

Cutting-edge Library Services Right Away Using Social Networking Tools

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Abstract

Social media website like second life, facebook and twitter reducing the saddle of librarian in all the aspect to communicate, share and disseminate the information in appropriate time. People are extensively using micro blogging and other social network sites to share and feed the valuable resources within their community. Library is the heart of any educational institution could crap this opportunity to interact with their patron in easy way by 24/7. The user perspective has tremendously changed since last decade to access the information like faceted search, book review, rss feed, email alert, sms alert and ranking the resource. To satisfy the modern user the library professional to enhance the skill in web based library services such as content delivery, article or book reminder and sms alert and so on. In this article the author has depicted about various open source tools available for social networking service to the library community, usage and implementation.

Keywords: Social Networks, eLibrary, elgg, PHPmotion, Mobile Website

1. Introduction

We, social people are already in social network since we born. Internet has condensed all features of social network to one network bringing together people from all walks of life and across the globe. This is called web based social networking in other word social networking site. Today there are billions of users are using social networking site and creating community, sharing content and collaborating with others. Social Networking becomes an integral part of our lives. Social networking is defined as a Web-based service that allows individuals, groups and organizations to build relationships with other users. These sites often feature a public or semi-public profile within a restricted system, a list of connected users, and a list of connections of users which is created within the system of the site.

Flow of process: It is a process of relationship building among a group of people. Participants have common interests and must confirm that they are mutual friends. After confirmation, they are linked together to share their views, upload picture, videos, create profile of themselves and becomes friends of other users. Every Social Networking Site has privacy controls. Users have to decide who can view their profile, picture or videos, contact with them, etc. and who cannot.

1.1. How it is Useful

Social Networks are also used for exchange information such as conference, opportunities, recent development in the respective areas and ideas. Professional are able to stay informed with new knowledge about their field. It is also being used by teachers, lectures, professors, students as communication tool. It has been seen that number of students are already using a wide-range of social networking sites. Teacher and Lectures have begun to familiarize themselves with this trend and are



now using it to their advantage. Social Networks are also being used to foster teacher-parent communication and make possible to interact with parents about the progress of the student without having to meet face to face.

2. Building Library website using Social Networking tool

It is a new challenge for us to apply social Networking in a digital age to enhance and extend the service mission of libraries. Students do not go to the library unless it is absolutely necessary. In libraries book circulation can be integrated with the social networking site to fasten and keep informed about the registered book, due date, renewal, etc. New arrival of books, journals, e-resources and other reference sources will be informed to the pattern through rss feed, email and sms alert using social network site. Reference and referral service services could handle efficiently in the electronic era by social website such as second life, twitter, etc. These social network sites are easy to configure and deliver the service very quickly without much expertise in information technology and more conveniently. So now it is time to build library services with the help of social network site. For Implementation of social networking in college/university library so many open source tools are available. The following tools are integrate with the library website within minimal time frame.

2.1 Mobile Website

In 21st century almost everyone has mobile, so each one wants all the information should be available at their mobile device. So library has their mobile version of website where users can catch all the relevant information. User could chat with the librarian for various kind of information and get

alert about different resources. Below link will help us out to create the mobile version of library website. <http://www.the10most.com/mobile/10-great-mobile-website-builders.html>

2.2 Audio/Video Tutorial Notes

Each library should have one platform/application for audio video tutorial like you-tube which is now a day very popular for sharing video contents. It would be better if library has their own application so that it restricts the user for authentic user as well as for avoiding the garbage audio/video collection. There are many open source software which full-fill such requirements one of them is phpmotion.

❖ PHPmotion Media Sharing CMS

PHPmotion is a free video sharing software that also has support for other types of media such as audio/mp3 sharing. The Content Managent System will allow user to create and share video, audio and Picture. The librarian could host the video lecture of subject, conference and other event occurred with the institution and it will reach wide user with in minimum time.



Figure1: PHPmotion Home Page

2.3 Own Community Own Application

In college/university somehow each one is associated with library. So library should provide

a platform where academician, students, etc can associate virtually to each other and utilize their expertise together. As for example if a professor wants his view or lecture notes to all students then on that situation that professor and all students achieve this work on common social network application. To create one application of social networking engine there are many open source software one of them is elgg.

❖ **ELGG:** Elgg is an award-winning open source social networking engine that provides a robust framework on which to build all kinds of social environments, campus wide social network for university, school or college or an internal collaborative platform for an organization. Elgg is built with PHP / MySQL & comes with a JSON API. There are following features of elgg.

- ◆ social networking
- ◆ advanced user management and administration
- ◆ internationalization support
- ◆ multiple view support (eg cell phones, iPhone)



Figure2: elgg Home Page

2.4. Own Book Own Organizer

Another known name of library is book and client of library known as book lover. To make client happy library has to facilitate the client in such a way that client can easily search their book, book

info should display in very user friendly, management of work and research documents should managed by tagging feature. In this regard also there are many open source software available one of them is eLibrary.

❖ **eLibrary:** eLibrary is a simple and very efficient tool for organizing a personal ebook library. It is open source and free software, automatically scans your document folders and downloads the book's cover image and info from the web, and displays them in a friendly user interface.

The book's info is downloaded using the ISBN, which can enter manually, or let the application guess it.

Besides digital books, eLibrary has organizing and tagging features which are useful for managing your work & research documents, manuals and your real home library. Apart from this, there are following features included

- ◆ Dynamic tagging tree
- ◆ Search & Sort by title, author and publisher etc.
- ◆ Directory monitor that scans for new books and automatically prompts to add them.
- ◆ Custom metadata fields for any other organizing need
- ◆ File Renaming of books by template

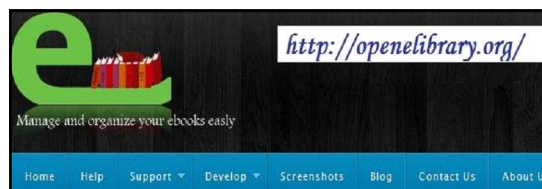


Figure 3: eLibrary Home Page

3. Conclusion

Now a day the libraries are user centered, the usage and expectation of the user is constantly changing. To satisfy the user the librarian should adopt the change and enhance the library service based on the user need. The social networking sites are the appropriate tool to share, collaborate and disseminate the information in 24/7. Web and mobile is the medium to disseminate resources in a fast and efficient way. Even institutions are encouraged to enhance their education through Information and Communication technology by developing course content online, e-learning, etc. This is the time to take necessary steps to take our library to the newer height by integrate the library services with the social network sites, using sharing tools and keep update the library user in efficient way.

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