

# **Building a ThinkTank @ Your Library**

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**Montana State University Library**  
**@jaclark**

# Overview

- **An idea**
- **Recruitment**
- **Content**
- **Platform**
- **Promotion**
- **Tips**
- **Questions**

# **The Idea**

**Space to talk and learn  
about emerging tech  
(monthly)**

**~~An engine for developing  
new services~~**

**Everyone must participate.**

**~~“We tried that before. It  
didn’t work”~~**

**2 rules of ThinkTank**

Microsoft Office Outlook Web Access Find Someone Address Book Address Book Options Log Off

Mail Calendar Contacts

Most Recent Recipients

- \*LIBRARY-ALL STAFF
- +CR1-Renne Library
- +CR2-Renne Library
- +Heathcote Classroom
- Aig, Dennis
- alefredr@umail.iu.edu
- align@montana.edu
- Babbitt, Elizabeth
- Beaubois, Terry
- Bonnand, Sheila
- borchard@american.edu
- Borland, Rhonda
- brown@amigos.org
- Byron, Mary
- Carol\_Cooke@umanitoba.ca
- ccthompson@library.ucla.edu
- chadmairn@gmail.com
- christi@lifeonterra.com
- Clark, Jason

Required Optional

No resources to display

Send Update Reply to All Cancel Recurrence...

9 attendees accepted, 2 tentatively accepted, 0 declined.

Appointment Scheduling Assistant

Required... Strittmatter, Connie [remove]; Donahue, Timothy [remove]; Hansen, Mary Anne [remove]; Hodges, Michael [remove]; Anderson, Molly [remove]; Dunbar, David [remove]; Andrews, Joshua [remove]; Stefani, Anne [remove]; McCallum, Bonnie [remove]; Marsh, Beverly [remove]; +CR1-Renne Library [remove]; Meadow, Kelly [remove]; Fiegi, Sandra [remove]; Liz Babbitt [lbabbitt@montana.edu] [remove]

Optional... 'Tamara Miller' [tamaramiller50@gmail.com] [remove]; Miller, Tamara [remove]; Babbitt, Elizabeth [remove]

Resources...

Subject: Think Tank: Emerging Technologies

Location: CR1 ☒ Request a response to this invitation

Recurrence... Occurs every month on the third Wednesday of the month from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM effective 2/16/2011.

Show time as: ☒ Busy ☐ Private

Attachments...

Hi, Everyone,

I have spoken with most of you about the "think tank" idea. I was hoping to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month over the lunch hour. Our focus will be emerging technologies and what new technology developments might mean for information distribution and consumption (usually looking within the library setting). A typical meeting will involve discussing some articles/essays, a compelling project, or an opinion to get the conversation started. The expectation is that everyone will have read or reviewed the pieces/projects and is ready to chat about it. Occasionally, we might look to create "beta" projects to see if our ideas have some gravity. (Most of this work will fall to the DAWS team, but there may be roles for people who are interested.) A list of current beta projects is available here: <http://www.lib.montana.edu/beta/>.

It's in the interest of generating ideas and learning about emerging technologies that I'm gathering our group together. It will be a mix of the provocative and the banal and I'm looking forward to our conversations about where libraries might be headed.

Best,

jason

# Invitations

**#toRead**

## TALKS | TEDx

# What we learned from 5 million books

TEDxBoston 2011, Filmed Jul 2011; Posted Sep 2011



00:18 | 14:09

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Subtitles Available in: 7 languages [Off]

Tweet this talk! (we'll add the URL)

Post to:



Embed this video:

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FAVORITE

EMAIL

527,259 Views ?

Like

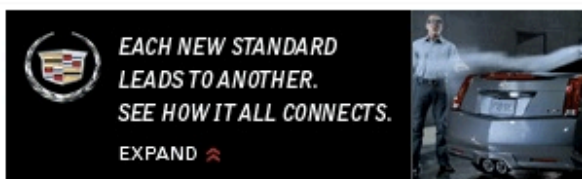
13K

INTERACTIVE TRANSCRIPT

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

ABOUT THIS TALK

Have you played with Google Labs' Ngram Viewer? It's an addicting tool that lets you search for words and ideas in a database of 5 million books from across centuries. Erez Lieberman Aiden and Jean-Baptiste Michel show us how it works, and a few of the surprising things we can learn from 500 billion words.



WHAT TO WATCH NEXT



**Brewster Kahle builds a free digital library**  
20:06 Posted: Sep 2008  
Views 172,367 | Comments 40



**Aaron Koblin: Artfully visualizing**






**Provide a Platform**





**Experience the Platform**

# BETA matters




**MONTANA**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

**LIBRARY**

ASK A LIBRARIAN  
Chat | Text | Email | Phone

[Home](#) [Books](#) [Articles](#) [Journalist](#) [Help](#) [Site Search](#)

 **Beta Apps (From the Lab at MSU Library)**

Welcome to the Digital Labs at Montana State University Library. Below you'll find a sample list of our experiments and trials with digital media and applications. It's an example of our research and development initiatives. Please have a look and kick the tires.

**Current Beta Projects**

[MSU Library Mobile Web Site](#)  
A mobile version of the MSU Library Web Site; a web app built with the jQuery mobile framework.  
Beta site: [MSU Library Mobile Web Site](#)

[Subject Map for Montana State University Library](#)  
Browse the MSU collection using Library of Congress Subject Headings. This interactive map shows you the arrangement of our stacks on each floor. Uses Flash and HTML to make it go.

[Set your Terms, Master your Searches](#)  
A mashup of the top related terms for a query according to the Yahoo Search Index. This is a proof of concept app. We are using it internally to build a loose, natural language search index for our article database search. It could be a candidate for a public app as a "Term Recommendation" engine. Would like to build off concept to help students work out better terms for searching library resources. Need to find more sources for related terms from Google or Wikipedia search indices and work with public services staff to refine. Built with PHP, HTML and Javascript.

[Google Gadgets for Montana State University Library](#)  
A range of applications you can add to your personalized Google homepage, Blackboard, or any other Web page. Uses XML, Google gadgets API, javascript and HTML to make it go.

[mediaHub](#)  
An experiment where library media on YouTube or blip.tv are "mashed up" to create a search/browse app. The goal is to create a central hub for all categories of library media - interviews, promotions, tutorials, events, classes, etc. Uses the YouTube API or blip.tv API, PHP, and XHTML to make it happen.

[Feed Me Some Worldcat](#)  
Run a search on Worldcat - Get an Opensearch feed for your feedreader. Sit back and get updates on Worldcat topics. What is a feed? [Learn more about feeds from this video.](#)

[MSU Digital Collections in Flickr](#)  
Selected photographs and papers from the Montana State University Library Special Collections are now available on Montana State University Library's Photostream at Flickr.com.

[Library Lifestream](#)

**What is this?**  
Welcome to the Digital Labs at Montana State University Library. You'll find our experiments and trials with digital media and applications here. Please have a look and kick the tires.  
[Powered by DAWS](#)

**From the Blog**

- There are no library news or research notes available at this time. Check back with us later.

**#ToRead**

- The Fight Over the Future of Digital Books - Dan Cohen - Technology - The Atlantic
- Google Ngram Viewer
- Mobile Apps Must Die | Blog | design mind
- New What we learned from 5 million books - Stephen's Lighthouse

**Facilitated by the DAWS Team:**  
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(406) 994-6801  
P.O. Box 173320  
Bozeman MT 59717-3320  
United States  
[+ more...](#)

# **MSU Library ThinkTank URLs**

- **MSU ThinkTank Archive**
  - **[goo.gl/RDbBx](http://goo.gl/RDbBx)**
- **MSU ThinkTank Beta**
  - **[www.lib.montana.edu/beta/](http://www.lib.montana.edu/beta/)**
- **MSU ThinkTank Tag on pinboard.in**
  - **[goo.gl/NzMT1](http://goo.gl/NzMT1)**

# Tips

- **Start Small**
- **Find a Champion**
- **Get Support**
- **Be Selective, but Recruit from All Levels of Org**
- **Set Scope & Theme**
- **Be Transparent & Document**

# **Inspiration**

- **Harvard Library Lab**
  - **[osc.hul.harvard.edu/liblab](http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/liblab)**
- **Scholars Lab, University of Virginia**
  - **[www2.lib.virginia.edu/scholarslab/](http://www2.lib.virginia.edu/scholarslab/)**
- **"A Skunk in the Library"**
  - **Bethany Nowviskie**
  - **[nowviskie.org/2011/a-skunk-in-the-library/](http://nowviskie.org/2011/a-skunk-in-the-library/)**

# Questions?

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