The Problem: Librarianship’s Great Divide

Librarians with limited or no access to training include:
- K–12 librarians and media specialists
- Librarians in rural areas
- Librarians serving disadvantaged populations
- Solo librarians
- Community–college librarians

One Solution: Five Weeks Online

All-online course on social software
- Six librarians: Virginia, Vermont, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin
- 40 participants: US, Europe, Latin America

Weekly coursework
- Screencasts and podcasts
- Designated readings
- Exercises designed to get participants interacting with the software
- Once–weekly small–group chat
- One or two live web presentations
- Optionally, chat with the week’s presenters
- Post to group blog reflecting on the week’s content

Final capstone project
- Social–software proposal for the participant’s library
- Comments and critiques from other participants

Planning Tools

AIM chatrooms to the rescue!

Google Docs: fantastic for co-writing CFP, counting votes on participant applications.

Google Docs & Spreadsheets

Course Tools

blip.tv

MediaWiki

Drupal

Web Conferencing: The Missing Link

No free web–conferencing application would cover the number of participants we had. We therefore owe tremendous thanks to Online Programming for All Libraries (OPAL; http://opal–online.org) for volunteering to host and archive twice–weekly live web conferences for Five Weeks!