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LIBRARY INSTRUCTION ROUND TABLE NEWS

The purpose of LIRT is to advocate library instruction as a means for developing competent library and information use as a part of life-long learning.

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By Carol Schuetz, Carol_Carson@baylor.edu

Midwinter Conference

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From the Editor

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Editor: Jeffrey A. Knapp, Assistant Librarian

Federated Searching: Simplicity or Mass Confusion?

Almost a year ago I wrote an article for

Flash, a Macromedia software program used to create dynamic appearing presentations, was used to develop a tutorial for the LIS (Library and Information Science) 1001 classes for Boolean operators or connectors. Sigrid Kelsey, Electronic Reference Services and Web Development Coordinator Librarian at Louisiana State University Middleton Library, and Kristin Whitehair, LSU School of Library and Information Science student developed the five minute tutorial as part of a field experience between Middleton Library and the School of Library and Information Science, in order to assist students with the complex idea of Boolean connectors. Many hours of painstaking work as well as trial and error went into the making of this tutorial, and the result is a successful one that is a great help to students and instruction librarians.

Boolean operators are not an easy thing to teach to the online generation. In fact, they have great difficulty in grasping the concept that “and” gives you the fewest results while “or” gives you the most, thinking of “and” as a

overcome this challenge to those who are so inclined. Plan what subjects you feel would be appropriate for a Flash tutorial, such as Boolean operators, scholarly versus popular sources, etc., and then run with it. Plan your script, music, characters, etc. in advance of sitting down with Flash. It may be a labor of love for a small tutorial, but if it adds to the overall educational experience and drives the point home to the online generation, it is well worth the time and investment.

Mitch Fontenot is Reference/Information Literacy Librarian at Louisiana State University Middleton Library and would like to thank Sigrid Kelsey, Electronic Reference Services and Web Development Coordinator Librarian, for her invaluable assistance with this article. If you are interested in taking a look at the tutorial, it is located at http://www.lib.lsu.edu/ref/flash/Boolean.html.

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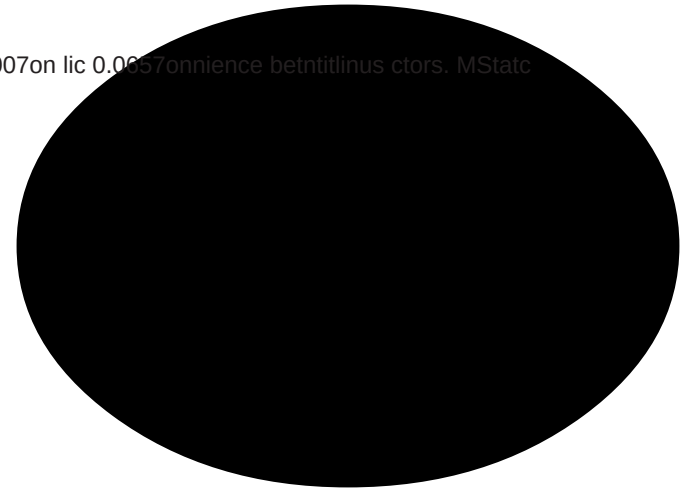

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Check These Out

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2News” , the

by Linda J. Goff, ljgoff@csus.edu

REPORT FROM THE WORLD LIBRARY AND INFORMATION CONGRESS 71st IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE AND COUNCIL Oslo, Norway August 13-19, 2005

My first inkling that I might be able to attend the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) conference was in January of 2004 when the LIRT was asked to nominate someone as a representative to the IFLA Information Literacy Standing Committee. It could have been in recognition of my long-term and active membership that LIRT Executive Committee nominated me, (or maybe it was my willingness to pay my own travel expenses), but in February, 2005, I received notice from the ALA Executive Board that my nomination had been accepted by IFLA and in March my official letter of appointment for a four year term arrived from IFLA headquarters in the Hague.

IFLA has 115 member countries and most of them were represented in the cacophony of voices I heard when checking in to the conference in Oslo, Norway. Luckily English is one of the official languages of IFLA. All programs offered simultaneous translations in five languages via headsets, so librarians and information professionals from all over the world had little trouble understanding each other. Attendance at IFLA would dispel the stereotype of librarians as quiet or reserved. When they weren't intently listening to programs, the IFLA delegates were engaged in lively discussions of common interests.

The Information Literacy Standing Committee met twice, the day before and the day after the main conference, so I was invited to sit in on the discussion of the previous year's activities before officially joining the ILSC. Jesús Lau from Universidad Veracruzana, México chairs the committee and reported on the publications and programs. Many similar reports are available at the committee's web site: http://www.ifla.org/VII/s42/index.htm

The IFLA conference coincided with Norway's Centennial celebration of independence from Sweden and also the opening of the newly remodeled National Library, so other activities abounded. The Opening Ceremony on Monday was attended by King Harald V of Norway, so delegates were asked to be in their seats early. The ceremony included music, drama, and speeches and was capped off with a parade of national flags carried in by over 100 volunteers.

Report from the World Library and Information Congress

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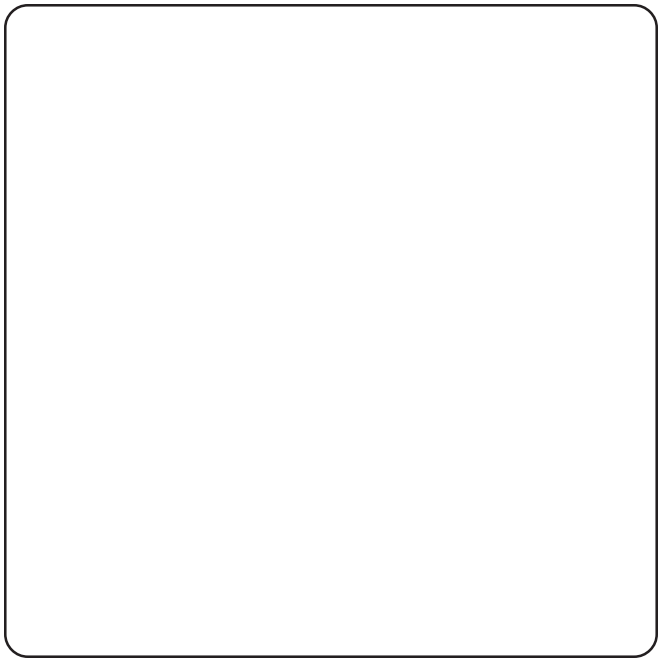
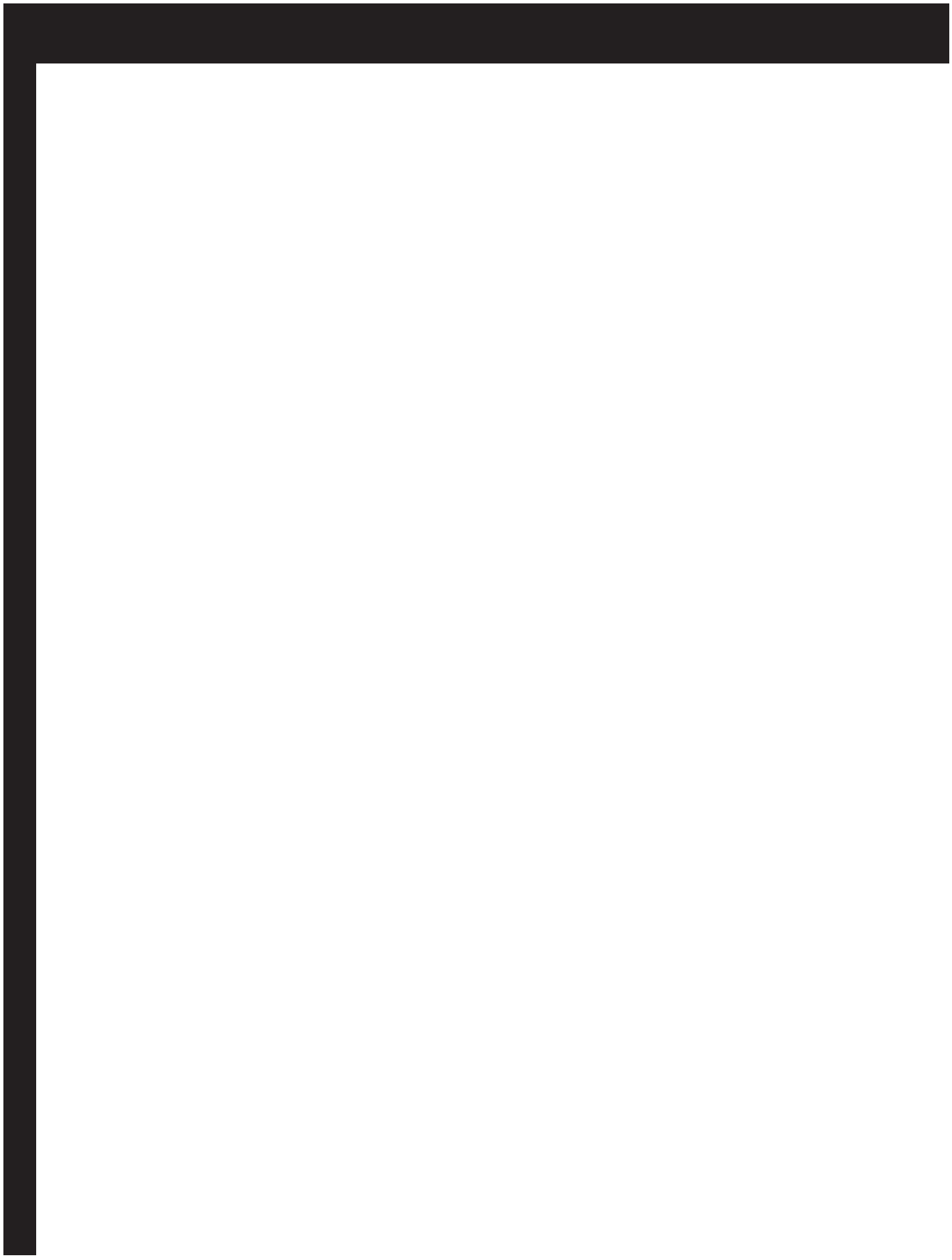
established





more presentations offered during the same time slot. Although not strictly a library, the Spoken Alexandria Project (http://www.spokenalex.org/) is creating a free library of spoken word recordings, consisting of classics in the public domain and modern works (with permission). Libraries might consider how to incorporate these audio classics with programs for their communities. Other examples of working with podcasting and books can be found at Yahoo!! Podiobooks (http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Humanities/Literature/Electronic_Literature/Podiobooks/).

Ultimately, the real key is to identify and develop podcasts that will appeal to the user, so they will want to subscribe to the feed. One way to keep up with what libraries are doing in this area is to subscribe to the bibliocasting listserv (send the following message: subscribe bibliocasting firstname lastname to: listserv@listserv.syr.edu). There is also an experiment of podcasting the listserv; the URL for this podcast is: http://drew.syr.edu/iis4/pod/pod.xml.

Creating podcasts still requires a bit of technical expertise and will require a commitment on the part of the library administration and staff. Gahran describes the basics of working with podcasts:

1. Create and edit the audio content—probably the most challenging aspect of the process, but not an insurmountable challenge. The audio files must be MP3 compatible and can be created using low-end

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For now, one solution to the copyright issue, especially as it applies to music, is to use music that is within the public domain. The following sites can help identify some of this music: Public Domain Music (http://www.pdinfo.com); The Internet Archive (http://www.archive.org); OurMedia (http://www.ourmedia.org); or Creative Commons License – Yahoo! http://search.yahoo.com/cc).

Gordon-Murnane brings to the table all of the issues associated with classification, tagging, metadata, archiving, and indexing podcasts. Look how much podcasting has grown in 12-18 months; how many podcasts and podcast sites will be available in 5, 10, or 15 years? How will podcasts be accessed in the future? Will podcasts be archived and preserved? There is clearly a role for the expertise of information professionals within the podcasting realm. Librarians can do for podcasts what they have done for the web through the implementation of sophisticated search tools comparable to the Librarians' Internet Index or InfoMine. The knowledge and expertise developed through partnerships like that of the Library of Congress and Portico (http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2005/05-217.html) will provide the tools for preserving these files for the future.

Librarians must care and learn about podcasting because all indicators show that podcasting will soon be an integral part of life, and librarians need to discover how they can slip their presence into and make use of the podcasting environment. Librarians must be confident as they help clients obtain information from podcasts, which means they must know how to find that information, in the same way they use Google efficiently to mine information from the Internet. Librarians must help identify quality podcasts and podcast sites and provide the indexing, archiving, and preservation of these files. Podcasting is not a passing fad—it's an evolving information resource.

Additional Resources

"And Now for the Podcast." New Scientist 185.2486 (2005): 24.

"Audiofeeds.org." <http://audiofeeds.org/>.

Biever, Celeste. "And Now for the Podcast … Why Search the Web for Internet Radio When the Audio Equivalent of TiVo Will Do It While You Sleep?" New Scientist 185.2486 (2005): 24.

Bullis, K. "Podcasting Takes Off." Technology Review 108.10 (2005): 30.

Crofts, Sheri, Jon Dilley, and Mark Fox. "Podcasting: A New Technology in Search of Viable Business Models." First Monday 10.9 (2005) <http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue10_9/crofts/index.html>.

Crowell, Grant. "Video and Podcast Search Engines." SearchEngineWatch. October 11, 2005. <http://searchenginewatch.com/searchday/article.php/3555196>.

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Standing Committees

Library **I**nstruction **R**ound **T**able

Adult Learners - Assists library professionals to understand, find information or promote ideas on learning styles, teaching methods, and training resources most often associated with adult learners.

Conference Program - Plans the LIRT program for the ALA Annual Conference. Makes arrangements for speakers, room, handouts, and activities during the program.

Liaison-This committee shall initiate and maintain communication with groups within the American Library Association dealing with issues relevant to library instruction and shall disseminate information about these groups' activities.

Long Range Planning - Develops short and long range plans for LIRT. Implements planning and operations for the activities of LIRT. Chaired by president-elect.

Newsletter - Solicits articles, prepares

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