

# Putting the Library Website in Their Hands

*The Advantages & Challenges of a Homegrown Content Management System*



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# Overview

1. Presentation
2. Quick demo of CMS
3. Questions



# Problems

- Information is:
  - maintained by a wide variety of people with different skill and comfort levels
  - pulled in from multiple systems
  - buried deep within site - too many clicks
  - difficult to integrate into the curriculum
  - difficult to update and keep current
- Design and layout of page is:
  - prescribed by the template being used
  - difficult for content creators to insert creativity in the way the info is presented

# Traditional Solutions

- Create database-driven web pages
- Install a content management system
  - Tweak that system for desired solutions
- Distribute responsibility for content creation and maintenance throughout library
- Develop templates to make other library systems look integrated into library website

# Our Solutions

Build our own content management system!

System should:

- Be easy to use for front-end and back-end users
- Have Web Services staff interference in content creation kept to a minimum
- Allow users of the system to manage everything they own
- Contain remixable, modular blocks of content, objects, and metadata
- Have the ability to incorporate content from other systems easily
- Share content easily with other library systems

A word cloud centered around the text "Web 2.0". The words are arranged in a circular pattern around the center, with varying font sizes and colors. The colors are primarily orange and white. The words include:

- Aggregators
- Blogs
- Participation
- Folksonomy
- Wikis
- User Centered
- Joy of Use
- Six Degrees
- Usability
- Widgets
- Browser
- AJAX
- Design
- CSS
- Pay Per Click
- Affiliation
- Economy
- The Long Tail
- XML
- Syndication
- Microformats
- SOAP
- Modularity
- Accessability
- DataDriven
- Remixability
- REST
- Standardization
- Web Standards
- Semantic
- RSS
- OpenAPIs
- UMTS
- Mobility
- Atom
- XHTML
- SVG
- Ruby on Rails
- VC
- Trust
- SEO
- OpenID
- OpenAPIs
- Recommendation
- Videocasting
- Podcasting
- Sharing
- Collaboration
- Perpetual Beta
- Simplicity
- FOAF
- Video
- IM
- Audio
- Convergence

# Our Inspirations





# WEB ADMINISTRATION



HOME User Settings Logout

## Metadata Administration

[List My Metadata](#) - [List Metadata Types](#) - [Create New Metadata](#) - [List Metadata](#) - [Run Reports](#)

Vacek, Rachel



<a href="#">ID/EDIT</a>	<a href="#">Title/View</a>	<a href="#">Owner</a>	<a href="#">Updated</a>	<a href="#">Reviewed</a>	<a href="#">Active</a>	Mark as Reviewed
Page						
<a href="#">2260</a>	<a href="#">Alternative Low-Cost Journals</a>	<a href="#">Web Services</a>	28-Aug-08	06-Oct-08	yes	<a href="#">Reviewed</a>
<a href="#">1034</a>	<a href="#">Architecure &amp; Art Reserve Request Form</a>	<a href="#">Web Services</a>	01-Jan-02	01-Jan-02	yes	<a href="#">Reviewed</a>
<a href="#">2268</a>	<a href="#">Author Copyright Agreements</a>	<a href="#">Web Services</a>	27-Aug-08	27-Aug-08	yes	<a href="#">Reviewed</a>
<a href="#">2253</a>	<a href="#">Changing Scholarly Communication</a>	<a href="#">Web Services</a>	27-Aug-08	27-Aug-08	yes	<a href="#">Reviewed</a>
<a href="#">2256</a>	<a href="#">Consolidation of the Publishing Industry through Mergers and Acquisitions</a>	<a href="#">Web Services</a>	27-Aug-08	27-Aug-08	yes	<a href="#">Reviewed</a>
<a href="#">1045</a>	<a href="#">Database Description</a>	<a href="#">Web Services</a>	01-Jan-02	01-Jan-02	yes	<a href="#">Reviewed</a>





## STAGING SERVER: Social Work Virtual Library

manage



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AIM: librarianvia

manage



### My Schedule

Stuck on a research assignment?  
Need help navigating library resources?  
Contact me! I'm available to help.

#### Fall Hours

By appointment, or

**At the Library Information Desk:**

Mon. 2-4pm and Wed. 4-5pm

**At the GCSW Computer Lab:**

Thurs. 3 - 4:30pm

manage



## Quick Search

[Social Work Articles](#) [Books+](#) [Films](#) [eJournals](#) [Course Reserves](#)

edit/view



Searches five key databases. Search more [Social Work databases](#)

Search

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## Key Research Tools

[PsycINFO](#)

[Social Work Abstracts](#)

[SocINDEX with Full Text](#)

[Other Social Work Databases](#)

HAM-TMC Library

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## Help & Tutorials

[APA Citation Style](#)

[Writing Help](#)

[Library Workshops](#)

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## Quick Info

[Graduate College of Social Work](#)

[National Association of Social Workers](#)

[NASW Texas](#)

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## Class Guides

[Clinical Applications of the DSM](#)

[Historical Social Policy Research](#)

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## Related Links

[HAM-TMC](#)

*"I like that our content management system is modular. It makes the structure of our pages more interesting and helps eliminate the tendency to do what librarians do best: create a giant list of links on a page. We have enough freedom with the modular system to create a page that makes sense to our users, but our pages all still have a unified look and feel."*

- Veronica, Reference & Instruction Librarian

# Content Frame/Tabs Module

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## Content Frame Information

Title

Description (optional)

Title Style

Tab Style

Content Style

## Tabs/Frames

Title	Type	Order	Delete
<input type="text" value="Instructors"/>	Text Editor	1	<a href="#">delete</a>
<input type="text" value="Researchers"/>	Text Editor	2	<a href="#">delete</a>
<input type="text" value="New Students"/>	Text Editor	3	<a href="#">delete</a>
<input type="text" value="Graduating Students"/>	Text Editor	4	<a href="#">delete</a>

## Add Tab/Frame

Title:

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## Information For

[Instructors](#) [Researchers](#) [New Students](#) [Graduating Students](#)

edit/view

Your librarian can help you

**Create Assignments** incorporating research skills  
**Teach Students** through library instruction sessions  
**Improve** the quality of your students' research citations  
**Create an Online Research Portal** for your course in WebCT  
**Order** books and dvds you need for your class.

[Request a Library Instruction Session](#)

[Add Materials to Course Reserves](#)

[Information Literacy for Faculty](#)

[Council on Social Work Education](#)

[Journal of Social Work Education](#)

[UH Writing Center](#)

[UH Educational Technology](#)

# Feed Module

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Name of Feed to Display

Congressional Quarterly

[Add a new feed](#)

Change feed Display Name

CQ Politics

(Leave Blank for the Default)

Number of Items to display

3

Title Only

Show "More" link ☒

Update

**CQ Politics**

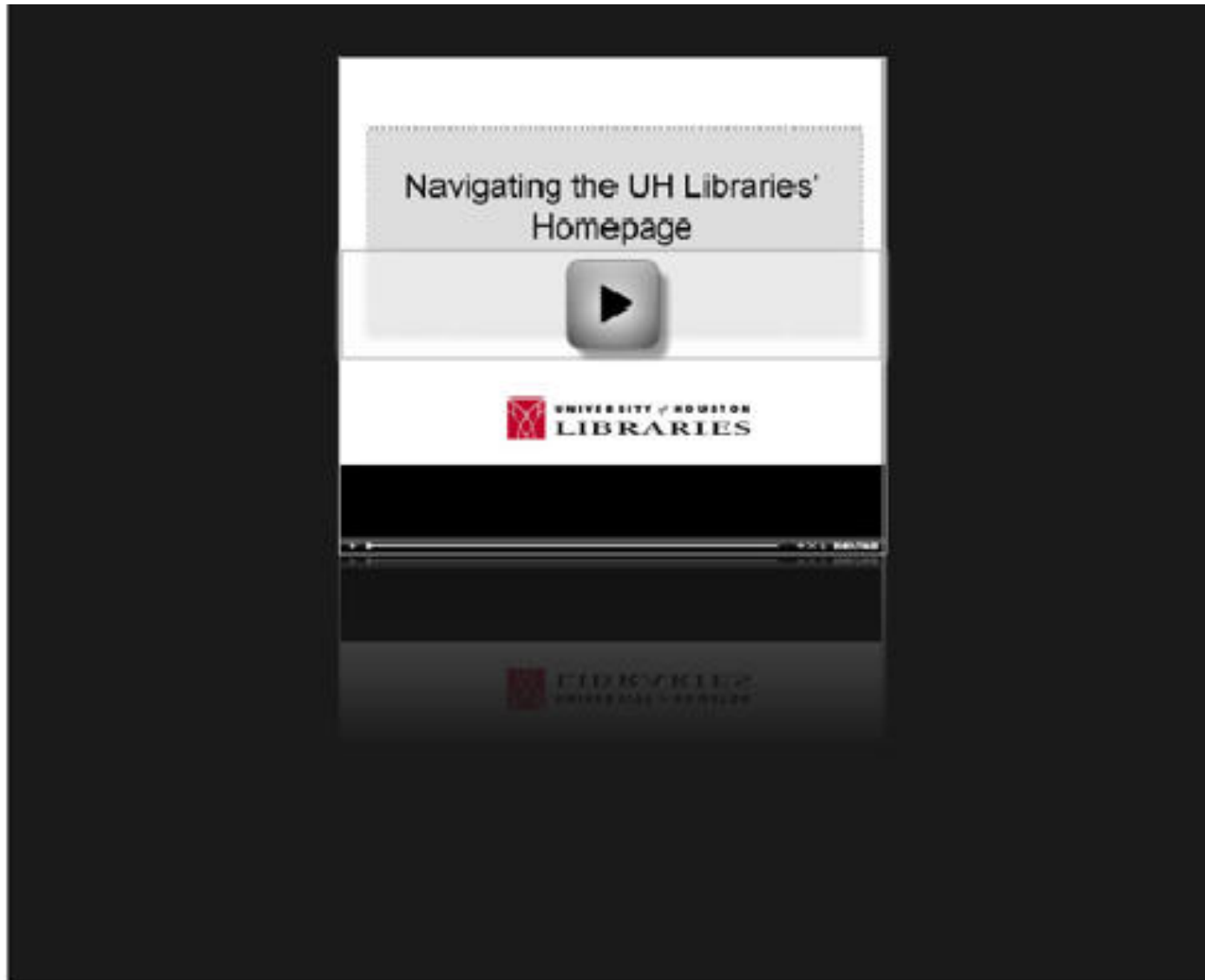
[CQ Transcript: McCain Campaign Advisers' Teleconference on Economic Plan](#)

[Lawmakers Welcome Latest Market Intervention](#)

[Fact-Checking McCain and Obama on Roots of Economic Crisis](#)

[More](#)

# Online Tutorials



**Share This**

[Embed This](#)

[Email This](#)



# Microformats

[More](#)

## Events at UH Libraries

### Company Research with Job Searching

Thu - Oct 16 03:00 PM - 4:00 PM , Location: [Training Room 106R](#)

### Searching Lexis Nexis Academic

Thu - Oct 23 03:00 PM - 4:00 PM , Location: [Training Room 106R](#)

### Searching Lexis Nexis Congressional

Tue - Oct 28 02:00 PM - 3:00 PM , Location: [Training Room 106R](#)

[More Events](#)

## Today's Hours

M.D. Anderson Library: 7am - 12:45am  
Architecture and Art Library: 8am - 8pm  
Music Library: 8am - 8pm  
Optometry Library: 7:30am - 10pm  
Pharmacy Library: 8am - 9pm  
Special Collections: 9am - 5pm

[More Hours](#)

## Libraries Spotlight

[Exhibits & Events](#)

[Collections](#)

[Research Tools](#)

[Services](#)



Dana Rooks, Dean of Libraries, and the Student Government Association invite you to the [4th Annual Great Pumpkin Carving Contest](#) on Thursday, October 30th at 4:30pm.



The University of Houston Libraries and the Creative Writing Program present the [Poetry & Prose reading series](#) featuring faculty, students and alumni of the University of Houston, and other well-known writers. Readings are held throughout the fall and spring semesters; all readings are free and open to the public.



# Virtual Libraries

- Federated searches
- Searches for particular types of items from catalog
  - Reserves, Videos, Music Scores, etc.
- New books from the catalog
- Lists of relevant databases
- Subject liaison contact info
  - Meebo widget, IM handles
- News feeds from their subject blog and from relevant professional associations or websites
- Related websites
- Tutorials
- Audience specific info and links

# Tools currently and soon to be integrated within the CMS

 **LibraryFind®** **ExLibris** **DigiTool****LibraryThing** BETA **ARCHON™**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS**SerialsSolutions®** **WorldCat®****flickr®****WORDPRESS<sup>μ</sup>**

# Advantages

- Always prototyping - can put the tools in the hands of librarians quickly
- Work at our own pace
- Know the system intimately
- Don't have to wait for upgrades to come out
- Can incorporate feedback from users quickly
- Modular
- Microformats



- Extremely flexible system
- Can create vision for next steps based on needs from users
- Easy to use; not a steep learning curve

*"As someone who doesn't have a lot of experience with technology, I find the 'cut and paste' aspect of the content management system very appealing. I don't have to know HTML or CSS to create easy-to-access content on my pages, and I can keep it updated and fresh through the use of RSS feeds."*

- Mildred, Reference Librarian

# Disadvantages



- CMS is always in beta
  - Rapid prototyping
- Documentation for users of the CMS is hard to keep current
- Web developers are constantly working on it
  - Having a team of developers is essential
- Lots of flexibility means that people can go off in different directions with their design, leading to inconsistency
- Back-end works with Firefox, not IE
- Built with ColdFusion, and that takes \$\$\$

# Next steps

- Add Worldcat and book jacket API
- Finish search engine for metadata
- Deploy new layout engine so they are easier to manage
- Complete functionality to add media to pages
- Finish improving the ways modules can be moved
- Create platform for user contributed content and personalization
- Integrate with digital library and other library systems
- Try to make the CMS an open-source product by Summer 2009
  - CMS is the University of Houston's intellectual property, and we may not gain approval



# For more info



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*Photo by  
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*Photo by  
Cindi Trainor*