

*Assessing  
WebJunction's Impact  
in Kansas Rural Libraries:*

*A Case Study of Three Librarians*

Heather Braum -- Proposal Presentation

# Definitions

- ▶ What is Webjunction?
  - ▶ [www.webjunction.org](http://www.webjunction.org)
- ▶ Web Portal
- ▶ TechAtlas
- ▶ Webinar

# Problem

- ▶ Rural librarians don't have a lot of time on their hands -- wear twenty hats at a time
- ▶ WebJunction resource has been introduced
- ▶ Originally, technology-focused web portal, to assist librarians with maintaining their computers
- ▶ Has evolved into much, much more

# Problem

- ▶ Has evolved into much, much more
- ▶ Four main areas
  - ▶ TechAtlas
  - ▶ Resources (articles, links, Webinars)
  - ▶ Courses (self-paced, archived)
  - ▶ Discussion area

# Problem

- ▶ Kansas is a community partner -- one of 13 state Community partners
- ▶ Provides free access to all Kansas librarians, library staff, and trustees
- ▶ Much time has been spent at conferences, focusing on Webjunction

# Research Questions

- ▶ What WebJunction resources have Kansas librarians been using the most?
- ▶ What WebJunction resources are assisting Kansas librarians to fulfill the missions of their libraries?

# Importance of Project

- ▶ Much time has been spent at recent library conferences in Kansas on WebJunction education. Also,
- ▶ WebJunction continues to expand.
- ▶ I want to find out if its use is actually helping librarians carry out the missions of their libraries, or if it's only one of many tools available to librarians.

# Problem

- ▶ If so as many resources are being directed toward WebJunction use in Kansas, is the right approach being used? What tools are being used by librarians?
- ▶ Assessment needs to be carried out to determine if resources are being used in the right way.



# Literature Review

- ▶ Online-based learning
- ▶ Online-based professional development
- ▶ Online learning communities
- ▶ Online communities of practice
- ▶ Problems facing rural librarians
- ▶ Continuing education

# Literature Review

- ▶ Methodology
- ▶ Interviews
- ▶ Electronic Questionnaires

# Research Methods

- ▶ Interviews
  - ▶ Interview key stakeholders in WebJunction project, for background information
  - ▶ Not sure if this a research method, since it is for original research (not much has been written on WebJunction as of yet -- only four-year old project)
  - ▶ Email-based interviews

# Research Methods

- ▶ Electronic or email-based questionnaire
- ▶ Case Study group: Three librarians selected, participation in a grant to attend a conference
- ▶ Questions will be asked about WebJunction use

# Questionnaire

- ▶ Three sections
  - ▶ Demographics/General
  - ▶ WebJunction-focused
  - ▶ Technology-focused
- ▶ Mix of types
  - ▶ Open- & close-ended questions

# Demographics/General

- ▶ 1. How long have you worked at your current library?
- ▶ 2. How long have you been in the library profession?
- ▶ 3. How large is your library?
- ▶ 4. What size of population do you serve?
- ▶ 5. What type of population(s) do you serve?
- ▶ 6. How many staff members do you have at your library?
- ▶ 7. What kinds of technology do you use in your library?
- ▶ 8. How comfortable are you with technology on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest?



# Demographics/General

- ▶ 9. How comfortable are you with maintaining your patron computers on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest?
- ▶ 10. How comfortable are you with Web 2.0 technologies (blogs, wikis, social networking, etc.) on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest?
- ▶ 11. How comfortable are you with helping patrons with technology questions on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest?
- ▶ 12. What kind of computer technology training have you had?
- ▶ 13. Where did you get that training?
- ▶ 14. What kind of time and resources do you have to attend conferences for training and continuing education?

# WebJunction Questions

- ▶ 1. When did you first learn of WebJunction?
- ▶ 2. How did you find out about WebJunction?
- ▶ 3. What have you used WebJunction for?
- ▶ 4. Have you taken any WebJunction courses?
  - ▶ a. Which ones?
  - ▶ b. What skills have you gained from the courses?
  - ▶ c. What courses have been beneficial to helping you carry out your library's mission?



# WebJunction Questions

- ▶ d. Why were these specific courses beneficial?
- ▶ e. Could you have obtained this knowledge elsewhere? Why/why not?
- ▶ f. Would you have obtained this knowledge elsewhere? Why/why not?
- ▶ g. How would you rate the process of taking the courses on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being confusing, 10 being easy)?
- ▶ h. How would you rate the content of the courses on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being too technical, 10 being easy to understand)?

# WebJunction Questions

- ▶ 5. Have you participated in any WebJunction webinars?
  - ▶ a. Which ones?
  - ▶ b. What have you learned from the webinars?
  - ▶ c. What webinars have been beneficial to helping you carry out your library's mission?
  - ▶ d. How have the webinars been beneficial in helping you carry out your library's mission?
  - ▶ e. Could you have obtained this knowledge elsewhere? Why/why not?
  - ▶ f. Would you have obtained this knowledge elsewhere? Why/why not?

# WebJunction Questions

- ▶ 6. Have you participated in any WebJunction online discussions?
  - ▶ a. Which ones?
  - ▶ b. What did you gain from these online discussions?
  - ▶ c. Could you have had these discussions elsewhere?
  - ▶ d. Would you have had these discussions elsewhere?
  - ▶ e. Why would you participate in the online discussions?

# WebJunction Questions


- ▶ 7. What other WebJunction resources have you used?
- ▶ 8. Overall, how would you rate your use of WebJunction, on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being poor, 5 average, 10 excellent)?
- ▶ 9. Are you continuing to use WebJunction? Why/why not?
- ▶ 10. Who would you encourage to use WebJunction?
- ▶ 11. What difficulties have you found in utilizing the WebJunction resources?

# Technology-Focused Qs

- ▶ 1. Have you taken any computer technology-focused WebJunction courses?
  - ▶ a. Which ones?
  - ▶ b. What technology skills have you gained from the courses?
  - ▶ c. What technology courses have been beneficial to helping you carry out your library's mission?
  - ▶ d. Why were these specific courses beneficial?
  - ▶ e. Could you have obtained this knowledge elsewhere? Why/why not?
  - ▶ f. Would you have obtained this knowledge elsewhere? Why/why not?
  - ▶ g. How would you rate the process of taking the courses on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being confusing, 10 being easy)?
  - ▶ h. How would you rate the content of the courses on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being too technical, 10 being easy to understand)?

# Technology-Focused Qs

- ▶ 2. Have you participated in any computer technology-focused WebJunction courses?
  - ▶ a. Which ones?
  - ▶ b. What technology skills have you gained from the webinars?
  - ▶ c. What technology-focused webinars have been beneficial to helping you carry out your library's mission?
  - ▶ d. How have the technology-focused webinars been beneficial in helping you carry out your library's mission?
  - ▶ e. Could you have obtained this knowledge elsewhere? Why/why not?
  - ▶ f. Would you have obtained this knowledge elsewhere? Why/why not?

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- ▶ 3. What have you used TechAtlas for?
  - ▶ 4. Before using the WebJunction resources, were you comfortable with technology (ie, using it, helping patrons and staff with it, understanding it better, knowing the different types that are out there, Web 2.0 resources)?
  - ▶ 5. After using the WebJunction resources, have you found yourself to be more comfortable with technology (ie, using it, helping patrons and staff with it, understanding it better, knowing the different types that are out there, Web 2.0 resources)?
  - ▶ 6. Would you agree or disagree or have any comments on the following statement? By using its available resources, WebJunction has helped me become more comfortable with technology.
  - ▶ 7. Would you agree or disagree or have any comments on the following statement? By using its available resources, WebJunction has helped me become more comfortable using technology.

# Outline: Research Area

- ▶ Online learning communities
- ▶ Rural librarians do not have time or resources to attend technology training
- ▶ Continuing education
- ▶ Draw on the literature dealing with these areas



# Outline: Topic

- ▶ a. WebJunction, an online portal for librarians
- ▶ b. Focus on Kansas WebJunction participation

# Outline: Questions

- ▶ What WebJunction resources have Kansas librarians been using the most?
- ▶ What WebJunction resources are assisting Kansas librarians to fulfill the missions of their libraries?

# Outline: Design

- ▶ Interviews to determine WebJunction's formation, history, evolution
- ▶ Examination of articles discussing WebJunction
- ▶ Case study of three Kansas librarians who have been using WebJunction through questionnaire

# Outline: Data Collection

- ▶ Questionnaire over use of WebJunction resources, including ranking the use of some of its resources (attached)
- ▶ Compile the interview question/answers, the article examinations, and the questionnaires results

# Outline: Data Analysis

- ▶ Compile data and answer the following:
- ▶ What key data elements answer/do not answer the two research questions?
- ▶ What data elements point to further research opportunities?
- ▶ What data elements might help improve WebJunction's use?

# Outline: Answer Questions

- ▶ What WebJunction resources have Kansas librarians been using the most?
- ▶ What WebJunction resources are assisting Kansas librarians to fulfill the missions of their libraries?

# Outline: Conclusions

- ▶ Discuss implications
- ▶ Address next steps for further research

*Questions?*

*Criticisms*

*Comments?*