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A Library Learning 2.0 Program

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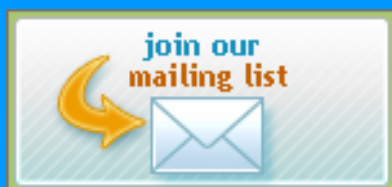
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This newsletter offers encouragement, tips, new tools, and other ideas to participants in More Things On a Stick, A Library Learning 2.0 Program sponsored by the seven Minnesota multicounty multitype library systems.

There are still More Things stickers available. See Issue 1 for details! Don't miss out.

➡ Tweet Tweet

Twitter, apparently, is taking over the world. According to a post on Nielsen Wire, unique visitors to Twitter.com increased **1,382 percent** between February 2008 and February 2009. It now has more than 6,000,000 users. And all this in just 3 years--Twitter celebrated its birthday March 20

Another element that indicates growth is the number of APIs for Twitter. There are more than a thousand of these third-party programs that add functionality and fun to Twitter. People like Twitter and want it to meet many needs, not just microblogging, "I am now going to Macy's," but for productivity, organization, and more.

Media Caffeine has defined 14 Twitter personalities from The Purist to The Tastemaker to The Clueless. Do you fit one of the personalities or are you a combination?

Are you Tweeting? In your library? Be sure to blog about it. Two of the multitype directors are big into Tweeting--Michael Scott from SELS and Linda Wadman from North Country Library Cooperative.

➡ Who's Blogging?

Take a look and leave a comment:

- Lifelong Learner
- PickyTrickyMicky
- The Lunchbreaker
- 23 Things With Lulu
- NoDak Bookgirl
- More Mead's Musings
- Minnemom On a Stick (also a big Tweeter!)

➡ Google Tools

The latest in Google Tools is Google Voice. Voice is the next iteration of Grand Central, a phone aggregator service Google bought a while back. Currently (as of 3.23.09), only users of Grand Central have access to Google Voice, but you can request an invite to join when it opens to all, which should be sometime soon.

So what is Google Voice? Basically it is one phone number for all your calls and text messages(land lines, cell numbers for work, home, cabin, wherever) It has many other features, including:

- Place & answer calls on any of your phones
- Voice mail
- Call Screening
- Conference calls

And much, much more. You can watch videos about the features here. Read Lifehacker's first thoughts on Google Voice. Then you can decide if you want Google to manage you phone/text communications, too.

➡ These Are a Few of My Favorite Things

After two rounds of Things, we have found some we really like. Here are the favorites of Linda Wadman of North Country Library Cooperative.

Not whiskers--More Things is fav
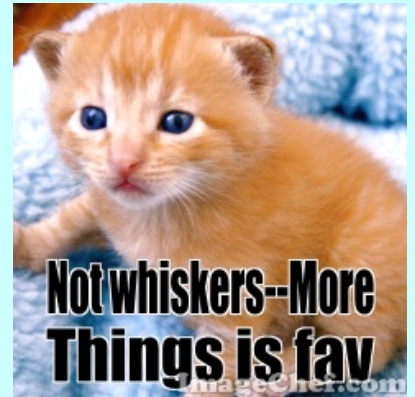
Twitter has to be at the top of my favorite things list. It's such a simple concept, a status report, but so versatile and adaptable that dozens of applications have sprung up around it. I tried it out in the first 23 Things (it was part of the Challenges in Thing 7) just to see what possible use it might have. I was a skeptic, but willing to try it. Not too much later my "aha" moment came when I saw how Kenley Neufeld from the Santa Barbara Community College's Luria Library was using it there. I had to share it with someone in my blog and with a fellow thinger from Hibbing, Cheryl Gillis, who in turn shared it with Chris (another thinger), who almost immediately implemented it for the Hibbing Public Library. (Cheryl has recently inherited the responsibility for tweets there as Chris has moved to city government.) Anyway, seeing that simple, FREE method of using Twitter to broadcast services and events quickly made me realize the potential it had.

I've since seen more and more uses for it. It's kind of like an ongoing cocktail party that you can drop in and out of at will. Because of Twitter I've found that elusive Wii Fit at Christmas, found a fabulous new quilted purse and Twitter follower from an Etsy shop, found a non-greasy handcreme, followed a conference or two, kept up with friends and acquaintances, been alerted early to events that make the news, shared links, found links, and so much more. I don't know how one can't see the value that this simple, free service has, but I guess you each have to have your own "aha" moment. The growth of Twitter should be an indication that these folks have got something special here. And with Facebook blatantly copying the Twitter model with the new Facebook changes, it seems that movers and shakers can see it too. You dismiss Twitter at your peril.

Blogger is another of my favorites, something I would never have expected. Like lots of librarians I know, I'm a fairly private person.Who would think that I'd like to write about what I do or think? Blogging seems to help with reflection in problem solving, helping me sort things out in my own mind, and bringing clarity. I think of Blogger now as my Learning Sandbox. When I try new things, I try to incorporate them into my blog in some way: increasing functionality, adding content, keeping track of those

things I tried for myself, and sharing what I've learned with others who might chose to visit and read my blog. It seems that everything I do for the things makes me realize something else that should be considered when blogging, and that learning experience transfers to my work. What's true for a personal blog is probably worth consideration in designing a work web space. One step leads to another, continuous learning that's fun besides. And reading other blogs is fun too, a sort of people watching in a different way, watching them learn and grow, and benefiting from their sharing of experiences and expertise.

Tagging with Del.icio.us is the third thing that quickly became a favorite. With two places to call home, work and a laptop, it's absolutely essential to be able to access those places I use regularly. Having to bookmark them on four separate computers is just not the best solution; but Del.icio.us clearly was. Now I can go to my bookmarks by tags that mean something to me and find them easily. I don't have to re-search or try to remember where I was when I saved something, it's all there in front of me with Del. iciou.us. And I can search other peoples tags as well and benefit from their knowledge of a subject. Social media, that's what it's all about.

I started thinking about what I use regularly now that I didn't before the 23 Things program and it's a long list, bound to get longer as I explore More On a Stick. Among them are Twitter, Facebook, Del.icio.us, Flickr, Blogger, Google Reader, Friendfeed, Last.fm, personalized home page, Picasa and the list just goes on. On Twitter recently I offered this advice: If you want your 23 Things program to succeed, get people to see the value of things to them personally and they will then find a way to apply it to their work life. I know this is true from my own experience. What do you think? You can find me on Twitter as lindawadman or on Blogger at http:// nclc23things.blogspot.com.

Have fun doing More Things On a Stick. Feel free to pass this newsletter on to your colleagues, family, and friends. Email questions to minn23@gmail.com.

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