SLQ Library 2.0 Unconference 2007

The State Library of Queensland (SLQ) hosted Queensland's first library unconference in October 2007, enticing over 120 passionate Web 2.0 attendees, including representatives from school, special, public, academic and state libraries. An unconference is similar to a conference with all the networking and discussion among colleagues but with very little of the formal presentation. The theme was Library 2.0. Topics were discussed informally for as long as the participants were interested. Harrison, Owen's Law of Two Feet was applied which meant participants could come and go from a discussion as they pleased. The unconference provided an opportunity to network with information professionals in a facilitated environment to informally learn, discuss and brainstorm anything and everything Library 2.0. See <**http://www. openspaceworld.com/users_guide.htm**>.

Two months prior to the unconference, SLQ staff created a wiki — <**http:// slqlibrary2unconference.wetpaint. com**> — to be used as a collaborative website both before and after the unconference. All registered participants were given the option of writer status and many updated (live blogged) the wiki as the day progressed using SLQ's wireless network.

Setting the agenda

Kathryn Greenhill from the Murdoch University delivered a keynote presentation that took us on a journey to discover 'What is 'Library 2.0?'. The PowerPoint presentation is available at <**http://www. slideshare.net/sirexkat/what-is-library-20/**>. Kathryn discussed the importance of scattering the breadcrumbs in places where library users spend time, be it LibraryThing, MySpace, Facebook or Second Life. Librarians have the power to get out of library buildings, to be in library users' space and to use library buildings in different ways.

The keynote address was followed by the agenda setting guided by Anne Hartican as facilitator. Participants created the agenda, producing discussion topics of interest based on the theme of Library 2.0. Participants then chose which topics they wished to discuss and joined that group.

Sessions included: 'Mashups and Widgets'; 'Virtual Worlds and a Demonstration of Second Life'; 'Where Are We Going?'; 'Connecting with Young Adults and Teenagers Using Library 2.0'; 'Getting Staff on Board'; and 'Centralising Web 2.0 Tools'. The closing session saw the entire group back in the auditorium for a vibrant discussion on Library 2.0 skeptics.

Participants agreed that it was the networking, the opportunity to talk to colleagues, the sharing of ideas and the informality of the unconference that made the event very successful. Feedback included numerous requests for more unconferences in future. The SLQ hopes to make this an annual event.

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