Web 2.0 and the Digital Divide

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The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics
Trieste, December 4, 2007
PART I: EXPERIENCES
GFIS

- GFIS: information service that stores metadata on forestry “under the same roof”, providing accurate search results and reliable information.

- The system interacts with other databases all over the world using RSS format, and using the Open Search specification as a standard interface for search engines.

- Multilingual search aggregator, where content comes from RSS feeds generated through searches.
VASAT Wiki

- Semantic Wiki Tool to Build a Repository of Re-usable Information objects in Agricultural Education and Extension
- Being able to connect knowledge not only by keywords/tags, but also through content itself, linking fragments of information and knowledge through meanings, concepts and interlinking of concepts.
- Medium to educate and support a critical mass of rural women and men spread across vast geographical areas by informing them about good agricultural practices to drought and desertification
VASAT is a strategic coalition for information, communication and capacity building, operating in South Asia (SA), and West and Central Africa (WCA) in partnership with the Desert Margins Program (DMP). VASAT links and mobilizes stakeholders for drought mitigation in the semi-arid tropics (SAT). It is an innovative and cost-effective medium to educate and support a critical mass of rural women and men spread across vast geographical areas by informing them about good agricultural practices to drought and desertification. It is a response to the need of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to implement a communication strategy for combating drought and desertification.

Try the Semantic extensions enabled VASATWiki!!

http://vasatwiki.icrisat.org
IFPRI 2.0

- Goal: extend web presence beyond institutional website
- Goal: establish dialogue on food policy issues: Blog World Hunger
- Goal: help dispersed teams work more effectively: CGVlibrary
- Goal: Quickly and collaboratively create a list of best resources, e.g. by using del.icio.us
IFPRI 2.0

- Goal: increase participation, open communication, and create community: Let’s blog IFPRI, a blog on IFPRI’s intranet
- Goal: to simplify the entry of content into IFPRI’s Intranet: using wikis as a content management system, avoiding bottlenecks, fostering initiative on the content creator/responsible
- Goal: IFPRI staff participate in external research-related dialogues, to increase participation
"If concentrated in a single nation, the world’s poorest people--the ultra poor--would comprise the world’s seventh most populous country."

How Study Examines Plight of Poor Living on Less than 50 Cents a Day, November 6, 2007

"Despite much progress reducing poverty worldwide, a substantial number of the world’s poorest people are being left behind, according to a new report by IFPRI. The report, The World’s Most Deprived: Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Poverty and Hunger, is the first to use household poverty data from 1990 to 2004 to look below the dollar-a-day poverty line and examine who the poorest people are, where they live, and how they have fared over time."

MORE >>
IFPRI 2.0

CGVlibrary

QuickSearch

Simple  Advanced

Enter search term:  

CGIAR Libraries  Water  General

Food Policy/Security  Collective Action + Property Rights  CGIAR Image Library

Soils  AgHealth  Genetic Resources

Rice-Bibliographies  Rice-Scientific  News

World news at a glance

http://vlibrary.cgiar.org/
SIST

- Meta search engines for syndicated search
- A single question to ask several databases, open access archives, websites, RSS feeds, etc.
- A single RSS format for results representation.
- Systematic access to the original source of data.

- SIST also serves not only as a search engine, but also as a way of monitoring news and everything that’s happening on the Internet.
Building a scientific and technical information system in Africa

To promote research in Africa
Encouraging and developing exchange, production and dissemination of both scientific and technological information

To promote science and technology in the developing countries
Helping African researchers to develop their own analytical capabilities in key research areas

To facilitate sustainable development
Support regional research research along the priorities defined by the countries (health, renewable resources, agronomy, human and social sciences, Information and Communication Technology).

Some examples of results
SIST Référence, SIST Senegal, Burkina-Faso, SIST Tunisia

http://www.sist-sciencesdev.net
TRADENET

- Tradenet is open source software product to manage information: realtime SMS uploads from markets, database customized for agricultural data, multi-currency, etc. Specifically designed to get market data for farmers.

- The system is not only passive — you get data updates — but active: you can query the system through the mobile phone by means of SMS messages with specific codes.
## My Tradenet Account

- **login**: [Enter login]
- **password**: [Enter password]
- **remember my login on this computer**: unchecked
- **don't you have an account yet? it's free! signup now**
- **forgotten your password?**

## New User Postings

### OFFERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Availability</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOG</td>
<td>Ginger</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>mt</td>
<td>negotiable</td>
<td>Nov-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BKN</td>
<td>Palm Oil (red)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>mt</td>
<td>negotiable</td>
<td>Nov-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE</td>
<td>Bell Pepper (paprika)</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>kg</td>
<td>negotiable</td>
<td>Nov-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BKN</td>
<td>Sheep (live 15-30kgs)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>hd</td>
<td>negotiable</td>
<td>Nov-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLE</td>
<td>Cow (live 100-200kgs)</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>hd</td>
<td>negotiable</td>
<td>Nov-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### GROUPS

- **Intern Group**: 4 members, market info service, Nov-24
- **Udoper Borgou/ali**: 1 member, large farmer, Oct-18
- **Asnapp**: 13 members, ngo, Aug-15
- **My Isys**: 5 members, banking, storage, Aug-07
- **Nima Tradepoint**: 169 members, money lender, Aug-06

CELAC

- Agricultural information in Uganda.
- Some Web 2.0 tools used:
  - Information websites
  - Blogs
  - Google Maps, to geolocalize resources
  - Wiki [login/password protected wiki], as a training materials repository
  - SMS, sent through a website
  - Podcasts
  - FlickR, discussion groups, Skype, e-Learning tools
  - etc.
MOBILE MONITORS

- To make elections more transparent thanks to mobile enhanced monitoring
Welcome to the official website of The Network of Mobile Election Monitors of Nigeria (NMEM). This is a non-partisan non-profit project coordinated by Human Emancipation Lead Project. The project goal is to involve Nigerians with mobile phones to monitor the forthcoming Nigerian presidential election through SMS to ensure impartial elections.

Background

“Mobile phone serves communication. Communication serves humanity. Humanity serves change”. This assertion by Mobile Active-global network of people, tools, projects and resources focused on the use of mobile phones for activism, campaigns and civic engagement, forms the basis of this project. GSM access has so far reach virtually every nook and cranny of Nigeria from Sahara regions of the north to the mangroves of the Niger Delta. With over 30 million active subscribers on the three major networks, mobile phones have proved to be the most pervasive communication technology so far in Nigeria, much more than internet and electronic media.

In addition, mobile phones are a highly personal means of communication that reaches the target constituent directly and immediately. Mobile phones are therefore, tools to engage, organize, mobilize and inform people. This project is offering Nigerians a platform to ensure impartial elections. This shall provide a true mix of data on the election activities from the ruling party, opposition parties, INEC officials, other monitoring groups and the general public. Result from this project shall be sent to the central coordinating committee at the Transition Monitoring Group and other INEC accredited international monitoring groups.

Key facts for Mobile phone Election Monitoring

http://mobilemonitors.org/
GLOBAL VOICES

- Selection, translation, context
Special Coverage: Climate Change 2007

Juliana Rotich · 03:06, December 3rd, 2007 · lingua → pt · es

Today, world leaders, activists and students will be converging in Bali, Indonesia for the United Nations Conference on climate change. The conference comes on the heels of the UN high level meeting held in New York, September 2007, where global voices environment covered some of the discussions that sought to ...

http://www.globalvoicesonline.org/
CROPFORGE

- Is a collaborative software development site, providing tools and a centralized workspace for developers to control and manage software development.

- The difference being with SourceForge is that it hosts all kind of information about projects and software related to development, food and food security, hunger, etc., including fora and communication spaces where collaboration, support takes place.
Welcome to CropForge

CropForge is a collaborative software development site, providing tools and a centralized workspace for developers to control and manage software development.

This site is being maintained by the Crop Research Informatics Laboratory (CRIL) of IRRI.

Related Link: cropwiki.irri.org

Know more about CropForge...

Últimas noticias

Edit Germplasm in SetGen 5.4
Arlet Portugal - 2007-10-02 16:57 - ICIS Communication
Please refrain from using the Edit Germplasm function of SetGen 5.4 at this time while we are correcting some errors in the algorithm behind that function.
(0 Comentario) [Leer más/Comentar]

User manuals
Thomas Metz - 2007-08-31 08:20 - CropForge Information
A new set of user manuals on how to manage source code on CropForge using CVS and SVN clients is available at the file download section of the CropForge Information project.
(0 Comentario) [Leer más/Comentar]
PART II: RANDOM THOUGHTS
Random Thoughts

- The importance of ICTs in leapfrogging
- Proliferation of online content, along with language/translation tools
- Web 2.0 removes the barriers on the consumers, creators of content
Random Thoughts

- Engagement
- Empowerment

Availability of ICT infrastructures and tools ensures people’s empowerment and social inclusion

Web 2.0 applications ensure participatory development communication

Participation, decision making, human rights… are new dimensions on development that the Web 2.0 can include on the development debate
Random Thoughts

- Improve quality of information by linking information from multiple data sources
- Reduce cost of content creating and deployment
- Better access through multiple devices
- Richer content using collective intelligence
- Effective information exchange and knowledge management across geography through collaborative platforms
Random Thoughts

- Integration of data from multiple sources will be required to provide meaningful information and content.

- Computers is just not enough: connectivity, content, services, B2C, B2B, G2B, etc.
Random Thoughts

- New costs to working
- Need for training and awareness
- Capacity building a need to be approached
- Capacity development should be tied to information strategies
Random Thoughts

- Find the appropriate communications (system) for the appropriate content. And the contrary: if e.g. mobile phone is the platform, think of the appropriate content (and not only the format, but the content itself) to be delivered through it.

- To contribute: policy at the local level, resources and founding, technical expertise, infrastructure, access to relevant data / data sources, etc.
Random Thoughts

- Relevancy, quality control, suitability are difficult or just impossible to design ex ante, so give the practitioner, the user the ability to comment on resources, so you can help in the evaluation of this resource.
Random Thoughts

- Government-led public information portals are also adopting Web 2.0 applications for more actions and interactions.
- Organizational challenges: open web, open content requires open institutions, open organizations. Knowledge transfer, knowledge sharing needs connected people, transparency.
Random Thoughts

Advantages of Web 2.0

- Knowledge gets documented
- Enhanced community sharing, which sometimes does not happen offline but does online, and then they cannot stop!
- Improved livelihoods
Random Thoughts

Challenges of Web 2.0

- Requires Internet: Internet’s expensive; electricity is bad scheduled in the whole country; differing peoples’ susceptibility to change
- Information hoarding
Trieste, December 4, 2007. The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics

To cite this work:
<http://ictlogy.net/presentations/20071203_ismael_pena_web_2.0_and_the_digital_divide.pdf> [downloaded mm/dd/yyyy]

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