of the social bookmarking (SBM)

service *hatena-bookmark*[5] . Many Japanese bloggers (especially biblioblogers) use this SBM service. Hatena Bookmark recommends many bookmarked-articles as "*hot entry*". Once an article becomes hot entry, it catches more and more attention.

So sometimes a biblioblog becomes hot entry, many bloggers read the articles and referred to library issues. Hatena Bookmark also has a function of showing articles which refers this article, so it's easily possible to scan blogs that refer to one issue, and leave comments on articles. Japanese biblioblogers use a "library" tag to recommend interesting article each other, and communicate with others using bookmark comments. SBM service is as important for us as blog itself as the means of communication.

Future

Today the growth of Japanese blogs has calmed down. But official blogs of academic abd public libraries are still increasing. Pioneering biblioblogers are trying new communication tools like twitter, and before long Japanese biblioblogs may change greatly.

Cooperators for this article

110kA, aliliput, copyright, DIEtrich, G.C.W, garugon, 葦岸堂 (Igandou), *kmizusawa, Kousuke Tanabe, Makoto Okamoto, MIZUKI, shomotsubugyo, sinngetu, Takahiro Maruyama, Toyohiro Hasegawa, tzh*, tan-taka-tan & my supervisor, Hiroshi Itsumura.

5 "Hatena Bookmark is a social bookmarking service. The users can save the specific URL as a bookmark and tag it. They are able to interact with the other users through the tags, and can leave comments of up to 100 double-byte characters in length". *Wikipedia*, 2008-09-08)

The list of Japanese Biblioblogs

Here you can find a comprehensive list of Japanese Biblioblogs:

http://www.slis.tsukuba.ac.jp/hitslab/bloglink.html

Peru

BY

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You can reach Eduardo Meza Valencia's own blog 'Ciencias de la Información' at http://cinfopucp1.blogspot.com/

Peruvian bloggers

Let's take a tour through the World of library blogs in Perú. Many of these institutions have the need to communicate their experience by making contact with their users showing how they are developing and how they are managing to overcome the large problem of lack of reading. Even thought the circumstances, some of the libraries, I will show, are fighting against illiteracy and intolerance. We understand their work watching what they are publishing in the Internet.

"Bibliotecas de pueblos originarios" is a Peruvian blog that informs how people in other parts of the country are being motivated to read and use a library for their own needs. This blog is about Indian libraries and why they are a concerning subject for Peruvians. The information that it has, is a testimonial of how libraries can rise culture between Indian communities and how can they improve the information and knowledge between their habitants. The objective of this blog is to sensitize and get to know the reality of many Peruvians that have necessity of information. The social responsibility and importance of the information nowadays can have a sense if we consider that a well informed person is part of an active process of social conformation and it's a key to know itself and others better, that way they can interact, share the different kind of knowledge and investigations or their empiric rationalization of what they consider important for their daily lives.

This page highlights the social role of the librarian and how it is important to develop respect between communities of different ways of looking at life.

"*Biblioteca MDLO palacio de la juventud*" is a library blog that shows to its users how they are offering a service to improve reading in the district of Los Olivos in the northern part of Lima city. This library is a very good place to chat, to share experiences and learn many disciplines that the district offers to its inhabitants some of them at a cheaper price. In the blog there are some posts that show the definition of many kind of libraries such as public, school, specialized, national, academia, communal, popular, town hall's and model public libraries, this last concept expresses what the library is. This type of library works in suburbs helping people that are applying to university, helping young students with their school homework and providing information services like first aids, teaching summer courses for the inhabitants.

"Día del usuario de la biblioteca pública de Lima" is another blog that shows events of the National Public Library for its users. It informs about how some activities for users are being developed.

"*The Library of the Pontificia Universidad Católica Del Peru*" is an example of a blog that encourages its users to consult their collection and surf the Catalogue with a different way to look at their resources. Some cultural news and some curious

notes about data bases increase the usefulness of virtual library collections through intranet usage. We can also find a calendar, common tags, the archive of the web and favourite articles. There is a page rank "the top 5 articles" where we can read the most voted in the blog and find out how news are going. Public opinion and comments are part of the blog so there is a section of the page that is dedicated to it, in most of the cases, showing a good opinion of the blog. There are links and a subscription space to get information via mail. Something to take into consideration is that the Catholic University is developing a way for students to express their points of view by making blogs that include personal perspectives and appreciations of the world in different aesthetic processes. This possibility to share opinions helps the freedom development a more possible reality for a third world country and reinforces the freedom of expression not only in the university but also in the country. The library has taken the advantage of this opportunity to inform the community of its activities. Catholic University library is one of the most important centres of knowledge development, resources and collections in Peru; it is a very good example of how communication is an important link to form an information culture.

"*Espacio de Narraciones Orales*"

This multicultural blog offers the possibility to learn about how oral tradition is developed in Peru and how story tellers of different ages and circumstances make an effort to promote the

interest of this kind of cultural transmission. This blog includes photos and links and it's a good way to look at Peruvian tradition because the oral transmission is one of the most important tools to support the multicultural realities of this country from generations to generations. Children and people of all ages are invited to cooperate with this project and find out how Peru is developing in the construction of an authentic literature in a very particular context.

"*Establecimientos Rurales de Tecnologías de la Información y Comunicación*"

This web page is a portal that takes into account some technology access topics in Peruvian communities and digital alphabetization in rural towns. The blog of the library and resources used by people interested in teaching how to use internet and new technologies in communication shows news reviews that appear monthly and that are usually related to the project of bringing quality digital resources to people with low opportunities in rural areas of Peru. The web page has a document repository which is organized by subjects such as agriculture, social science, business, folklore, cattle ranch, history, informatics (computer science), literature and Information and Communication Technologies. This initiative has many documents in PDF format that show information of subjects such as racism and how to combat it, how to form business and leading them to form rural employment, exportation, commerce and trout business, and other topics that help people to create new ideas and initiatives with

the resources that we have in our country. One example of the variety of topics is one document that is about South American camels, a type of animals that we have in a large quantity: the llama.

All these different libraries and library blogs show us how diversity is a main characteristic of Peruvian reality.

Belgium

BY

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laurent meese is working at the scientific library of the royal belgian institute for natural sciences in Brussels.

Belgian bloggers

About me

I worked as a librarian in a public library before I was assigned as librarian of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (Brussels) in 1996. Head of the Documentation Service since 2006.

The first Belgian biblioblogs

Belgium is a federal state, consisting of three cultural communities and three physical regions, and four linguistic regions. I will try to include blogs of the three communities in this resume but as Dutch is my main language my emphasis will be on Flemish library blogs.

In the beginning there was nothing. Pinpointing the first Belgian biblioblogs is not that difficult. When we take a look at the blog archives it is '*librarian.be*' by Patrick Vanhoucke, coordinator of the Bruno network at the Public Library of Brussels, with blog archives going back to 2001. However in the first 6 years of this blog only one post in a year was published (each time January the first). This blog started showing regular activity in September 2006 with almost daily-posted entries. Most posts focus on libraries, politics and religions, classical music, film and technology.

In October 2005 I started my own personal blog '*Bibliothecaris in Blog*' (Dutch for: 'librarian in blog'). The title for my blog was ambiguous and archaic by purpose. My first ambition was to write

how a librarian was struggling to survive in the new world, dominated by google and internet. Are librarians able to jump on the web 2.0 train, without losing the dignity and traditional skills of their profession? How to unite best of both worlds: control and predictability versus facilitation in the new web 2.0 workspace. Due to a lack of time I diminished my high ambitions and started a more lighthearted web log. Personal topics tagged 'nostalgic librarian' or 'librarian on the run' are combined with more institutional and work related topics about digitisation projects, cultural heritage and museum. Reality learns that literature and books are dominating my cloud tag. It's not easy to maintain the right balance between personal interests and work related topics. Critical views about the inertia of the Belgian library sector are not done, not even in an ironical way.

Another early adopter in the Belgian biblioblogosphere was Fabrizio Tinti at the Université Catholique de Louvain with his stylish blog '*Pintini*', dealing with the technological side of librarianship. Blog pioneer Jens De Groot launched '*The Campusbibliotheek Biomedische Wetenschappen*' in June 2006, an institutional blog providing information about closing days, service, e-journals and databases. In the French speaking part of Belgium '*les yeux ouverts: carnets d'un bibliothécaire de campagne*' saw birth in May 2006. This is a blog by Nescio, with charming personal entries about bibdating, books and music.

2007, the Year of Breakthrough

In 2007 the Belgian blogosphere got a serious boost. There was information 2007, a conference organized by the VVBAD (Flemish Society for Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres) at the University of Ghent about web and library 2.0 and in the slipstream a great number of public libraries started to explore the possibilities of blogging: *Blog Bibliotheek Kortrijk*, Biblog Lommel and '*Blog bibliotheek Malle*'. In Wallonie these public library blogs are regrouped in Centre de Ressources des Espaces Publics Numériques de Wallonie. Those blogs bring a great variety of topics about the cultural activities, service and collections in their public libraries. Another new blog is '*The Flemish librarian*', a blog from Karolien Selhorst. She works in a Dutch library in Vlissingen (the Netherlands). This blog is certainly worth reading, although the frequency of posting is rather low. *Bibliotheker.org* is dealing with ICT, technology, media and library related topics. Very professional and sec, written by Johan Mijs.

There are no boundaries in the blogosphere so we see the Flemish librarians join up the colleagues in the Netherlands, on the social network bibliotheek 2.0. The same phenomena happen in the French speaking part of Belgium, with the network of Bibliothèque and Bibliopedia, uniting all the French-speaking library blogs.

Finally, one of my favourite Belgian blogs is '*Commissaresse*', and it is written by a non-librarian (I rest my case). This blog has

an original concept. Eva Simon – who is actually a teacher at the Library school of Ghent - is playing on her blog a detective who is looking for clues of library 2.0 implementation in Flanders. Highly recommended. She also put together a blogroll, i.e. a list of library blogs. This list is up to date mainly consisted by blogs from the Netherlands. It proves that Belgium has still a long way to go with capturing the web 2.0 participation and discussion spirit. It's difficult to give a valuation of the degree of utilisation already. But it's clear that blogs with a personal and original touch will capture on the long run more readers.

A virtual world of possibilities

The advantages for library staff to keep blogging are undeniable despite the arguments of '*the annoyed librarian*' in her sarcastic A Librarian's Anti-2.0 Manifesto. Blogging is a flexible, easy way to communicate with library users and colleagues about the integration of innovative library 2.0 features. For the public libraries it seems necessary to integrate their data in popular social network applications such as Facebook, My Space or Flickr. Scientific and research libraries on the other hand should focus on RSS, wikis and open content repositories.

The federal Belgian research libraries have already realized a common catalogue via *Belgium.be*, containing over 3 000 000 titles. The next step should be to make this catalogue interactive, allowing users to tag and make reviews, suggestions

etc. The ultimate ambition: constructing a central catalogue with a fully accessible library's collection, a virtual place where one can not only search for books and articles, but also interact with a social community, the librarians, and share knowledge - and why not - wisdom. Librarians in blog have the mission to keep the flame of this innovative revolution burning. Laurent Meese (Brussels, 29/02/08)

Switzerland - French-speaking Blogosphere in Switzerland

BY

JEAN-PHILLIPPE ACCART

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blog: http://.www.jpaccart.ch

jean-phillipe accart is Head of Information and Public Services at the Swiss National Library. 2007 Archimag, a French professional magazine, has designated jean-phillipe accart as one of the five people that have mostly influenced the French-speaking library world. Among other books, the last one, "le métier de documentaliste", is considered as a reference book in librarianship.

Swiss bloggers

Switzerland is certainly one of the most advanced European countries in terms of connection and use of the Internet. Library resources are shared by 6000 libraries all around the country and most of them offer free access to the internet and databases. But, Swiss library professionals in the French-speaking part of the country (20.4% of a population of 7 590 000 inhabitants) are not very active on the Web, and a few of them have their own blog or website.

Among them, you can find five blogs:

- *http://www.idsuisse.org/*: the very nice slogan of this blog by a young professional, Information, Documentation, Freedom, gives you an idea about what this blog is: an open window to the WWW.

- *http://campus.hesge.ch/id_bilingue/blog/*: (in French and German) is a blog created by the main library and information school in Geneva. Created in 2007, it is a tool for students to write short articles about our profession.

- *http://www.souslapoussiere.org/index.php/*: Under the Dust is a blog proposed by a record manager which gives another approach of the information world.

- *http://blog.yoda.ch/*: Netzwerk-Beobachtungen is in German, and the author is Roman Hanhart from the beautiful city of St

Gallen.

- *http://www.pablog.ch/*: is a blog on the relationship between libraries and the Web which is quite a program! And, in fact, this blog is very complete and full of information.

Apart from blogs, some professionals have their own websites. The first ones are in German: the one by Annekathi Weilenmann, *http://www.biblink.ch/* is a true directory of links on the profession. And the other by Pius Muehlebach: *http://www.muehlebach.ch/* is dedicated to Interlibraryloan. These two are really very good sources of information.

Following are two French-speaking websites: *http://www.pierregavin.ch/* by Pierre Gavin who is specialized on cataloguing matters. On his website you will find courses and articles. The second website is mine *http://.www.jpaccart.ch*: dedicated to information and library professionals, it gathers the work of 20 years within libraries or documentation centers: 200 articles, 100 books reviews, 40 papers, 25 lectures, all online.

At the end, I have to mention three other Swiss websites related to our profession. These websites are from information brokers:

- *http://www.infolit.ch* in German
- *http://www.searchfactory.ch* in German
- *http://www.centredoc.ch* in French

- *http://www.biblioconsult.ch/* which is the website of Thomas Kiser, consultant in Bern: he works with other partners in Switzerland such as Pierre Gavin and is mainly specialized in libraries systems.

USA

BY

Sarah Houghton-Jan

author: Sarah Houghton-Jan

blog: http://librarianinblack.net

Sarah Houghton-Jan is the Digital Futures Manager for the San José Public Library in the heart of the Silicon Valley. She also works as a consultant for the Infopeople Project, serves on LITA's Top Technology Trends Committee, and speaks internationally at live and online events for libraries and other institutions. Sarah has blogged at LibrarianInBlack.net since 2003. She spotlights library technology trends and resources, with a focus on public libraries.

US American bloggers

A Short History

The library blogosphere of the United States is hugely diverse and more multifaceted than in most of the rest of the world. Reasons for this could be traced to the rise in popularity of blogging in general in the United States, or U.S. librarians' quickness to jump on board this elegant method for communicating ideas. However, like all librarians across the world, librarians in the country I live in like to share information – it's why we got into the field in the first place, in many cases, and drives the purpose of our professional lives.

So… which came first, the librarian blog or the library blog? I would have to say that it was the librarian blog – we began sharing information with each other and as more of us saw the power of the blogging medium, we began adopting the same techniques at work. Dates are uncertain, but in general, U.S. librarian blogs began to spring up in 2001 and library blogs began to appear in 2003. 2004 truly was the year of the blog with hundreds of libraries and librarians starting new sites. The U.S. biblioblogosphere is going strong with thousands of blogs in existence today, and as the authorship grew so did the creativity of applications.

Librarian Blogs

Pioneers in librarian blogging are hard to pin down – so much happened so quickly. Examples that are exceptionally noteworthy include Blake Carver's *LIS News*, the first "for librarians" blog that I ever knew about, and which started as a website in 1999. Sabrina Pacifici's *beSpacific* began in 2002 and focuses on legal and technology news. We mustn't forget Jessamyn West's *librarian.net*, the first publicly well-known and well-received librarian-authored blog.

Other pioneers included Michael Stephens' *Tame the Web*, which has focused on innovative uses of technology in public libraries, and Jenny Levine's *The Shifted Librarian* has centered on "making librarians more portable."

At this point in time it is so difficult to recommend particular librarian blogs unless you have a specialty in mind. The list is seemingly endless. If you are interested in library grant information, check out the *Library Grant Blog* from Stephanie Gerding and Pam MacKellar. Professional development information is in great supply at Rachel Singer Gordon's *Beyond the Job*. Legal issues in libraries? Try Mary Minow's *LibraryLaw Blog*. And library technology resources? Choose from Aaron Schmidt's *Walking Paper*, Gary Price and Shirl Kennedy's *ResourceShelf*, the self-titled *David Lee King*, or Meredith Farkas's *Information Wants to Be Free*.

Library Blogs

Early United States library blogs included many from both public and academic libraries. I would guess that half of those that were begun have ceased to exist, or have ceased to be updated in any case. What makes a blog powerful is its frequent updates, constant flow of new information, and unfortunately some libraries and librarians were unable to commit the time or resources to keeping their sites going.

A blog I started for the *Marin County Free Library* (California) in 2003 is still going strong. Directors started blogging, as at the *Ann Arbor District Library* (Michigan). Academic libraries, too, have utilized blogs, often as a way to get subject-specific research tools and information out to students and faculty. The *Georgia State University Library's blog*s are a stellar example of this. School libraries, generally for middle and high schools, are prevalent as well, such as the Newton North High School Library's *Book Talks Blog* (Massachusetts). Librarians talk to each other through internal library staff blogs as well, such as with the *University of Pennsylvania Libraries staff blog*. Even our national library, the Library of Congress, maintains *a news blog*.

Multimedia content found its way in to blogs too: like podcasting at the *Grand Rapids Public Library* (Michigan), including story times, book reviews, and guest speaker presentations. Blogging also supports videocasting, such as at the *Arlington Heights Memorial Library Vlog* (Illinois).

Some libraries saw blogging software as a revolutionary way to

present ideas and content other than brief news and "recommendations" entries. Two notable examples are the *Western Springs History Blog* (created by Aaron Schmidt for the Thomas Ford Memorial Library in Illinois) which uses WordPress as a way to catalog and present historical photographs of local homes, and the Scriblio OPAC, an online library catalog that also uses WordPress blogging software at its core and is the brainchild of Casey Bisson.

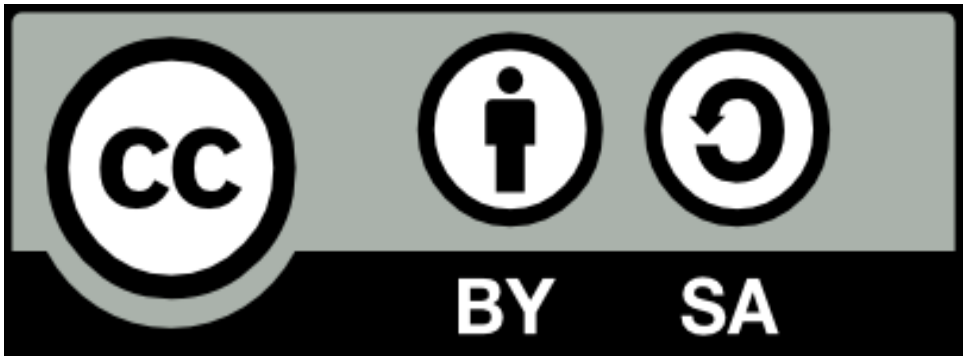
There continue to be entries into the library blogging fray as institutions pick up on this medium as a way to get staff knowledge out to the public in as easy a way as possible. As with most technology trends, smaller and rural libraries tended to adopt blogs later, but larger institutions also found themselves stumbling to get blogs going, generally reported as due to bureaucracy and slow institutional change. However, examples like the *New York Public Library Blog* which started in late 2007 should hearten all libraries that are still looking toward this medium.

Looking Toward the Future

I strongly believe that blogs will continue to be used as a tool for many libraries, as a way to empower the staff with the knowledge (generally not the techies) to get their information out to their customers in as fast a way as possible. RSS and email subscriptions to blogs will continue to make this tool one of the easiest ways to reach out to our users on their own turf, in their own way. As the use of mobile devices increases I think

that other related methods for sharing information (such as micro-blogging, i.e. Twitter) will be adopted in tandem with blogging, which someday will be thought of as "an old standby" and eventually become obsolete. But blogging has taught us all something about our profession – we like to share information so much that we will use just about any tool, any time, to do so.

The *Blogging Libraries Wiki* and the *International LibDex Index of Library Blogs* are wonderful places to find more library and librarian blogs from around the world. The list of blogging libraries is entirely impossible to pin down, but these two sites make a solid attempt to do so.



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