BLOGGING as CATALOGING

Ksenia Cheinman

EXPLORE

- the value of using blogs as a cataloging mechanism in small special art (and humanities) libraries or reading rooms

DEMONSTRATE

- positive effects on the patrons, the library collection, and the institution that houses it

BEGINNING

Centre A - Vancouver International Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

Jacquelyn Ross, the library coordinator at Centre A, has ingeniously **converted a blog into an online library catalog** that could be publicly accessed centrealibrary.wordpress.com

Follow

CENTRE A LIBRARY

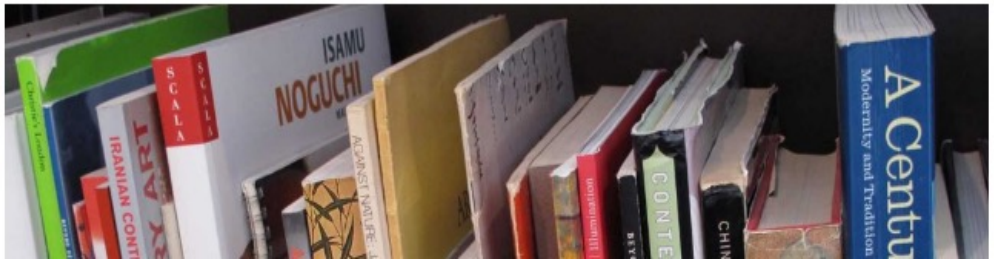
About | Catalogues | Centre A Publications | Latest Entries

About

Welcome to Centre A's Online Library Resource.

Centre A has a small but growing library of books with a focus on Asian art. Special features of the library include the Finlayson Collection of rare books on classical Chinese and Japanese art, a collection of rare catalogues and monographs pertaining to contemporary Asian Canadian art, and books designed by artists. The library catalogue is available here online, making our collection available to the public for education and research purposes.

Search our online database for books in our collection and visit Centre A directly to access our library.



Search for books

Search

Library Catalogues

- ART HISTORY & CRITICISM (2)
- ARTIST MONOGRAPHS (4)
- EXHIBITION CATALOGUES (165)

Latest Entries

- Art for Sale / 超市
- ART AND CHINA'S REVOLUTION – A GUIDE TO THE EXHIBITION
- ART AND CHINA'S REVOLUTION
- Art Beijing 2007
- Art Unforbidden / Art Beijing 2006

Jacquelyn was looking for a cataloging tool that would be **Cheap** and **Easy** to use and came across Neil MacQueen's churchlibrary.wordpress.com

WHY ARE SPECIAL LIBRARIES SPECIAL

BEFORE

Handwritten notes in books were MARGINALIA

NOW

BOOKS themselves are becoming MARGINAL

WHY ARE SPECIAL LIBRARIES SPECIAL

Today, special libraries might be the only spaces to make this **marginalia central**

WHY ARE SPECIAL LIBRARIES SPECIAL

Special art libraries have **unique resources** such as **exhibition catalogs** and **artist books** that cannot be easily obtained in many other libraries

CAG Library

WHY ARE SPECIAL LIBRARIES SPECIAL

Search for the following titles showed that:

The Age of Micropop: The New Generation of Japanese Artists

UBC – 0
VAG – 0
ECUAD – 1
Centre A – 1

Art Unforbidden / Art Beijing 2006 was found only at Centre A

ARE BLOG-CATALOGS A NEW IDEA?

Home Blog Shop Contact

The Book Barge @ Large

RSS Subscribe

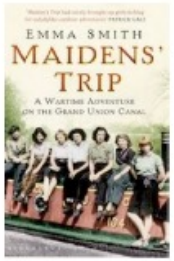
Check out recommendations from retailers, writers and readers or send in your own review to info@thebookbarge.co.uk and receive 10% off your next book purchase.

Maidens' Trip

Friday, 9 September 2011

There is a passage towards the end of the book where Emma Smith describes returning to London. She had joined the Grand Union Canal Carrying Company in 1943 to aid the war effort, carrying steel to...

Read more...

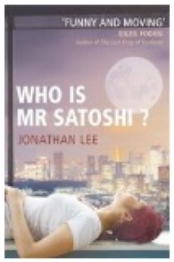


Who Is Mr Satoshi?

Friday, 9 September 2011

World-weary, reclusive photographer Rob Fossick is in his forties when his mother dies from a fall. She has left a mysterious parcel addressed to Mr Satoshi and seems to have been very insistent that...

Read more...



The Queue

Friday, 9 September 2011

"Formal daring" is how the blurb on the back of my copy describes Vladimir

The Book Barge

WHAT KINDS OF LIBRARIES ARE CREATING BLOGS?

"Special libraries or research libraries accounted for a little less than one tenth (5 or 8.7 per cent) of the weblogs."
(Clyde, 2004, pp. 92-93)

HOW CAN BLOGS BE USED IN SPECIAL LIBRARIES?

Since special libraries serve patrons with specific subject interest,

"[b]logs can be used to provide information about the library and news in the subject area, or to market new library resources."
(Farkas, 2007, 249)

ARE BLOG-CATALOGS A NEW IDEA?

Common library uses for blogs:

- Library Web Sites
- Subject Resource
- Collaboration and Training
- Teens and Youth
- Book Reviews
- Library News
- Discussion Groups
- Library Leaders (speculating about the future of libraries, technology, and community)

Kroski, E. (2008). *Web 2.0 for librarians and information professionals* (pp.19-20). New York: Neal-Schuman.

WHY ARE BLOGS BETTER THAN OPACS ?

OPACS are expensive

- an inexpensive and modest online public access catalogue (OPAC) acquired in 2000 cost MOCA $3,200 + an annual licensing fee of about $500 (including technical support and upgrades) (Bunting, 2007, p. 67)

Possible Solutions

- writing grants, fund-raising, and acquiring donor contributions (Binkowski, 2007, p. 38)
- Joining “an existing consortium of libraries sharing a library system” (p. 39)

WHY ARE BLOGS BETTER THAN OPACS ?

OPACS are generally **not very attractive** and often **don't contain 'useful' information**

Comparison of the title: **d'or: Notes on Collaboration**

Centre A

ECUAD

World Cat

UBC

VAG

Google Books

WHY ARE BLOGS BETTER THAN SOCIAL CATALOGING?

Social Cataloging tools like Library Thing, while popular, are not the best for special libraries:

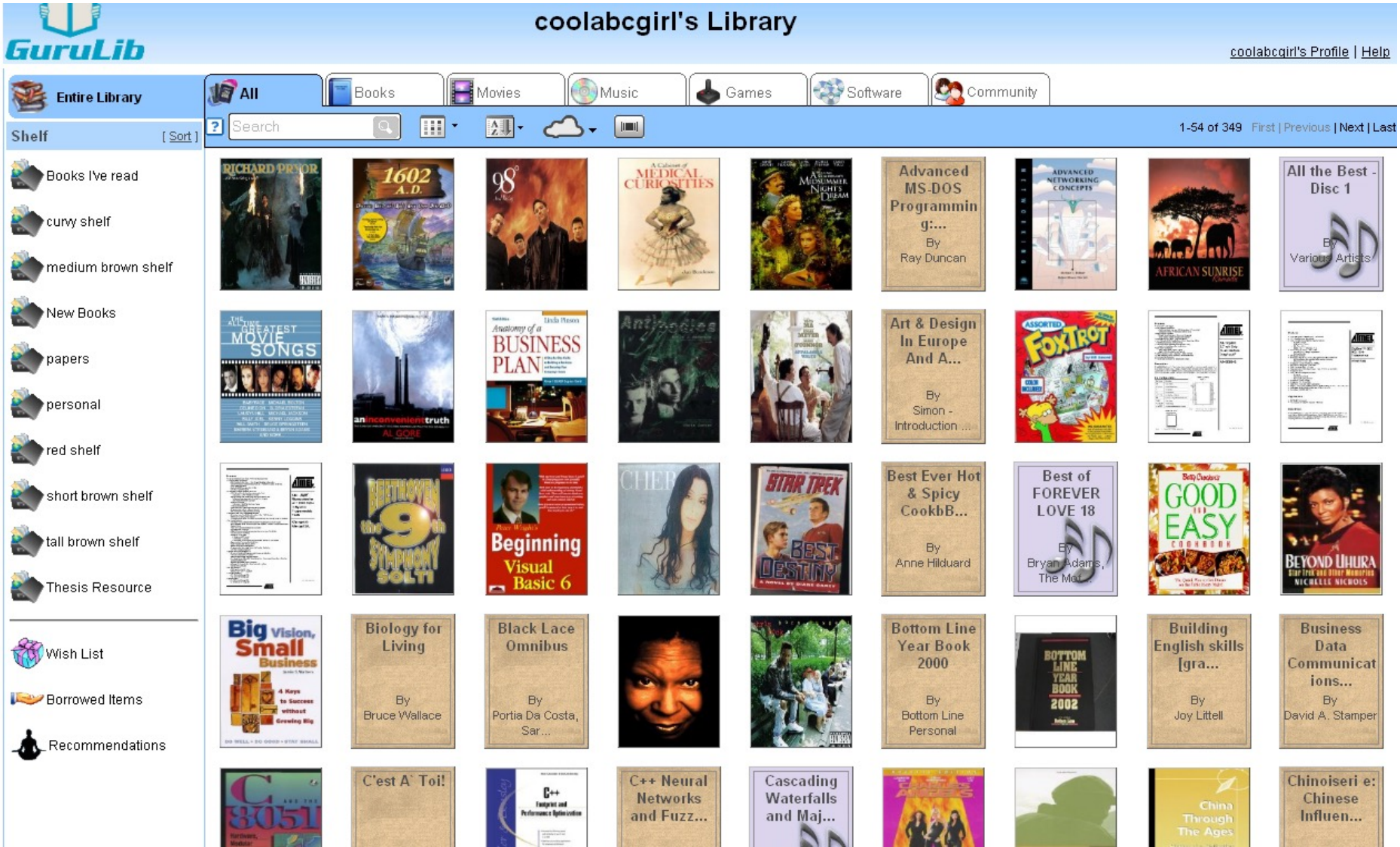
- Too much information = too cluttered
- Not professional-looking
- Don't have the look and feel of the relevant institution and cannot be personalized

Some of the Social Cataloging tools such as Shelfari

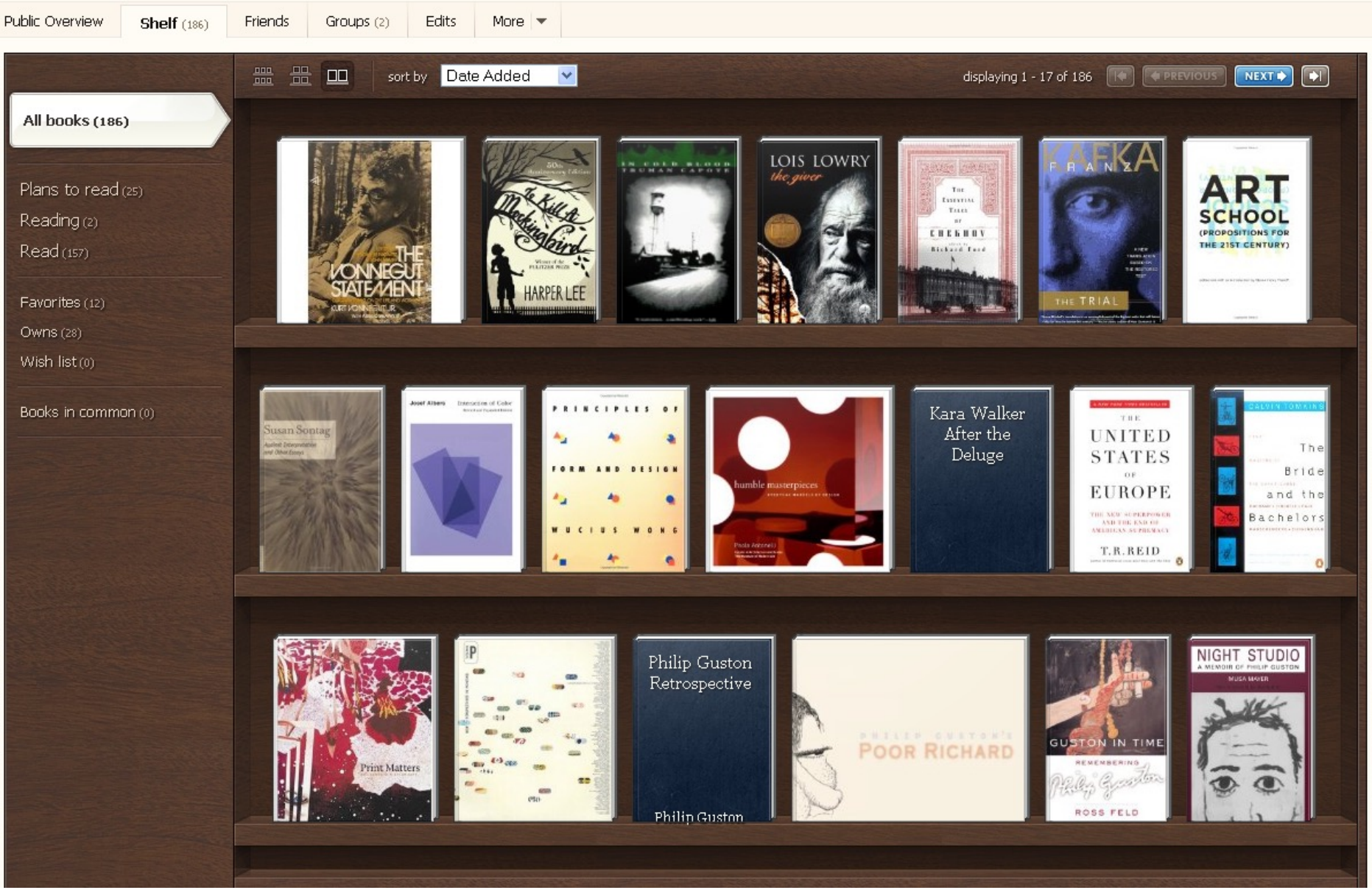
- Don't let you add new cataloging records if you can't find an item by ISBN and don't allow tagging

WHY ARE BLOGS BETTER THAN SOCIAL CATALOGING?

Others, like Gurulib interface, don't look very good

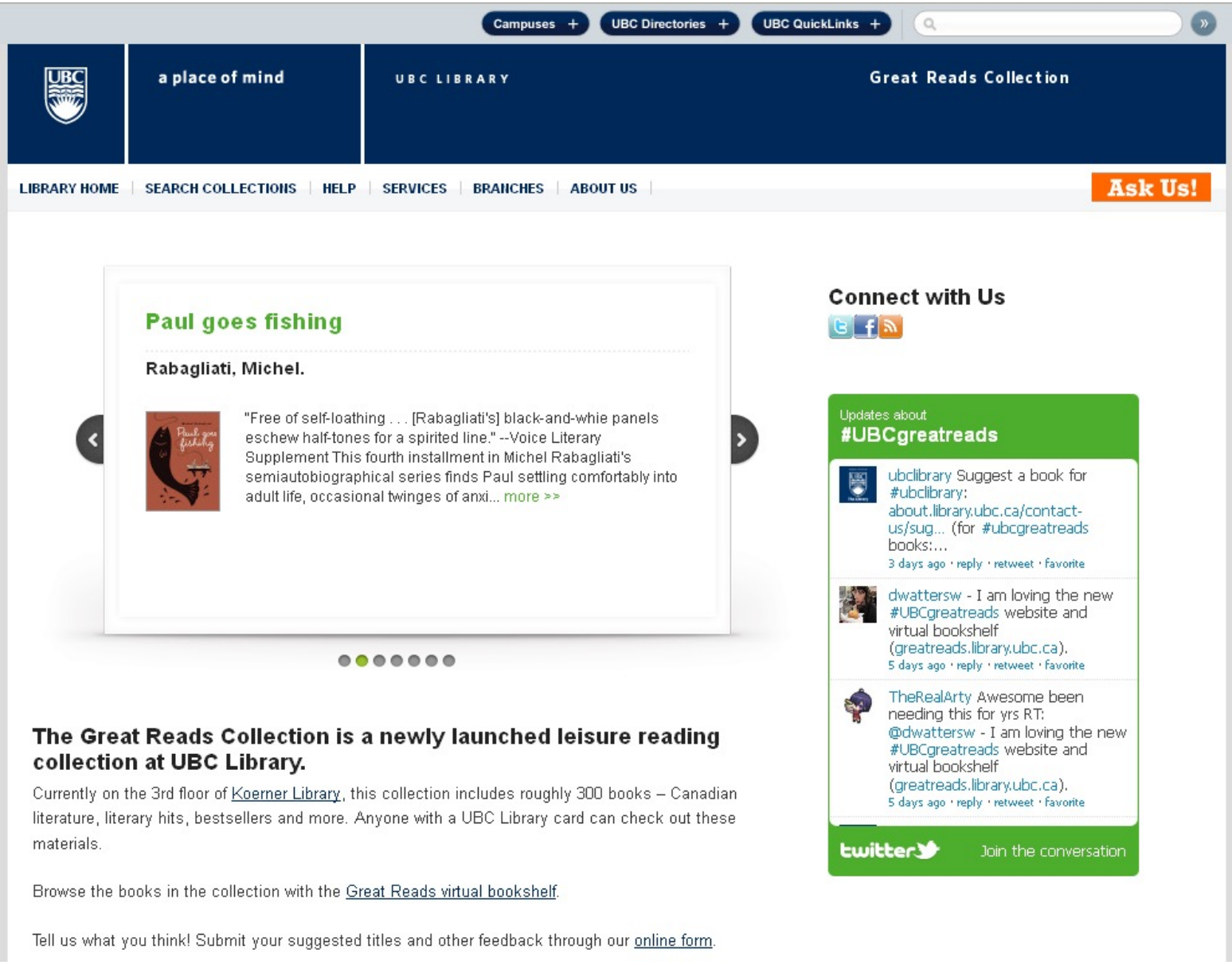


HOW DO WE COMPETE WITH THIS?



Shelfari

HOW DO WE COMPETE WITH THIS?



UBC Great Reads

SCENE OVERVIEW OF A FEW GALLERIES

- Centre A - *Booxter* cataloguing software (only on Macs)
- CAG – Microsoft Access Database
- VAG - has online-accessible catalogue
- RAG - reduced/got rid of its reading room space

WHAT'S NEXT?

"**Discovery** of the catalogued collection **will be** increasingly disembedded, or lifted out, from the ILS system, and **re-embedded in a variety of other contexts** -- and potentially changed in the process"
(Dempsey, 2006)

Libraries are moving from "collection to **connection**"
(Rubin 116)

WHAT'S NEXT?

Dempsey's 4 **R**s

- **Ranking** (popularity, liking)
- **Relating** (bringing together **links relevant to an item**)
- **Recommending** (making **suggestions of other items** that are similar)
- **Reviewing**

BLOGS ARE GREAT FOR CATALOGING BECAUSE:

- Most **volunteers** or interns know how-to Blog
- Potential for **personalization** and high **visual impact**
- Relative **ease** of use - each new entry is a new post
- Semi-ubiquitous **search** function
- **RSS** feed
- WordPress has **excellent integration with other social media platforms** such as Facebook and even LinkedIn to show off the most recent content to a wider audience

BLOGS ARE GREAT FOR CATALOGING BECAUSE THEY LET YOU:

- Create **virtual bookshelves** with curated resources including an image of each title which is linked to the more detailed catalog entry
- Make **polls**
- Catalog books **in non-Roman script**; an English record is normally created in OPACs, however with a Blog, we could use Chinese, Japanese, Korean or Cyrillic characters and could search those as well
- Catalog **ephemera and artist files** or at least provide listings of these files

BLOGS ARE GREAT FOR CATALOGING BECAUSE THEY LET YOU:

- Create a call for **Reviews** with a widget
- Develop a **Resources Page** with information about related art websites or books
- Make a **Wishlist** – providing information about books that would be desired for the collection; can serve as an additional resource
- Incorporate Tumblr for images and summaries or just image feed
- Build a network of similar libraries - **Blogroll** – connect to other library pages or blogs
- Promote relevant **Events**

BLOGS ARE GREAT FOR CATALOGING BECAUSE THEY LET YOU:

Under each book post you could include:

- **Recommended readings** - “You might also like…” (could link to resources at other libraries)
- Other places that have the item (**World Cat**)
- Hyperlinking to **reliable information** about the individuals featured in the publication (personal websites, interviews)

The Waterloo Public Library Book Club blog is excellent at providing external links and additional resources under each book review

WPLBookClub

The WPL Book Club meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the boardroom of the Waterloo Public Library. If you aren't able to attend a WPL Book Club meeting or you just want to share your thoughts online about the books we are reading, please leave a message. We would love to hear from you!

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

The Painted Veil by Somerset Maugham (June 2009)

Please visit our new blog at http://wplbookclub.wordpress.com/

Waterloo Public Library
A place to grow

Set in England and Hong Kong in the 1920s,The Painted Veilis the story of the beautiful but love-starved Kitty Fane. When her husband discovers her adulterous affair, he forces her to accompany him to the heart of a cholera epidemic. Stripped of the British society of her youth and the small but effective society she fought so hard to attain in Hong Kong, she is compelled by her awakening conscience to reassess her life and learn how to love. The Painted Veilis a beautifully written affirmation of the human capacity to grow, to change, and to forgive.

W. Somerset Maugham was one of the twentieth century's most popular novelists as well as a celebrated playwright, critic, and short story writer. He was born in Paris but grew up in England and served as a secret agent for the British during World War I. He wrote many novels, including the classics *Of Human Bondage*, *The Razor's Edge*, *Cakes and Ale*, *Christmas Holiday*, *The Moon and Sixpence*, *Theatre*, and *Up at the Villa*.

Find out a bit more about the book on Wikipedia.

Place a hold on a WPL copy of the book ***The Painted Veil***

You can also borrow the movie ***The Painted Veil***

0 comments

Subscribe to WPLBookClub

Blogs | WPL

- WPL-McCormick Branch
- WPL's Graphic Novels, Comics and Manga Blog
- WPLMcCormick Branch
- WPL New Childrens Books
- WPLNewFallReads
- One Book, One Community - Waterloo Region

Blogs | Reading

- Book Group Buzz
- LitLovers - Book Club Ideas
- The Reader's Advisor Online
- The Thin Red Line

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A RECORD:

- Title
- Author
- **Summary**
- **Table of Contents**
- Edition
- Publisher, Place and Date of Publication
- Extent – number of pages, **illustrations**; dimensions - height
- Series
- ISBN
- **Format (type of publication)**
- **Language**
- **Notes**
- **Names of all artists and/or contributing writers**
- **Name of curator**
- **Prevalent medium (media)**
- Providing LC and DCC numbers; LC subject headings

Art Blog Cat

A blog that is meant to provide practical and innovative strategies for utilizing the blog medium as an online catalog (and more) for special non-profit art and other cultural libraries or reading rooms such as the ones located in art galleries and artist-run centres, among other possibilities, or that function as independent spaces

Art Blog Cat

Here you may find a demonstration of the following features:

- Favicon use
- Personalized Header Images (can have a single image or a number of images that rotate)
- Big photograph-images of the covers
- Call-for-reviews widget
- Poll widget
- Blogroll
- Customized hyperlink colour
- Sample cataloging entries
- Customized Menus
- Suggestions for virtual bookshelf implementation
- Links to other resources of interest

CHALLENGES:

- **Many committed volunteers**

- Development of a **coherent structure for book cataloguing** unless there is one already in place

  Solution: Collaborate with local libraries to obtain cataloguing guidelines or ask for help from a **professional listserv** such as ARLIS/NA (Art Libraries of North America) or SLA (Special Library Association), then share these guidelines with others!

- Contacting **similar institutions** to see what they are using could be difficult as art organizations are usually competitive and might not want to share

- Limited to **local book reviewers**

- Various institutions' blog-catalogs will not be linked

CHALLENGES:

- **Tags** or 'folksonomies' (cooperatively developed system of classification) **are problematic** because unlike taxonomies (standardized classification system) they do not include:

    a. "synonym control" (no connection will be made between 'autumn' and 'fall' for example)
    b. disambiguation of polysemous terms such as "fall" – 'season following summer (noun)' or 'to drop (verb)'
    c. Coherent levels of specificity (animals - cats - kittens)
    d. Synonym suggestions (but it does suggest previously used tags when tagging)

- WordPress default search sorts the results by date, newest first; it shows first paragraph of each post instead of finding and highlighting the search terms; has no spell check nor query suggestions

  Solution: *Search Everything WordPress Plugin*

CHALLENGES:

The main challenge appears to be taking **good quality photos** of covers to display **large images** on the blog and **copyright** issues associated with that ***

*** I will try to address these issues in detail on the *Art Blog Cat* in the nearest future

CONCLUSION:

BLOG-CATALOGS will help special art libraries with

Visibility

- Online presence
- Contemporary layout and presentation with large images
- Participatory features that make visitors return

Accessibility

- Create awareness of **quick access**
- Many relevant materials on a single topic are in one place "**condensed repositories**"

Possibility

- Bringing more people into the space (both gallery and library)
- Great place to develop **specialized online resources**
- Collaborative and other creative possibilities

CONCLUSION:

Introducing library materials into broader gallery programming could mean a lot for re-educating how public views art

- If text is no longer read but scanned instead, neither are images - works of art - as they require an extra layer of decoding.

- Thus, in order to expect visitors to make sense of art, we need to **retextualize the visual experience**.

CONCLUSION:

"Even small museums now strive to produce blockbuster exhibitions, entertainment, social events, fund-raising galas, and dazzling educational programs. **Museum libraries need to be part of that excitement**. There is a challenge there, especially for the small library […]." (Siegel, 2007, 219)

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Art Blog Cat - How to use a blog as catalogue for special art and other libraries.