Collaborative Convergence:
Communication and Visual Tools

Rebecca A. Moss
April 20, 2009
ARLIS/NA Indianapolis 2009
Communication Tools

• What role do they play in VR and Libraries?
• How can they help us collaborate?
• How do they work compared with other, more traditional methods of communication?
• What is all this fuss about Twitter?
Email

- Asynchronous
- Person to person (point to point) or to a group (listservs)
- Acts for some as archive/history/memory
- Very stable and widely adopted, even required
- Difficult to search effectively
- Avoided by some users
- Not great for timely issues
Instant Messaging

• Synchronous
• Person to person (can support group chat)
• Less formal than email
• Often includes text speak
  (ur, cya, l8tr, brb, btw, fyi, idk, lol, ttyl, wtf)
• Can be saved as text, but not easily searched
• Good for timely issues
Texting

- Synchronous (for the most part)
- Person to person (or group)
- Good for broadbanding information
- Can be expensive
- Very mobile
- Good for timely issues
- Widely adopted by students
- Not easily saved
- Not easily searched
Twitter

• Asynchronous
• Person to world (for most part)
• Good for broadbanding information
• Very brief posts (140 characters max)
• Spreads quickly (retweets)
• Very mobile
• Not easily searched
• Still not adopted widely (though growing fast)
Twilliterate?

- http://twittonary.com/
- things are twitterific, twitastic
- twadd: to add/follow someone to your Twitter account as a friend.
- twead: to read a tweet from a fellow twitterer.
- tweetaholism: the continued use of Twitter as an addiction that is difficult to control.
- tweetup: when twitterers meet in person - a Twitter meet up.
- twis: to dis a fellow twitterer. very bad form.
Twitter Stats

- In March 2009, a Nielsen.com blog ranked Twitter as the fastest growing site in the Member Communities category for February 2009.
- Twitter had a growth of 1382%, Zimbio had a growth of 240%, followed by Facebook with a growth 228%.
- Started 2006
- By March 2008
  - Total Users: 1+ million
  - Total Active Users: 200,000 per week (those who posted at least one time)
  - Total Twitter Messages: 3 million/day

(http://blog.nielsen.com/nielsenwire/online_mobile/twitters-tweet-smell-of-success/)
Twitter Growth

Source: comScore Media Metrix
Twitter Users

(http://www.comscore.com/blog/2009/04/twitter_traffic_explodes.html)
Twitter Uses

• “Microblogging tools facilitate easily sharing status messages either publicly or within a social network.”

Why We Twitter: Understanding Microblogging Usage and Communities, Akshay Java, Tim Finn, Xiadon Song and Belle Tseng. Proceedings of the Joint 9th WEBKDD and 1st SNA-KDD Workshop 2007

• “The Twitterati are masters at gaining followers, driving conversation, and assimilating the tsunami of commentary and links that stream to them on a daily basis.”

Twitter Uses

“Twitter changes the notion that communication happens in channels while collaboration happens in spaces. Email and IM are examples of channels. Forums are an example of a collaborative space. Twitter implements a hybrid of this concept. Twitter can be thought of as a "communication space" with channels attached to it (Web, SMS, eMail, IM).“

Twitter in the Library

• What can we use Twitter for?
• This post sparked a discussion on VRA-L – “Now that everything is digital, what should we do with the thousands and thousands of slides from art history slide libraries?”
• Even an entire book catalog on Twitter – countrymanpress –

100 Best Art Towns in Amer.—John Villani, Oct. Guide to 100 towns w/ one thing in common: strong support for the visual & performing arts.
12:03 PM Mar 25th from web
Twitter Downsides

• Lots and lots of noise
• No metadata (beyond retweeting and hashtags)
• Filter and searches can help, but noise still gets through.
• How to search and find high value tweets?
• Options like Friendfeed are available
Communication Conclusions

- Email still most useful for formal communication
- IM and texting better for timely communications
- Twitter’s role is still to be determined, but it can be used to harness large groups of users in a single effort, or to provide the earliest awareness of issues/events.
- Other tools such as wikis and blogs are more useful for documenting projects or communicating large amounts of information.
Visual Tools

• New ways of looking through large groups of visual data, both for searching and display
• What are the benefits?
• Can these be incorporated into our workflows?
• Is there any collaborative potential?
What is TinEye?

TinEye is a reverse image search engine. You can submit an image to TinEye to find out where it came from, how it is being used, if modified versions of the image exist, or to find higher resolution versions. TinEye is the first image search engine on the web to use image identification technology rather than keywords, metadata or watermarks. For some real TinEye search examples, check out our Cool Searches page.
TinEye

• Toronto based company – Idée
• May 6, 2008
• Image identification technology which creates sophisticated pattern recognition algorithms which create a ‘fingerprint’ for images it finds by crawling the web
• Upload an image or submit an image or page URL
From their own FAQ:

Why use TinEye? There are many uses for TinEye, but here are a few:

• Find out where an image came from, or get more information about it.
Your image
JPEG image, 313x500, 42.3 KB
Recommend as a Cool Search

10 results
searched over 1.01 billion images in 1.019 seconds

artyx.ru
http://artyx.ru/books/item/100/609/2000007/3t025.shtml

www.allposters.com
Title: The Altarpiece of St. Vincent, Detail of the Infant Panel
Artist: Nuno Goncalves
Date: circa 1467-70
Research or track the appearance of an image online
• Find higher resolution versions of an image
• Locate web pages that make use of an image you have created
• Discover modified or edited versions of an image
Cooliris - http://www.cooliris.com/

- Palo Alto, CA based company
- Founded January 2006
- Browser plug-in that allows you to view images on a ‘wall’
- Supports video as well
- Local file support (brand new feature)
- Quickly search Facebook, Flickr, Google, Hulu etc.
- Information display of metadata, including file size, dimensions, ratings etc
Compelling interface

The Cooliris 3D Wall
Your infinite and interactive wall provides a lightning fast and visually stunning way to view photos and videos across the Web and your desktop.
Lots of versatility

- Lots of options for implementing it locally
- RSS feeds
- WordPress Plugin
- PicLens Publisher
- Metadata – but that is Jodie’s story….
Visual Tools Conclusions

- Powerful tools for VR and Libraries
- Both are web-based and free
- They are easy to include in workflows as a result
- They may allow for easier access to our collections
- They could also discourage some creativity if used to police the web
- Could be useful for searching multiple local collections
Thank you

Rebecca A. Moss
Coordinator of Visual Resources
Office of Information Technology
College of Liberal Arts
University of Minnesota
mossx014@umn.edu