

NAVIGATING THE INFORMATION SEAS: DEVELOPING THE "RESOURCES
BY SUBJECT" SYSTEM AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA ANCHORAGE'S CONSORTIUM LIBRARY
<http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/~jiliff/iamslic.htm>

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ABSTRACT: The first generation of library web sites began as static pages with general information about the library and its services. As web sites have grown in both number and complexity, they are now commonly used as gateways to multiple information resources, providing access to the online catalog, proprietary databases, electronic books and journals, and other Internet resources, in addition to providing details about the library's services. A more recent development is the incorporation of web pages that help library patrons locate and identify relevant resources within a specific subject area.

At the University of Alaska Anchorage's Consortium Library, web pages were developed and organized into a basic content management system called *Resources by Subject*. With this "one-stop-shopping," users are able to choose among the most relevant databases, selected websites, and print and CD-ROM resources (linked from the online catalog)—all within the same subject discipline. However, since the *Resources by Subject* system included hundreds of links and many dozens of pages, maintaining these links was incredibly time-consuming.

This electronic poster illustrates the problems the Consortium Library staff faced, and their successful solutions, for: 1) selecting the open source software for developing the *Resources by Subject* system; 2) improving the efficiency of the updating process while maintaining authentication and security measures; 3) developing a unique approach that allows the subject specialists, with little or no knowledge of markup language, to identify and enter resources within their areas of expertise; and 4) incorporating improvements and dealing with ongoing challenges. Over time, librarians at the Consortium Library have added thousands of new links to this successful system, and the time and effort for updating and editing have been significantly reduced.

KEYWORDS: Academic libraries, Case studies, Electronic information resources, Information organization, Library Web sites