LIBRARY 2.0: THE 21ST CENTURY WEB BASED LIBRARY SERVICES

Zubair Ahmad, *Librarian, Paladagu Parvathi Devi College of Engineering and Technology, Surampally, Gannavaram.*

Abstract

The information needs by library users are more comprehensive and unlimited. The advancement of the technology in past several years has enabled libraries to create new services those did never exist before. This paper defines Library 2.0 as "the applications of interactive, collaborative and web-based technologies to web-based library services and collections," and suggests the definition adopted by the library science community. It suggests that recent thinking and describing the changing the role of library in 21st century as Web 2.0 will have substantial implications for libraries, and recognizes that while these implications keep very close to the history and mission of libraries, they still necessity of a new paradigm for librarianship in recent era.

Keywords: Web 2.0, Library 2.0, Blog, Wiki, Social Network, Web Technology, OPAC, Virtual Library, Digital Library, Internet, Information Communication.

Introduction

The term Library 2.0 was coined by 'Michael Casey' on his Blog 'Library Crunch'. He defines the term very broadly, arguing it applies beyond technological innovation and services. The application of Library 2.0 theory to aspects of librarianship reaching beyond Web 2.0 technology, adapting Web 2.0 applications. Libraries encourage user participation and feedback in the development of library services thereby they are frequently evaluated and updated to meet the changing needs of the library users. Library 2.0 is a user centred virtual community. It is completely user centred and user driven. It is library for 21st century, rich in content, interactivity and social activity. In new web environment the user becomes a collaborator to the work of the library. The role of the user as an information seeker has been gradually changed as producer of new information. While Librarian 2.0 might act as a facilitator and provide support, he or she is not necessarily primarily responsible for the creation of the content. Users interact with and create resources with one another and with librarians. A library presence on the Web in Library 2.0 includes the presence of that library constituency and utilizes the same applications and technologies as its community.

The conceptual view of Library 2.0 that might be rather dependable, dream of the technological specifies for the next generation of electronic library services is at once both fraught with inevitable error and absolutely necessary. The details of how the applications so common to Web 2.0 will continue to evolve, and how libraries might utilize and leverage them for their patrons, are inherently hidden they are wholly about innovation. But the conceptual underpinning of a libraries web-presence and how it must evolve into

a multi-media presence that allows users to be present as well, both with the library or librarian and with one another, are clearly in the need of development. Libraries may do well to continue adopting the technology as it evolves, as it allows reference services in an online media to closely approximate the more traditional services of physical library.

Library 2.0 is a loosely defined model for a modernized form of the library services it reflects a transition within library the way that library services are delivered to users. This includes online services like the use of OPAC systems and an increased the flow of information from the user back to the library. With Library 2.0, library services are constantly updated and re-evaluated to best serve for library users. Library 2.0 also attempts to harness of the library user in the design and implementation of library services by encouraging, feedback and participation. Proponents of this concept, sometimes referred to as Radical Trust expect that the Library 2.0 model for service will ultimately replace traditional service offerings that have characterized libraries for centuries.

Definition

In very simple terms Library 2.0 means making your libraries space, virtual and physical, more interactive, collaborative, and driven by users need. When the concept of Library 2.0 came, it was seen as a response to the increasing evolution of web technology, which was more interactive, social, and user determined. In 2005, one librarian described "Library 2.0 simply means making your library's space (virtual and physical) more interactive, collaborative, and driven by community needs. The basic drive is to get people back into the library by making the library relevant to what they want and need in their daily lives to make the library a destination and not an afterthought".

John Blyberg says "we cannot expect to retrofit our libraries with tomorrow's technology. The true pursuit of Library 2.0 involves a thorough recalibration of process, policy, physical spaces, staffing, and technology so that any hand-offs in the patron's library experience are truly seamless".

So, we say that the Library 2.0 is a transformation in the way of library services are delivered to library users. It provides new tools to make the library space (both i.e. virtual and physical) more interactive, collaborative and driven by community needs. It encourages collaborative two-way social interactions between library staff and library customers. Library 2.0 requires user participation and feedback in the development and maintenance of library services.

History

Library 2.0 made its conference debut at Internet in October, 2005, when Michael Stephens of Saint Joseph County Public Library addressed the idea in relation to the typical library website. In September, 2006, article in Library Journal, entitled 'Library 2.0: Service for the next-generation library' begins by expressing the benefit of Library 2.0 to library administrators and taxpayers as providing "more efficient ways of delivering services to achieve greater returns on financial investments." The article continued by asserting that

the much discussed Library 2.0 is important for librarians as it may radically change our customer service and interaction.

With Library 2.0, library services are frequently evaluated and updated to meet the changing needs of library users. Library 2.0 also calls for libraries to encourage user participation and feedback in the development and maintenance of library services. The active and empowered library user is a significant component of Library 2.0. With information and ideas flowing in both directions "from the library to the user and from the user to the library", library services have the ability to evolve and improve on a constant and rapid basis.

Advantages of Library 2.0

By adapting the Web 2.0 applications, libraries encourage user participation and feedback in the development of library services thereby they are frequently evaluated and updated to meet the changing needs of the library users. With information and ideas flowing between the library and users, the services will be improving rapidly. Now most of the useful information or data is available through various kinds of web resources at free of cost. The conventional channels of library system are inadequate for gathering such information and outreaching the user community. So, the information coming through computerization and digitization is limited to their host library or libraries on network, which needs to be supplemented with freshly generated information to take the library concept truly to the new generation. The advantages of Library 2.0 are mentioned below:

- Low risk: Library 2.0 document will not be there physically. It is browser based system, does not require big infrastructure like campus LAN, Servers, Cables or WiFi of our own and computer science or IT qualified experts.
- Low cost: Web 2.0 technology makes it possible to do a lot without licensing as well as maintenance. Thus it will not be a burden to the libraries many times.
- Infrastructure: Library 2.0 is associated with computers, internet connection etc. Its does not require any other infrastructure to gather information and provide the same to users. So, Library 2.0 environment can be established in existing infrastructure.
- Tools and applications: Web 2.0 tools and applications are being developed in almost all regional language. So it is easy to adopt for develop Library 2.0

Technology and Library 2.0

The Library 2.0 extends to the software and hardware that libraries use, including integrated library systems (ILS). Modifiable automation systems and catalogs are preferable to proprietary, closed systems. Some librarians are concerned that ILS vendors, in an attempt to capitalize on the changes brought about by Library 2.0, will design proprietary interfaces to link library catalog data with our users.

In other libraries, applying 2.0 is a question of awareness. "Ask yourself if your library is ready for this type of shift [in technology], because, overwhelmingly, the answer is no," writes Jenny Levine of the Shifted Librarian blog and the American Library Association.

"Librarians just aren't thinking like this yet, and we need to change this. It's at the very core of the whole 'Library 2.0' discussion, and this is why it's so critical. If we keep our content locked up on our own web sites and don't get it out there for people to use as they want to use it, then our content will fall by the wayside".

For many, a realistic start means embracing some inexpensive, even free new technologies. Libraries currently offering word processing may want to move away from locally installed and administered applications and instead point customers to such wonderful online tools as Writely and Write board, which both offer word processing applications that run in the web browser. These online tools offer valuable collaborative functions. Two writers can simultaneously work on Writely, crafting changes visible to the other writer, no matter their physical distance. Many other Microsoft Office–style applications exist online. Microsoft has recently announced online productivity tools to come from Microsoft Office Live.

Conclusion

The use of Web 2.0 technologies and applications, along with others not here mentioned and others not yet invented, will constitute a meaningful and substantive change in the history of libraries. Library 2.0 is a new way of providing library service through new web technologies, with emphasis on user-cantered, change and interaction. Like Web 2.0, a full featured Library 2.0 OPAC gets better the more that users are involved in the process of interacting with the catalogue and sharing contents. The librarians have been working to retool library catalogues in order to make them more useful for patrons to find, organize, and interact with information in a way that has infinite potential for user customization. In the past the information flow was mostly one way from library to user. With new web technologies, information can be released to flow in every direction like library to user, user to library, library to library and user to user.

The best conception of Library 2.0 at this point in time would be a social network interface that the user designs. With the advent of Web 2.0 technologies and applications, the libraries collection will change, becoming more interactive and fully accessible. The library services will changes, focusing more on the facilitation of information transfer and information literacy rather than providing controlled access to it. It is virtual reality of the library, a place where one can not only search for books and journals, but interact with a community, a librarian and share knowledge and understanding with them. Libraries moved collections and sparse services into the online environment, and Library 2.0 will move the full suite of library services into this electronic medium. The library has had a web-presence for many years, and with Library 2.0, its patrons will be joining it.

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