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Yale Library IT News, 28 October 2014

Yale Library IT Staff

Yale Library IT Newsletter

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LIBRARYIT BEGINS OUTWARD COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

This semester, LibraryIT established several different venues of outward communication, meant to convey the work done in our department and with our collaborating partners with greater transparency. The outward communication channels are as follows:

- **The Library IT blog link**

This is the main source of communication from LibraryIT to Yale Library staff. The blog is updated often, and posts will be short but informative. If there are questions about the blog or its content, please email jennifer.nolte@yale.edu.

- **The Library IT Newsletter**

The LIT newsletter rated highly among LIT satisfaction survey respondents as a preferred way to receive information about LibraryIT's activities. In response to this, LibraryIT will publish a newsletter **every two weeks** and send it to the Yulib-L mailing list. Some content in the newsletter will come straight from the blog. Other content will consist of shorter news items. The newsletter will also be archived in Eli Scholar, details on that are forthcoming.

- **YUL_LibraryIT on Yammer link**

LibraryIT maintains a group presence on Yammer, as well as being represented by individual staff Yammer accounts. Being that Yammer is used primarily by central Yale ITS staff, this venue of communication may involve more sporadic and more technically-oriented notes.

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▪   **@yalelibraryit** **link**

Shorter, more news-oriented content will be posted to LibraryIT's new Twitter account. Announcements about conferences, talks, as well as shortened key updates from the main blog, will be posted here. Yale LibraryIT will also engage with the wider Yale community and peer institutions on Twitter.

▪   **LibraryIT home page** **link**

The LibraryIT home page is still the central place where project descriptions, points of contact, and other services are still listed. In the coming months, the blog will be embedded into the LIT home page so staff can easily view news items at a glance.

▪   **Service requests and problem reporting**

Finally, LibraryIT maintains two streams of communication for staff to use in requesting service support and in reporting issues with services:

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NEW PERSONAL LIBRARIAN PAGES DEBUTED FOR FALL 2014

Library IT debuted the redesigned web pages for the Personal Librarian program at the beginning of the Fall 2014 semester. The redesign includes a new template for staff profile pages (example here) and a new main page (linked here).

The redesigned main page includes:

▪   rotating images of librarians currently in the PL program
▪   a calendar of library-hosted workshops and tours
▪   a PL lookup tool to help students find their assigned personal librarians
▪   links to both the Divinity Library's and Medical Library's Personal Librarian programs

From *About the Personal Librarian Program | Yale University Library*:

"The Personal Librarian program at Yale University Library is designed to introduce students entering Yale College to the collections and services of the Yale University Library. Upon matriculation, each freshman will be matched with a research librarian who will help with any academic work involving the Library and its collections, study spaces and/or staff. Students typically work more frequently with their Personal Librarians during their freshman and sophomore years. Once a student declares a major they will begin working with a Subject Specialist who will help with relevant assignments through completion of the senior year."

For questions about the Personal Librarian program for undergraduates at Yale University Library, please contact emily.horning@yale.edu

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DATA STORAGE VIRTUALIZATION AND SECURITY UPGRADES

Library IT's Information Architecture team continues to manage the SGI/StorHouse storage virtualization upgrade and Trusted Edge implementation, begun this week.

To oversimplify, storage virtualization is the introduction of a virtualization layer that sits in between network-connected data storage spaces. This allows for related files (digital objects, typically) to be stored in unrelated storage areas yet represented in one continuous resource- the end user who is looking for and retrieving files will never see that the whole system they are using lives in separate spots.

Our StorHouse storage currently houses approximately **600TB (terabytes)**, or about **two thousand times the size of our Orbis database**, of replicated data. Plans are to implement Trusted Edge, a policy-based/tiered storage component that will allow us to move files to specific storage based on their use and type. For example archive type data will move off to our archive system, StorHouse, while use copies that should be available to the end user might be moved off to a faster storage area for faster access.

LIBRARY IT CREATES LIST OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FOR STAFF

The User Experience group and the IT Infrastructure & Client Services group recently collaborated on a survey of productivity services used by Library staff. You can see the survey results here.

Informed by this survey, Library IT created a comprehensive list of available services, systems and software for staff to use in doing their work. Some of these are supported by Library IT, some by central Yale ITS, and some are simply freely available.

With this list of services, Library IT hopes to make some recommendations towards which services are best suited for library staff use in a particular context. As services evolve, mature and decline this list will also be updated accordingly. Please feel free to consult the page, or anyone in Library IT, if you have questions about which service will best suit your purposes.

Take a look here! http://web.library.yale.edu/applications

LIBRARY IT WELCOMES NEW ADMIN ASSISTANT, SHAREQ RASHID

Shareq Rashid, newly hired Senior Administrative Assistant in Manuscripts and Archives, will be spending a portion of his time helping with Library IT related administrative work. Shareq is originally from Dhaka, Bangladesh and recently attended Georgetown University. Say hello to Shareq at syed.rashid@yale.edu!

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SHAREPOINT 365 TASK FORCE

The Sharepoint 365 Task Force, chaired by IT Infrastructure & Client Services manager Greg Blasko, met for the second time on October 21st. The task force discussed potential approaches in successfully configuring and migrating to Microsoft's Sharepoint 365 content management and collaboration software from the existing Sharepoint sites around the Library.

The task force decided to begin the information gathering phase of this project this way:

1) Create and send a survey to existing Sharepoint power users in the Library.

2) Schedule drop in sessions and site visits around the Library to assess existing functionality that will need to migrate to Sharepoint 365 (this will be led by Jenn Nolte and Cindy Greenspun).

3) Using an existing list of services and tools used by Library staff, assess what functionality currently used in Sharepoint sites can be better served by other services and tools aside from Sharepoint.

The group will meet again in early November. Please email the task force members if you have any questions, and watch for a power user survey and drop-in sessions to be announced in the next few months!

QUICKSEARCH BETA STAFF ROLLOUT: PRIORITY ISSUES

A small group met this week consisting of Public Services staff and Library IT staff to identify the high priority issues that need to be resolved before we can release Quicksearch Beta for evaluation by students and faculty.

It was generally agreed that we need to put the word '**Beta**' in as many places as possible, so it's clear to users that this is a very early version of the interface, and not a finished product.

The specific issues that were identified as requirements for the soft rollout included:

- Addressing the insertion of the phrase '|DELIM|' between subfields in the uniform title (240) field display

- The sublineal dot is appearing as a box in some instances - this might affect French, Turkish, South East Asian languages, and more

- Item Status isn't accurate, esp. for Patron status messages - items with a status 'on Arts New Book Shelf' display as 'Unavailable'

- Link directly to the current record in Morris from the item detail page, instead of going to the Morris home page

These are our priorities for the next two weeks. Right now our goal is to resolve these issues and do a soft release of Quicksearch Beta the first week in November.

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QUICKSEARCH BETA STAFF ROLLOUT: FEEDBACK!

Many thanks to everyone who has provided feedback about the Quicksearch Beta interface!

Our favorite feedback message so far:

"YAY QUICKSEARCH BETA! I just ran my old faithful search, "water nepal" and got some slammin results."

We've also received a lot of great suggestions for changes that would make the interface work better. For example, two staff members suggested linking to the Orbis record, instead of directly into the Orbis Request feature, so that our patrons can access all of our Scan and Deliver, Aeon, and other request options.

That's just the sort of feedback we're looking for!

We have already started work reviewing and making changes like this where we can. You can see the full list of issues reported and new features requested online on our two sharepoint lists:

Reported Issues: http://tinyurl.com/lit-qs-issues-xslx
Requested Features: http://tinyurl.com/lit-qs-requests-xslx

We hope you will continue exploring Quicksearch Beta (http://search.library.yale.edu) , particularly by using it as part of your daily work. Please report any comments or suggestions you may have via the 'Feedback' links in the header and footer of each Quicksearch page.

via Quicksearch Beta Feedback | Quicksearch Project.

HYDRA PROJECT MILESTONE: AUTOMATION

The Digital Library & Programming group is pleased to announce that we've hit a major milestone the development of the Hydra digital repository system at YUL. Communication and syncing between repository system components became fully automated at the end of September 2014. This automation applies not just to work on the infrastructure built for the Kissinger papers, but for all Ladybird/Hydra interaction.

Automation like this allows metadata and objects to travel within the Hydra system without intervention, which in turn allows Library IT to focus more intensely on structural and workflow development. As a Project Hydra partner, Yale is now in the position to share this work with the Project Hydra community, and empower those members to scale up their own repository ingest services.

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YALE ITS TO HOLD TECH SUMMIT THIS MONTH, LIBRARY IT TO PRESENT

Join us for the inaugural Yale Technology Summit, a day-long program of conversations with Yale faculty, students, and staff working with innovative and cutting-edge technologies. The event, coordinated by Yale Information Technology Services, is free and open to all members of the Yale community.

Library IT presentations at this event include:

- **Library Development for Digital Repositories: What is this Hydra Fedora stuff?**
  In response to a fragmented digital collections environment developed over many years using many systems, the Yale Library has launched a project to unify digital collections within a single open source software framework using Hydra/Fedora. Michael Dula, the Library CTO, will talk about the decision to go open source with Hydra and Fedora as the underlying technologies. Topics will include Yale's contributions to the open source Hydra community, a demonstration of initial projects, and future development plans and possibilities.

- **Quicksearch: Universal Search at the University Library**
  The Library offers several search interfaces: Orbis and MORRIS search the Library and Law Library catalogs, Articles+ for articles, journals and newspapers, and several digitized collection searches. The many search interfaces present a challenge to our patrons, who have to select the correct search depending on the material they need. The Library will combine several of these search interfaces into one unified 'Quicksearch', which over time will become a comprehensive search interface for the majority of Library resources. The Quicksearch poster session will highlight progress on the project so far. We will also provide laptops so Summit Participants can try the new search for themselves.

Watch the conversation on #YaleTechSummit2014 on Twitter!
via 2014 Tech Summit | Yale ITS

YALE LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP:
WHERE ARE WE, AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Thursday, November 6, 2:00pm in the SML International Room :
Michael Dula, the Yale Library's Chief Technology Officer, will summarize major Library IT activities from the past year, talk about projects being launched in the current fiscal year, and provide a roadmap of anticipated and potential technology projects for the next two to three years. There will be time for questions about past and current projects, but this should also be an opportunity for an interesting dialogue about future paths for library technology.

This event is sponsored by SCOPA and is free and open to all.
via Yale University Library News: Yale Library Technology Roadmap: Where are We, and Where are We Going? Archives.

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LIBRARY IT PROVIDES INFRASTRUCTURE SETUP FOR DIGITAL EXHIBITIONS PILOT PROJECT

This week, a group of Yale librarians presented the results of a pilot project using Omeka for creating and curating digital exhibitions at the Library. Library IT was pleased to provide infrastructure and support for the initial Omeka installation. The Systems Infrastructure and Integration Services unit configured and deployed the underlying infrastructure according to specification provided by the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University.
LibraryIT looks forward to supporting more successful pilots like this one!

 Here is the announcement regarding the group's presentation:

 Omeka: Piloting a Web Platform for Digital Exhibitions at Yale.

PILOT PROJECT: EMBEDDING LIBGUIDES INTO CLASSESV2

ITS, Library IT and Melanie Maksin have worked together on a pilot project to embed Libguides directly into ClassesV2. We've successfully embedded links from about 50 classes to 22 guides (always with the approval of the faculty owner of the ClassesV2 site). So far all feedback has been positive. We'll report back to the library on use stats during the semester.

WEB UPDATES

 At the last Web Strategy meeting on October 6, these requests were reviewed:

1. Change the link on the home page to Worldcat.org to the FirstSearch version. The group decided not to make this change. The home page functions as a portal for many different users, and links need to function as much as possible as unmediated access points. Worldcat.org is a simpler interface and is appropriate for the home page. Librarians should link to the Firstsearch interface in subject guides, and demonstrate it in classes.

2. Add a link directly to Borrow Direct on the home page. There is currently a direct link in the search boxes at top left. However this is not obvious, and we will look at changing the placement of the link (refer to the new web manager).

3. Make links to Borrow Direct and Scan and Deliver more obvious in the Get It Guide. Proposed change will be made October 21, pending feedback.
4. Change link for digital collections on the home page to the new theme. Change will be made October 21, pending feedback.
5. Some simplifications were made to the Purchase Request form at the request of Collections staff. In addition, we'll consider a new placement on the home page (refer to the new web manager).

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