

Wikis and Flickr and Blogs, Oh, My!

by Carol Barta, System Consultant, North Central Systems

On February 19, Jessamyn West, author of a blog called [librarian.net](http://www.librarian.net), gave a presentation to a group of about 90 at Manhattan Public Library (MPL) entitled “Web 2.0, Library 2.0, Librarian 2.0, and Why It’s No Big Deal, Seriously.” Every year MPL closes the library for a day of staff training. This year, we wanted to expose our library staff to the concepts behind the Library 2.0 discussion. It sounded like such a good idea that we invited librarians from the North Central Kansas Libraries System to participate. The system consultants from around the state heard about the session and asked to come also. And then, folks from the State Library joined us, too.

Jessamyn, who works with some very small, rural libraries in Vermont, defined the sometimes confusing terms we hear when Library 2.0 is discussed. She described ways libraries could use these technologies to create services for patrons. Many of us have already tried blog software, such as KLOW, and have accounts on Flickr to share photos. While 2.0 appears to be all about technology, Jessamyn tied all these new ideas back to a fundamental guide to library services: Ranganathan’s *Five Laws of Library Service* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_laws_of_library_science). Libraries can use the 2.0 technologies to perform core services in new ways, which better fit the way their patrons use libraries and information today. Library 2.0 is not a single object; it is choosing among the array of new, available technologies to meet the needs of your local library. She spent time in the afternoon session walking us through some of the new technologies including Second Life, Wikipedia, Flickr and Facebook, and encouraging us to play with them on our own.

For those of you who were not able to attend this session, Jessamyn put the slides of her talk on her website at <http://www.librarian.net/talks/mpl-ks/>. You will also find her library blog on that site. Jessamyn is scheduled to return to Kansas at least once more this year. She will be at Northeast Kansas Library System on October 18 for another workshop.