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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.

Social-izing Government

US Government agencies can now officially use YouTube, Flickr, Vimeo, and blip.tv to interact and communicate with citizens. After nine months of negotiations with these popular social network sites, the General Services Administration (GSA) announced that the government has signed agreements with these companies that will allow federal agencies to officially post content to these sites.

The new agreements resolve legal concerns associated with many standard terms and conditions that pose problems for agencies, such as liability limits, endorsements and freedom of information, GSA officials said. The GSA is negotiating with MySpace and Facebook, too. GSA has already determined that Twitters Terms of Service is in line with federal requirements.

Many agenices are already using these sites. The Library of Congress is on Flickr and iTunes* and will soon begin uploading content to YouTube.

Why is the federal government on YouTube? "We need to get official information out to sites where people are already visiting and encourage

them to interact with their government," said GSA Acting Administrator Paul Prouty. "The new agreements make it easier for the government to provide official information to citizens via their method of choice."

You can read the details at articles in NextGov and Federal Computer Week, including why the GSA determined the need for the special agreements.

Does your Board or institution have policies on using these social media tools to interact with your users? Do you block any of these sites? If you do, how does that limit citizen's access to government information? Might be time for a discussion of how your library or media center can "get social." If the Feds are doing it....

*Free download required to use iTunes

Who's Blogging?

Take a look and leave a comment:

- Cleaning the Cluttered Brain
- Book's Nook
- Dave's Taurus ID
- Catablog On a Stick
- Inside of a Dog
- Learning Librarian
- 2theLibrary

iGoogle

Making iGoogle your homepage is a way to consolidate a lot of Web-based information you use frequently in one easy-to-see place. You do this by adding "gadgets" to your iGoogle page. You can learn how to find and use many of the gadgets in this series of videos from eHow.

One especially useful feature of iGoogle is the ability to have multiple pages--Tabs--to organize your information. Learn how to create a Tab in this video. On your Home Tab, you probably have the items you use most--Twitter, Gmail, weather, top news, or whatever interests you. Other Tabs give you more "acerage" to add deeper and broader information. So on a News Tab, you might add not just the New York Times headlines, but the most emailed NYT stories, CNN, Washington Post feeds, White House Press Office feeds, USAToday--and People magazine (with pictures!). A Libraries Tab offers a place to display library-related information. You get the idea. Search the Add Stuff link on the right of you iGoogle page. Check the I Feel Lucky box to have your page populated with editor recommendations for your Tab topic. (Libraries, unfortunately, returns zero recommendations.)

iGoogle pages are visible only to the owner. However, using Tabs you can share selected parts of your iGoogle page. From the drop down menu of the Tab you want to share, choose Share This Tab and enter the email addresses of those you want to see your page. Here's a brief description of how to do this.

These Are a Few of My Favorite Things

Robin Chaney of SAMMIE, headquartered in Marshall, finds WebJunction and WebJunction Minnesota to be her favorites.

Since I am a low-tech person, I cannot claim to *love* any of our Things on a Stick. However, WebJunction & WebJunction Minnesota have become valuable tools for me.

WebJunction offers many opportunities for learning about libraries. For those of us in rural Minnesota, there is a section focusing on Rural & Small Libraries. Many webinars on targeted topics for rural libraries are archived to watch when you have the time. Training topics range from grant writing to collaboration to working with boards to technology, and more. WebJunction is the online home of the Association for Rural & Small Libraries. These rural opportunities from WebJunction go a long way in reducing the isolation of rural library staff.

On WebJunction Minnesota (WJMN), I can find the MLA/MEMO Legislative Platform and Talking Points, as well as follow the Legislative Committee activities. The Minnesota Library Community Calendar of Events makes finding MN continuing education events easy. You can even click on the calender to register for an event.

When you explore WJMN (Thing 46), be sure to do the For the Curious part and be a featured member in the Spotlight. We like to know who is part of the community. You can easily add content, too, which makes WJMN more useful for all.

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.

The 23 Things On a Stick Team
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The Minnesota Multicounty Multitype Library Systems

This statewide program is brought to you by Minnesota's seven multicounty multitype library systems (multitypes). The multitypes improve library services by promoting & facilitating cooperation among the academic, public, school library media centers, & special libraries within their regions. This program is part of the professional development that all of the multitypes provide for the library staff of their members.

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