Sakaiblibrary: Integrating Licensed Library Resources with Sakai

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Steve Smail
Mark Notess
Topics

- Sakaibrary project overview
- Sakaibrary phase 1 demo
- Fall 2006 user test results
- Q&A
Sakaibrary Project Overview

Sakaibrary project is a partnership of Indiana University Bloomington Libraries and University of Michigan Libraries (additional partners: Johns Hopkins, Northwestern, Stanford, Yale, UC Berkeley)

- Supported by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and IUB/UM
  - Integrating Licensed Library Resources with Sakai
  - Proposal available on project website: http://www.dlib.indiana.edu/projects/sakai/

- January 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007
Project Goals

1. Build tools to provide seamless integration of content from licensed library databases within Sakai for instructors
2. Leverage existing library technology infrastructure
3. Prototype functionality for librarians to present content in Sakai and students to discover licensed content within Sakai.
4. Engage librarians, students, and faculty in the design and testing
5. Collaborate with the Sakai community
The Problem

Library resources & services are not well-integrated in Oncourse CL

- Too many search tools
- Searches are hard to scope appropriately
- Too much copy/paste required (for URL, for article title, other bibliographic information)
- Not all URLs are persistent
- Oncourse doesn’t know about citations
- No librarian role in an Oncourse course site
Sakaibrary Project Process

- Develop requirements and designs with feedback from partner institutions
- Develop tools in two phases
- Conduct evaluation at IU and UM
- Release tools as open source
Milestones So Far

- Usage scenarios – March 2006
- Requirements – May 2006
- First phase implementation – October 2006
- Usability testing – November 2006
- Planning for pilot testing and second phase development - Now
Fall 2006 Implementation

- Federated searching from within Resources tool
- Support for Sirsi Single Search (IUB) and Ex Libris Metalib (UMich)
- Searches can be constrained based on instructor needs
- Citation list as object type in Sakai
- Citations can be added from search results to citation list with no copy/paste
- OpenURLs and link resolvers for more reliable URLs
- Export to citation management software (e.g., Endnote)
IU Project Participants

- Co-Project Director: Jon Dunn
- Technology: Steve Smail, Madhu Maryumi, Vern Wilkins
- Usability: Mark Notess, Sharon Hay
- Public Services: Diane Dallis, Carolyn Walters
Demo
Incorporating licensed library resources into Sakai using a Meta-Search engine (Oncourse CL and Sirsi SingleSearch at IU)
Fall 2006 User Test

- Conducted usability test of the Fall 2006 release (“phase one”) of Sakaibrary to identify usability problems
- 11 users total:
  - 6 at Michigan, 5 at Indiana
  - 4 librarians, 4 instructors, 3 students
  - 10 had prior Sakai experience
- Task: create a citation list by searching, selecting results, entering a citation manually, saving, and viewing the list
- Testing occurred over two-week period starting 10/27
Findings – the Value

- Instructors see value in having an easy way for students to create and share citation lists within Sakai.
- Instructors like being able to create “electronic reserves” themselves, manually finding and saving articles and then uploading them.
- Librarians seem more skeptical, sometimes preferring native search interfaces and valuing the investments made in library websites.
- Students see it as helpful in writing research papers.
Findings – Sakai Context

- A fair amount of intervention required – either training or improvements are required
- Trying to fit Sakaibrary functionality within the existing resources tool causes some confusion
  - where do I go to create a citation list?
  - what is the title for?
  - what does “Add” do?
- On library sites, search and database selection are primary; in Sakaibrary, search is buried
- Because Sakaibrary is a new paradigm, some learning curve may be expected
Findings – Search Results

- Results returned by underlying metasearch services fall short of expectations
  - Google sets expectations
  - Users expect sorting by relevance and/or date
  - Users want ready access to abstracts and full text from search results
  - Users want a “full text only” option
Next Steps

- Just finished initial write-up from user tests
- Will decide how to respond to each issue
  - Some can be addressed with simple changes in page layout, adding instructions or examples, or changing terminology
  - Some are beyond our control – e.g., Sakai framework issues or metasearch engine issues
- Have to trade off polishing current functionality against implementing additional functionality – what is “good enough”?
- Gather input from partners and others at Sakai conference in Atlanta
Next Phase

Probable Functionality

- Research guides
- Search scoping based on subject hierarchy
- Advanced (fielded) search
- Google Scholar integration
- Usability improvements
Questions?