

Erika Rux
Internet Library National Conference, 2009
Monterey, CA – October 26-28, 2009

The Internet Librarian conference is one I have wanted to attend for some time, and I very much appreciate the Northern Lights scholarship that finally made the trip possible.

The conference provided me the opportunity to learn several things that are of professional and personal interest to me and that will help me in my work at Concordia College. One of the first sessions I attended was focused on free Web 2.0 tools that can help libraries provide additional services or improved services by using tools freely available on the Internet. Along the same theme, another group of presenters talked specifically about Twitter, and how it can be used to not only inform users about what is happening at the library, but to reach out to users and provide information to them – sometimes before they even ask for it. Many sessions focused on tools and gadgets that facilitate interactions, and I came home with many ideas for ways to improve communication with my library's user community. I returned to Minnesota with pages of notes about web tools and ideas for their use that will help me accomplish tasks I knew I wanted to complete and some I didn't even know I should worry about. Additionally, I received many book recommendations from presenters and colleagues – books that will keep me reading about my users, about great tools, and about being more efficient at work and in life.

Overall, the conference was a great way to spend three days! I return to my office thinking about how I may be able to implement some of the interesting new technologies I learned about and excited about starting new projects. I think the best part of attending any conference is talking and listening to all of the other attendees – hearing their ideas, thinking about their latest projects, and taking what I learn and making it work for me. Thank you for making this possible!

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