

MINITEX

Reference NOTES

A Program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

February 2007

Inside This Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Who's Watching Your Space | 1 |
| Carl at ALA Midwinter! | 1 |
| Three Cups of Tea & Pennies for Peace | 2 |
| Social Bookmarking and Tagging: Using Del.icio.us to Catalog the Internet | 2 |
| Two new webinars being offered by MINITEX Reference Services: | |
| R U Ready? Setting Up and Running an Instant Message Reference Service | 3 |
| History Day Resources | 3 |

Who's Watching Your Space

Jennifer Hootman

OCLC's Symposium, *Who's Watching Your Space*, included guest speakers Howard Rheingold, danah boyd, and Marc Smith with moderator, Michael Stephens, at this year's ALA Midwinter Conference. There were approximately 350-400 in attendance. Each speaker addressed issues of the personal and the collective in the context of social software. A provocative and common thread between all the speakers was the exploration of social software used for collective action (i.e., arrangement of live meetings for specific purposes and outcomes). Another key perspective addressed more specifically by Marc Smith, Senior Research Sociologist for Microsoft Research, are the "aggregateable" and "analyzable" digital footprints that each one of us leaves behind.

During the Symposium, the speakers used an audience polling device which allowed for instant feedback to their questions. These questions were:

- Does your library have a blog for users?
- Do you regularly read blogs?
- Do you publish a blog?
- Do you regularly participate in an online community, such as a long running mailing list, a BBS or forum, wiki, chat room?
- Do you participate in a social network site like Facebook or MySpace?

To view the polling results, visit Michael Stephens's February 12, 2007, blog entry titled, *Librarian's Use of Social Tools, a brief report from the OCLC Symposium*. His blog address is: <http://tametheweb.com/>.

Unfortunately, there is no data to convey the numerical breakdown of library types represented among the audience members.

Links to more information on the guest speakers can be found at the following web addresses:

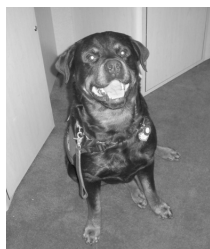
Howard Rheingold
<http://www.rheingold.com/>

danah boyd
<http://www.zephorio.org/thoughts/> and <http://www.danah.org/>

Marc Smith
<http://research.microsoft.com/~masmith/>

Carl at ALA Midwinter!

Jennifer Hootman



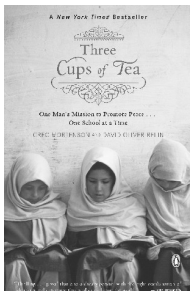
You never know what you might see at ALA Exhibits. While many of the vendors pull out all the stops setting up expansive, multi-media rich, colorful displays attempting to attract as many passersby as possible at the ALA conferences, others cling to more simple formats such as cloth covered tables, posters, and multiple steel racks displaying their product. Well, this year as I wandered through the exhibit aisles, I happened upon the most delightful of characters, *Carl!* Now, for those of you who are

**Checkout
past
teleconferences!**

familiar with the children's book series by Sandra Louise Woodward Darling or Alexandra Day (her nom de plume), you know to whom I am referring. But for those of you who are not familiar with Carl, let me introduce you. Carl, a Rottweiler dog, is the central character of Day's fictional children's book series that began in 1985. Her first book was titled, *Good Dog, Carl*. The storylines follow Carl as his owner leaves him in charge of her baby, Madeline, and takes the reader on a series of adventures in titles such as *Carl's Masquerade*, *Carl's Afternoon in the Park*, *Carl's Christmas*, *Carl Goes Shopping*, and *Carl Goes to Daycare*. To read more about Carl, his adventures, and owner, Sandra Louise Woodward Darling, visit: <http://www.gooddogcarl.com/>. To find out where her beautifully illustrated books are located in Minnesota public libraries, search **MnLINK Gateway** at <https://www.mnlinkgateway.org>.

Three Cups of Tea & Pennies for Peace

Jennifer Hootman



On Saturday, January 27th, Rochester Public Library hosted a memorable "Meet the Author" presentation and book-signing. Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time*, recounted his unlikely journey from a 1993 failed attempt to ascend K2, the world's second highest mountain, to successfully building schools in remote regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mortenson champions education for women and girls in Central Asia purporting that when women are educated then infant mortality rates decrease and the overall general health and well-being of the community increases.

Additionally, Mortenson argues that the more educational opportunities all children in Afghanistan and Pakistan have the less vulnerable they will be to extremist rhetoric and terrorist recruitment.

Minnesota native, Greg Mortenson, is founder of the non-profit Central Asia Institute (www.ikat.org) and Pennies for Peace, a fundraising feature of the Central Asia Institute (born out of one child's wish to contribute to Mortenson's mission) which only accepts pennies underscoring the fact that while a penny may be virtually "worthless" in the United States, it is the price of one pencil in Afghanistan and Pakistan. As stated on its website (<http://www.penniesforpeace.org/>), "Pennies for Peace educates American children about the world beyond their experience and shows them that they can make a positive impact on a global scale, one penny at a time."

For more information on Greg Mortenson visit: <http://www.gregmortenson.com/>

And to find out which Minnesota public libraries have *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace One School at a Time*, search **MnLINK Gateway** at <https://www.mnlinkgateway.org>. Note: earlier editions bore the title *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terror and Build Nations One School at a Time*.

Social Bookmarking and Tagging: Using Del.icio.us to Catalog the Internet

Carla Steinberg Pfahl

Have you heard of Del.icio.us? Have you tagged or bookmarked a website? Del.icio.us is a site that allows users (you, me, anyone on the Internet) to create an account and start bookmarking any and all pages you use or come across that you want to retain. It is like the bookmark function on your browser, but it is web-based and there is more to it than just that.

When you create a Del.icio.us account you are able to begin bookmarking webpages that you commonly use and visit as well as other pages you may run across and want to refer to later. Not only have those pages been bookmarked, but they are accessible from any location. When you use a browser to bookmark pages, they are specific to that computer. With Del.icio.us bookmarks, you can log in from any computer to access your bookmarks. You may have a computer at work with a set of bookmarks and a computer at home with another set of bookmarks. Del.icio.us can combine them in one account. Also, by adding the Del.icio.us button and TAG button to your browser window, you are automatically logged into your account and bookmarking pages becomes a one-click process.

Other aspects of Del.icio.us include Tags. When you bookmark a page, you can give it a tag(s), an identifiable keyword term(s) that describe that page. The tags are stored in your account. To find a page you bookmarked you can either search for it by the web name or keyword (tag) or, better yet, just click on the tag to bring up all the web pages associated with that tag in your account. You can also go beyond your account and see what other users on Del.icio.us are bookmarking with the same tags (called "tag clouds") to discover new or different web pages that you may not have otherwise known existed. You then can also see how others use tags to describe a web page. As David Weinberger, author of *Everything Is Miscellaneous: The Power of the New Digital Disorder*, states, "you may want to tag a Stephen King story as 'horror', but maybe to me it's 'ghost story' and to a literature professor it's 'pop culture'. Tagging lets us organize the Net our way." (Pew Research Center Publications; <http://pewresearch.org/pubs/402/tagging-play>).

When you come to a page you want to bookmark, simply click on the Tag button on your browser, or if you don't have the button on your browser, copy and paste the URL into your Del.icio.us account. You will then be able to create tags to identify that page. As we can see from the figure below, Del.icio.us will present you with "Recommended Tags". These are tags that others have used to describe the very page you are bookmarking. Del.icio.us will also present you with "Popular Tags" that have been used the most to describe that specific page. You can also add any other tags you wish to use to describe the page. Once you're finished tagging the page, you can save it to your account. Others are then able to see the tags you used to describe that page. In your account you can also see how many times that web page has been bookmarked by other Del.icio.us users.

Continued on page 3



College of DuPage Teleconference

Library Challenges & Opportunities 2007
Library Transformation: Making it Happen?

Friday, March 23, 2007
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (Central Time)

S30B Wilson Library
West Bank Area, University of Minnesota

Description: A discussion on library transformation, not as an abstraction or buzz word, but as something real with hard, practical things necessary to make it happen, will be discussed. The presenters will spell out what needs to happen in facilities, budgets staffing management and leadership to make transformation a reality.

Moderator

Richard M. Dougherty, Dougherty and Associates

Speaker

Leslie Burger, Director of the Princeton Public Library in Princeton, New Jersey. As President of ALA

Other presenters TBA

Fee: No charge; registration is required.

To register to attend this teleconference at Wilson Library, go to <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/teleconference>.

To register to stream to your desktop, go to <https://www.cod.edu/secure/software/registerteleconf.htm>. Residents of MN, ND, and SD **will not** be charged; please do not complete the billing information section of the web form. College of DuPage will forward links directly to registrants.

Other Regional Downlink Sites

NTLN and Fargo-Moorhead Tri-College Libraries
Moorhead, MN

To register, visit: <http://nlln.org/continuinged.html>

University of Minnesota-Duluth Library
Duluth, MN

To register, contact: Sue Trettel, 218-726-8130,
strettel@d.umn.edu

St. Cloud State University Library and CMLE
St. Cloud, MN

To register, contact: Jennifer Schwint,
jlschwint@stcloudstate.edu

SMILE
Mankato, MN

To register, contact: smile@tds.lib.mn.us

Augustana College Library
Sioux Falls, SD

* All teleconferences except April 13.
To register, contact: Judith Howard, 605-274-4382,
jhoward@augie.edu

Two new webinars being offered by MINITEX Reference Services:

R U Ready? Setting Up and Running an Instant Message Reference Service

Have you considered starting a Digital Reference service for your library but not sure where to begin? Instant Messaging is a great way to get introduced into the world of Digital Reference. You can even create individual IM accounts to stay in contact with staff. In this new webinar, developed by MINITEX staff, learn just how easy it is to set up an Instant Message reference service for your library. We will look at the different IM providers available, ways of delivering service, staffing, training, policies and more. Session length will be 60 minutes which includes time for discussion and questions.

History Day Resources

History Day focuses on teaching students how to select a topic and conduct thorough research using primary and secondary sources to give well-rounded understanding and competency about that topic. In this webinar we will look at this year's theme and discuss ways to help students develop a topic, identify primary sources, and resources to use. We will also look at developing a project timeline using the Research Project Calculator.

To register for these and other MINITEX webinars visit our site at: <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/webinars/upcoming.asp>

Sunshine Week 2007

Closed Doors; Open Democracies?

Monday, March 12, 2007

12:00 PM- 1:30 PM (Central Time)

S30B Wilson Library
West Bank Area, University of Minnesota

Topics include:

- The program will focus on access to government information, including the impact of government suppression and manipulation of scientific information on public health and safety - and accountability. The dialogue will start with a lively discussion of the issues and end with ideas for action.
- To learn more about the teleconference visit:
<http://openthegovernment.org/article/subarchive/94>

Panelists:

- TBA

Fee: No charge; registration is required.

To register to attend this teleconference at **Wilson Library**, go to <http://www.minitex.umn.edu/train-conf/teleconference>

Also, **other regional downlink sites** are available. See below for more details.

Minnesota Coalition on Government Information

Hosted at Metropolitan State University Library
645 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN

To register, contact: Mary Treacy, mtreacy@onvoy.com

REFERENCE NOTES

MINITEX Library Information Network

University of Minnesota, 15 Andersen Library

222 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455-0439

Reference Phone 612-624-4150, WATS 800-462-5348
Reference Fax 612-624-4508
Hootman, Jennifer 612-624-2924, hootm001@umn.edu
Parker, Mary 612-624-1024, m-park1@umn.edu
Pfahl, Carla 612-626-6845, pfahl001@umn.edu
Mastel, Kristen 612-626-9843, meye0539@umn.edu
Staats, Beth 612-624-7873, fried004@umn.edu
Main Website www.minitex.umn.edu
Reference Email mtxref@umn.edu
Office Hours Mon-Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Reference Intake Form <https://www.minitex.umn.edu/reference/refldb/index.asp>

The Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership, and a lifetime of learning, and State Library Services & School Technology, the Minnesota state library agency, supports MINITEX Reference Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

MINITEX Library Information Network

University of Minnesota

15 Andersen Library

222 21st Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55455-0439



*A Program of the Minnesota Higher Education
Services Office at the University of Minnesota*