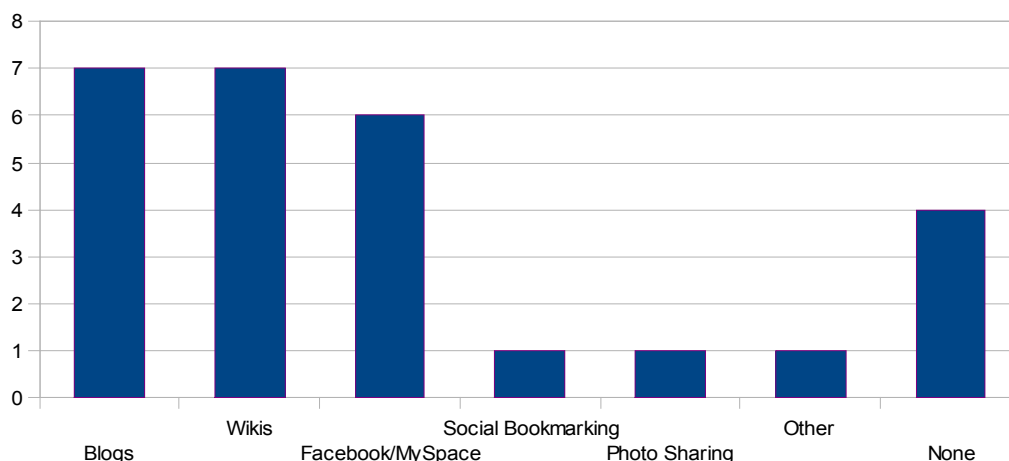# Teaching the Faculty New Tricks: Collaborating Across Campus to Provide Professional Development Opportunities

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As library professionals we are constantly engaged in professional development activities, which usually involves the exploration of new technologies. As a way to promote the library's services and resources, as well as share our knowledge of emerging technologies, librarians at Purchase College, SUNY, reached out to other departments on campus in order to develop a well-rounded series of professional development workshops for faculty and staff. We partnered with the Union, Campus IT, and the Teaching, Learning & Technology Center to offer a variety of different classes, taught by a variety of different people. Our most successful workshop focused on using free online social networking tools such as wikis, blogs, social bookmarking tools, and photo sharing tools in the classroom and for the professional arena.

Social Networking Tools for Professional Development Class: We taught a basic introductory class four times in the past three semesters, and one hands-on session focusing on wikis and blogs, with a total attendance of 50 (includes faculty and staff). In a survey sent to all attendees, we asked questions about which tools they were currently using, and which ones they were thinking of using in the classroom and beyond.

Number of Respondents Who Plan to Use Each Tool in the Classroom or for Other Job-Related Tasks

(Survey was sent to 50 people who attended at least one of the social networking sessions. Sixteen people responded. Respondents were allowed to choose more than one tool.)

"Thanks for bringing these vital components of current communication practice onto my radar (old technology) screen. I think you all are doing outstanding work."

(faculty member, Humanities)

Comments from the survey.

"It keeps us all more current in a rapidly changing online world."

(faculty member, Continuing Education)

"Not all faculty can find time or have the skill set and/or interest in going digital. I think the library should slowly reach out to the degree that the staff can handle the work load."

(faculty member, Art & Design)

Quick Tips
for Planning and Teaching Professional Development Sessions

- Collaborate with and get support from a wide range of campus groups, such as:
  - Instructional Technology Centers
  - Teaching/Learning Centers
  - IT Departments
  - Unions
  - Professional Development Committees
- Invite a wide range of faculty and staff from across campus to your sessions
- Publicize your sessions and offer them on different days and at different times
- Offer sessions that promote and utilize free and open access / open source tools
- Give examples of how tools are being used in real situations
- Provide food -- even if it is just snacks, attendees like to be fed!
- Try to get a variety of people from different departments to teach classes - mix it up!
- Promote library resources and services whenever you get a chance
- Co-teach -- it makes it more fun for the instructors and the students

The professional development classes have been a success at Purchase College and each semester more sessions have been added. Faculty and staff have contacted us on many occasions for one-on-one consultations to assist them in setting up social networking tools for their professional use. We are currently developing more hands-on sessions.

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