

ALA NMRT Online Discussion Forum – February 2013

Summary by Danielle Willgruber

We had a very informative discussion about **skills for utilizing new technologies** in the month of February.

Mark S, mentioned using Camtasia for screencasts.

Wilhelmina Randtke mentioned she had seen libraries that had created modules with graded assessments to embed in an institution's learning management system and gradebook, such as Moodle or Blackboard to give professors an easy way to show certain information literacy skills have been taught. She also mentioned the library serving as a central place for students and faculty to try out new (expensive) software, as well as trying out hardware such as 3D printers. While getting trial licenses of software might be convenient, having to install and uninstall software frequently is something to think about.

Mark S then asked about what APIs are and what they can do, as well as uses libraries have found for Twitter,

Jo Alcock supplied Mark with a description of APIs as a way for systems to talk with each other and a way to build new applications using data from other (or many) applications.

Mark S asked about expectations of librarians in terms of their knowledge of Web design. Brian C Gray commented that "The answer is organizational dependent. It is best to review job ads to get a sense. Some organizations the librarian and webmaster are the same. In others the Web person its another person. Web knowledge is gaining more importance in my environment (academic) as services related to data sharing and collaboration are growing."

Shannon mentioned using her knowledge of Web design for editing library subject guides, creating internal library manuals into websites so that they could be accessed by all staff, as well as creating a personal website, especially in regards to job searching.

Thank you all for the great discussion!