

I'm New...What do I do – Technology

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The Basics

“Fear is the Path to the Dark Side” – Yoda

Embrace technology as a means of providing our patrons the best service possible.

However....

“**Avoid technolust.** Technology worship is a trap. Never let technology be a god in itself.”
– Michael Stephens

The Catalog and Your Library's Databases

Make sure you know the ins and outs of the catalog! Your patrons can now find books, place holds, view their account and renew books amongst other things from the comfort of their own home. It is important that you are comfortable enough with the catalog so that they can be comfortable.

As important as the catalog is knowing what electronic resources are available through your library's website. Your library will subscribe to many databases which are available from inside the library as well as for patron use from home. Like with print reference sources it is important that you know what these resources provide and be able to help your patrons find and use the best source for their needs.

Google and Wikipedia

Great tools, but know when their use is appropriate, most times your patrons have tried them already, and why they have now come to you for help. Know your databases!
4 Ways to Use Wikipedia - <http://www.gearfire.net/4-ways-wikipedia-needing-cite/>

Library 2.0

From Wikipedia: “**Library 2.0** is a loosely defined model for a modernized form of [library](#) service that reflects a transition within the library world in the way that services are delivered to users.”
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Library_2.0

Library 2.0 includes many things including, but not limited to:

- Blogs
- Wikis
- RSS
- Social Networking Sites, i.e., myspace, facebook, Flickr
- Community Tagging

- Video Games
- Much more!

Michael Casey defines Library 2.0 as:

“Browser + Web 2.0 Applications + Connectivity = Full-featured OPAC”

Be where your patrons are.

RSS Readers

RSS (Really Simple Syndication) provides a summary of content from websites and blogs. RSS makes it possible for people to keep up with their favorite web sites in an automated manner that's easier than checking them manually. The Content of your favorite web sites comes to you.

RSS content can be read using [software](#) called an "RSS reader," "feed reader" or an "[aggregator](#)." The user subscribes to a feed by entering the feed's link into the reader or by clicking an RSS icon in a browser that initiates the subscription process. The reader checks the user's subscribed feeds regularly for new content, downloading any updates that it finds.

RSS Feeds in Plain English -

http://librarianinblack.typepad.com/librarianinblack/2007/05/explaining_rss_.html

Free readers available include

Bloglines - <http://www.bloglines.com>

Google Reader – <http://www.google.com/reader>

Library Bloggers to Know

Michael Casey – *Library Crunch* – <http://www.librarycrunch.com>

Meredith Farkas – *Information Wants to Be Free* - <http://meredith.wolfwater.com/wordpress/index.php>

Jenny Levine – *The Shifted Librarian* – <http://www.theshiftedlibrarian.com>

Rachel Singer Gordon – *The Liminal Librarian* – <http://www.lisjobs.com/blog>

Sarah Houghton-Jan – *Librarian in Black* - <http://librarianinblack.typepad.com/librarianinblack/>

Michael Stephens – *Tame the Web* – <http://www.tametheweb.com>

Jessamyn West – *Librarian.Net* – <http://www.librarian.net>