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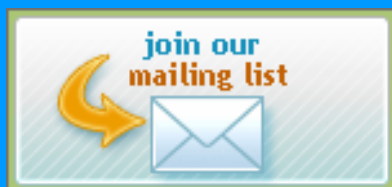
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This newsletter offers encouragement, tips, new tools, and other ideas to participants in More Things On a Stick, A Library Learning 2.0 Program sponsored by the seven Minnesota multicounty multitype library systems.

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

→ Using Social Network Tools in a Disaster



Twitter and Facebook and other social networking tools are advancing into local governments, too. The Minneapolis Star Tribune had a [recent article](#) on how some suburbs are using the tools to communicate to citizens.

Flooding in the Red River Valley has sparked interest in using the tools to communicate with family and friends about evacuations, locations, and more. Minnesota Public Radio has used the tools for [live blogging](#) on the flood and community meetings to keep people up-to-date. An [on-air story](#) highlighted Twitter, although not many teenagers seem to be using it.

Here is an article on [incorporating social tools](#) in municipal disaster plans. Has your community or institution considered how it can use these tools in times of natural or other disasters?

→ Live Long & Prosper? Maybe Not

You have probably noticed that some of the links in More Things On a Stick have been crossed out or deleted. Or may even be dead. What's the deal?



Several of the tools that were live and busy in January have stopped operating or changed their terms of service. LookyBook was a great site that let you read and turn the pages of illustrated children's books. It is just gone. Google Notebook was a useful tool for research; you could cut and paste info, links, etc. from the Web and have it all in your Notebook to organize and share. It is no longer supported by Google. Other Google tools have changed--Grand Central into Google Voice--or been dropped from the range like Lively, a 3D world like Second Life.

The latest change is with GCast. It has gone from free to \$99 a year for 90 minutes of time over 3 months. That is a bummer for schools especially who used this simple podcast tool that used a phone for creating the podcast. This pricing structure really eliminates the education/library market. There are some similar tools out there, but for those in the middle of a project, this isn't good.

So does this mean you shouldn't use these Web 2.0 tools? No, but it does mean you should think about how you use them and how you back-up your data. When Yahoo bought Flickr, there was a six-month stream of emails about changing over your Yahoo Photo account to Flickr--and if you didn't do it, your photos were lost. Not all services give that much warning. So you need a Plan B about how you will deal with any changes. And read those emails from the providers--you don't want to be caught by surprise one day.



[These Are a Few of My Favorite Things](#)

Nancy Steele, director of SMILE, offers her take on the Things.

Where to start? 23 Things On a Stick and More Things opened many tools that are useful but can gobble up your time. The social tools are not as appealing to me, but the opportunity to work together on projects from divergent locations makes a lot of sense. GoogleDocs allows several people to work on a document in real time. The only drawback I have found is that not everyone is willing to do this.



I have also fallen in love with some new gadgets. Webcams can improve distance meetings. Don't expect the pictures to be flattering though! Webcams are just at the beginning of use, but having them built into the new notebooks is a great step toward more use and acceptability. I expect webcams and video transmissions during meetings to become commonplace in future years.

MP-3 players are also amazing in their storage capacity. Libraries find that downloadable audio books are in demand. I have mixed feelings about the Kindle and other e-books. They are a neat gadget. An earlier e-book was tried but not enough titles and download costs contributed to its downfall. The Kindle is new, so the long-term use is yet to be seen. Every time I read about or get information about new Google features or a new Web 2.0 tool, I'm amazed. How can the developers think of them, let alone engineer them? People said that engineers work in ivory towers dreaming of how to make things possible. Now they seem to be way out in space. If you remember Arthur C. Clarke, he said "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." I've seen a lot of "magic" in my life. Using GoogleDocs with remote input from others, seeing pictures from afar via Webcam, reading an audio book downloaded from the Web, all seem like magic. I hope to keep exploring this magic world.

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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