Next-Generation Digital Libraries

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What you're in for…

- A discussion about the networked research environment and the role that emerging "push" technologies have for digital libraries
- An overview of a new type of digital library application
- Lessons learned through the launch and reaction to this digital library application

The Project: TERRA

- TERRA: The Nature of Our World
- Published weekly via FeedBurner, iTunes, blip.tv, and the TERRA Web site(s) itself
- Documentary video shorts about science and natural history. Recent episodes include films about the Exxon Valdez oil spill, miracle medicines from the Amazon, and a look at the Mongolian snow leopard.
- Partners: Montana PBS, the MTA Department at MSU, and various independent filmmakers, MSU Libraries

The Sites: TERRA

- A digital library with commenting, ratings, forums, tags, and multiple subscription/delivery options wrapped up with AJAX (Asynchronous JavaScript and XML) functionality and a Dublin Core metadata backend.
- Social networking: "Related Shows" tab that groups similar videos together (similar to the popular Amazon. com feature "Users who liked this book also liked...") and a rating system allowing users to weigh in on a video's quality or value to the TERRA community.
- SXSW, Webby Award
- TERRApod

Trust your Users

- Lesson one: Trust your users and learn from them.
- Listen and build into design

Build a Community

- Lesson two: Build a community around your services
- Engage your community - comments, forums, ratings

Open source, Open Data

- Lesson three: Use open source and open data standards.
- Rely on free software and widely supported data structures, such as XML, for the underpinnings of the Web site.

Release Early, Often

- Lesson four: Release early and often.
- Focus on the essential functionality and building feedback loops into your application

Broadcast Your Signal

- Lesson five: Find a way to broadcast your content.
- Push your content into many corners of the Web - iTunes, RSS, ATOM, Google sitemaps XML

Standardize Your Data

- Lesson six: Standardize your data for others to use.
- Feeds (RSS, ATOM) as a format for content distribution.

http://digg.com/podcasts/TERRA_THE_NATURE_OF_OUR_WORLD/.

A Look Ahead...

- True user participation - creating videos
- mobile apps and widgets
- embedding and linking

http://lifeonterra.com
http://terrapodcast.com
http://liveonterra.com

Questions?

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