

Most of my library training is 22 years old and some of it is only 16 years old. When I was suddenly immersed back into the world of libraries last fall, the old saying, "It's the same, just different," has never been more true for me. While many principles are still being used, the who and hows have all changed. As such, the August Back-to-School workshop filled in some of my final blanks. I had received messages from and heard mention of both Webjunction and Ebsco, but I hadn't had the time to figure what they were yet.

I truly enjoyed listening to Jennifer Hootman! Not only was her information all new to me, but I found her to be enjoyable to listen to and easy to follow. The main things I took away from her presentation are the ways I can use Webjunction to further my own research. There are all those classes available and ways to search both in Minnesota and nationally. I haven't had time to dig into all of it yet, but have several parts of MNWJ bookmarked in my new Delicious.com account.

I had not heard of Delicious.com before. ^{Now} I have it's buttons on both my home and school computers. (Note: If you introduce it to someone with an Apple computer, do not have them import or you may have hundreds of bookmarks you didn't know existed!) I did share Delicious.com with one of my classes and several teachers before my accident. I hope to share it with many others. What I think would be fun to try is the idea of using it with a class so the teacher can see what sites students are finding. I enjoy searching tag topics and can see where that could be useful for both staff and students.

Just when I thought I could find things in Destiny, all this neat, new stuff showed up! (Does anyone else think Chris and Erma Bombeck are related?) My favorite comment of hers was how kids could use the new book recommending in order to send each other notes.

"I'm recommending Hatchet (meet me in the john in 5 minutes)."

I always appreciate her willingness to tell everyone what she is doing.

I am so excited about all the new things Destiny users can do once I get them into the system! The wish list will be a great help and the recommendations should really be fun once kids get using them. I wish I knew my students better so I could recommend to more of them, but that will come.

The READ posters Alice had look so professional! Again, I haven't checked that out yet, or the RIF audible books, but I will shortly. I bought a Kindle and am anxiously waiting to explore it and the whole ebook idea.

At this point in time, I am still trying to assess what my school really would use in the area of research tools. So while all the EBSCO and Fowlett options look interesting and usable, I haven't asked my school to buy anything other than the Title Peek service.

There are still many things to look at, just from that one workshop. As with all of the NWSC workshops and classes, I found myself learning things that I am excited to use and share.

Laurie Ollwock
Back to School
Aug. '08