

WebJunction Watch

by Cindi Hickey, WebJunction Kansas Coordinator



A New WebJunction Kansas is Coming!



What: The NEW WebJunction Kansas

When: July 21, 2008

Where: <http://ks.webjunction.org>

As I write this, the WebJunction gang is getting ready to unveil the new WebJunction later today at the ALA annual conference in Anaheim, CA. Aimed at improving members' experiences at WebJunction, the new portal is arranged in portlets or "pluggable user interface components." (See [Wikipedia](#) for more detail.) In other words, portlets are boxes of functionality that can be added, removed, and moved around as needed to provide the capabilities needed by the community.

There will be portlets created by the [Liferay](#) community (WebJunction's open-source portal environment) and portlets created by WebJunction. For the launch of the new WebJunction portal, a core set of portlets arranged in consistent ways will help everyone get used to the functionality of the new site. All the portlets are designed to make it easy for you to meet and maintain contact with

WebJunction colleagues all across Kansas and the nation.



So what's so new about this portlet arrangement, you ask. Taking a page from established social networking portals like Facebook, the new WebJunction offers a professional context for similar Web 2.0 tools. The new social networking aspects of WebJunction offer you lots of easy ways to connect with other members and content. My favorite is "My WebJunction" where I keep track of my friends and bookmark my favorite WebJunction content. Other features include blog-like discussion areas, the ability to form member groups around your own interests and needs, and the ability to add your content to the impressive collection that already forms the core of WebJunction.

Another new WebJunction feature is an improved course catalog stocked with hundreds of new courses. Get ready for this new learning warehouse by completing your current courses and printing your certificates by July 14th. Don't worry if you are a LE@D (University of North Texas) fan. LE@D courses will carry through to the new catalog without interruption. The same is true for the WebJunction courses.

This transition for the course catalog stems from a change of course providers. After doing an extensive evaluation of course providers, WebJunction chose to replace MindLeaders with SkillSoft courses. Besides the quality and design of SkillSoft courses, a major selling point is their compatibility with Macintosh computers. The most popular MindLeaders titles will be carried over with similar SkillSoft courses to ensure these learning topics are still available to meet your training needs. In addition, WebJunction will be expanding the global catalog with more library-specific courses.

So fasten your seatbelts and get ready for the launch of the NEW and IMPROVED WebJunction Kansas on July 21st! You'll be glad you are aboard!

Until Next Month...

Don't forget to stay tuned to [BlogJunction Kansas](#). We have terrific posters and lots of news and information. Let me (chickey@kslib.info) know if you would like to be a BlogJunction poster.

Have questions about WebJunction? Have a favorite hangout at WebJunction Kansas? Have some WebJunction tips or tricks for making the most of WebJunction resources? Share them with Kansas Kilroy c/o Cindi Hickey (chickey@kslib.info).