

OVER-ENGINEERING THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LIBRARY WEB ENVIRONMENT: PLANNED REDUNANCIAS SO "ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME"

Gay A. Woods
University of North Texas, Science and Technology Library
Denton, Texas, USA

This poster session will provide a framework to help librarians determine if their library web sites offer adequate access points to the various kinds of information products used by sci/tech students, faculty, and researchers who access the electronic information arena from a variety of pathways.

abstract: The emergence of the World Wide Web as the premier platform for the provision of information resources for science and technology libraries forces librarians to become web designers and information architects, insuring multiple access points to the wealth of contemporary information products: abstracts and indexes, conference papers and proceedings, journals and journal articles, product reviews, technical reports, patents, databases, in an array of print, electronic, and multimedia formats. For the individual library and librarian, considering how users enter the library's electronic environment such as from within the library's own network, from the University's telecommunication environment, or through any Internet Service Provider and the World Wide Web, complicates the planning and implementation of a satisfactory multi-access point environment. The library catalog can no longer fulfill its former role as the pre-eminent tool to determine the availability of information resources accessible by library patrons. Insuring multiple access points requires planning in the design and development of the library's entire web site, including such access tools as subject-specific web pages, help pages, FAQs, tutorials, general guidance pages, and specialized products, as well as in the design and structure of records in the online public access library catalog. This poster session will present a framework for the review of a library web site to determine strengths and weaknesses in the availability of access points for the various information products, insuring that no matter where the user is or how he/she travels along the electronic highway, the desired information resources can be found.

Content for this presentation comes from a review of various library web sites, information resources, and the various mechanisms used for both on and off-campus access to a library's web site and electronic products. See www.library.unt.edu for the home page for the University of North Texas Libraries as well as <http://www.library.unt.edu/remoted/offcampus.htm> for Library Services for Off-Campus Users, http://www.library.unt.edu/genref/ref_help.htm for Ask a Librarian, <http://irservices.library.unt.edu/> for Electronic Resources, <http://www.library.unt.edu/subjects/default.htm> for Subject Guides, and <http://www.library.unt.edu/classes/default.htm> for Class Assignment Resources.