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A Library Learning 2.0 Program

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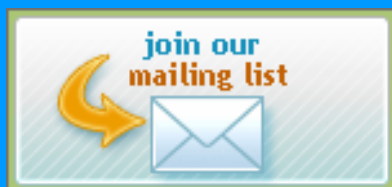
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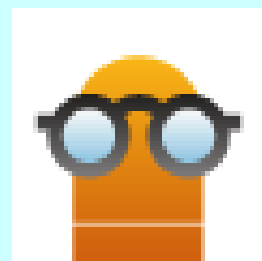
More About Us

[join our mailing list]

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.

→ Books 2.0

Since More Things On a Stick launched in January, new book-related sites and services have popped up-- or closed up shop. And More Thingers made some recommendations for ones we didn't mention, too.

One of the most recent is bookarmy, a social networking site formed around books. It has HarperCollins behind it, so maybe it will stay around. Here is how bookarmy describes itself:

> Bookarmy is a social networking website for every sort of reader. Whether you're a bookaholic or someone who picks up a book only once a year while relaxing on holiday, bookarmy is the place to discuss and review books, build reading lists, get the best book recommendations, and where you and your friends, family or classmates can read books together.
>
> What makes bookarmy different from other book sites is that here you can make direct contact with authors; see what star rating they have given books, browse their reading lists, ask them questions about their own writing, and recommend titles to them.

You can register, set up your profile (and qualify as a Bookworm, since

you have no doubt read 250 books or more!), find book recommendations, make recommendations, track your reading, join book discussions, watch author videos, enter competitions, and much, much more. Bookarmy, still in Beta, is worth a look.

Other sites recommended by More Things participants are SurLaLune Fairy Tales (aimed at adults) and the Multonomah Public Library book resource section. Mystery lovers should check out these: DorothyL newsgroup for mystery reviews; Stop, You're Killing Me for mystery series; The Rapsheet Blog for everything to do with mysteries; and Noir of the Week.

One of the most fun sites that is no longer online is LookyBook, which offered illustrated children's books that you could "read" by tuning the pages. Its goodbye page says it closed due to lack of resources. We can sympathize.

→ Don't Give Up!

Stay the course! Keep on keeping on! Work smarter! You can do it! Get on the stick! Encourage each other!

Remember, everyone who completes at least 10 of the Things and blogs about them will receive the incentive, a cool bag with the More Things On a Stick logo. Those who do all of the Things and blog about them will receive a bonus. To give us an idea of how many we need, please answer this quick survey.

This is the only round of More Things On a Stick--no second chances to complete, so get on the stick. Deadline is May 20, 2009.

If you still need More Things stickers, send a self-addressed stamped envelop to More Things Stickers, Metronet, 1619 Dayton Ave. Ste 314, St. Paul MN 55104.

⮕ A Sampling of My Favorite Things

By Patricia Post, CMLE

Picking my favorite things is a tough assignment, because it is always changing. I also took my time in submitting my article for this newsletter (big mistake), so I feel that some of my absolute favorite tools like RSS feeds, wikis, Delicious, Google Docs, and blogs, are real old hat by now. That doesn't mean that I don't use them every day, and in fact, they have just become part of my daily toolkit in doing my work.

In April I attended the *Computers in Libraries Conference* in Washington, D.C. for the first time. It was a fantastic experience and I learned lots. I felt like I fit right in and picked up more favorites (things and people), ideas, and found a new way to use Twitter. I must admit I am still trying to build a meaningful relationship with Twitter, and saw many, many participants at the Conference having a very deep love affair with Twitter. I am still somewhat mystified by the intensity of some of that, but if the tool fits, use it!

Twitter Applied

Twitter was the buzz at the Conference. Tweets coming from participants were so plentiful that the CIL2009 Conference was the number two trend on Twitter during that time. Exciting. In case you missed learning this in Thing 27 or 31, go to Twitter, scroll to the bottom of the page, click on Search, and type #cil2009 in the search box to see tweets from the conference. Before the conference began, the conference brochure declared this would be the hash tag for the conference, so whenever you wrote a tweet that was conference specific, you embedded #cil2009 in your tweet text. Pssstt...there are probably 100 other ways to do this same thing given the thousands of Twitter apps out there.

I found another interesting way to use Twitter after this conference. I wrote down the names of all presenters and other "cool cats" I met at the conference, sat down and looked for them in Twitter (most use their real name, which is the cool thing to do). Few professionals continue to hide behind a fake name anymore. So, I dutifully came back and edited my profile on Twitter to my full, real name. And, nothing terrible has happened. Nothing!

Next, I decided to use my Twitter account to follow my favorite conference people. Some of these people were new to me, but it was clear that they

are movers and shakers in libraries and worth watching. I found that some of them had just started following me too, which was a little surprising. I felt honored.

Conference Links and Cool Tools

From the conference, I picked up a few other cool new tools. In three days, I jammed in two keynotes and 14 breakout sessions. I have to keep this short, so will share a few links and favorite presentations. Some of the presentations are online and free to everyone. The link to the final program and presenter pdf's (including keynotes) are at http://www. infotoday.com/cil2009/program.asp. Enjoy.

I don't know if you know Mary Ellen Bates, but she is a renowned-Internet-search diva, that I have adored for years. She did a wonderful session on new search tools, and the pdf is at http://conferences.infotoday.com/documents/32/A101_Bates.pdf

Another really fun session I attended was called What's Hot in RSS, by Steven Cohen (a seriously funny presenter). The content is not online, and was not a perfect fit with the title, but Steven shared some of his favorites, which became my favorites:

- Votes Database was created by a Washington intern and allows you to track how your legislators vote on any and all issues.
- TicTocs is a table of contents RSS feed. It has thousands of journals, you set up your RSS feed to a title, and receive the latest T of C of your favorite journals in your feed reader.
- Page 2 RSS at is Cohen's favorite. Have you ever been on a favorite site that does not have an RSS feed? Well, this tool takes care of that problem and even allows you to add a button to your toolbar to do this easily when surfing.
- I Want To or "I need to" or "How do I?" These are all questions we all ask all the time. This site helps answer those questions. Now listing over 1,000 applications and growing.
- Awesome Highlighter allows you to highlight text on web pages, then gives you a small link to the highlighted page. Your boss and colleagues will think you are pure genius.

Enjoy your journey through the More Things on a Stick Program, and remember, personal and professional growth is all about exposing yourself to new people, tools and ideas. Onward!

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
Patricia (CMLE), Ann WS (Metronet), Linda (NCLC), Ruth (NLLN), Robin (SAMMIE), Ann H & Michael Scott (SELS), & Nancy (SMILE)
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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