

**BOOK REVIEW**

*\*Cheryl Ann Peltier-Davis. **The Cybrarian's Web: an A-Z Guide to 101 Free Web 2.0 Tools and Other Resources.** New Jersey: Information Today, Inc. 2011. 486p. ISBN 9781573874274 Reviewed by Unika Omowale.*

The objective of *The Cybrarian's Web* is to serve as an important research tool while offering useful coaching to librarians and information professionals who wish to exploit the prospective of Web 2.0 technologies. It is not only important for individuals in the library profession but also for persons with an ardent interest in learning about new technologies and innovations. Web 2.0 tools emphasize sharing and include blogs; wikis; Really Simple Syndication feeds(RSS); user-added reviews, ratings and summaries; instant messaging; podcasts and vodcasts; folksonomies; social bookmarking; social networking sites; streaming audio and video; community photo sharing and book services. The author offers five benefits that can be derived by libraries using Web 2.0 tools. These include "delivery of highly customized, value-added services to tech-savvy clients, overcoming economic turmoil by integrating Web 2.0 driven services into the library's economic recovery efforts, building alliances with patrons and improving communications with staff, instant implementation and democratization of the web, and survival in a competitive landscape."

The author was challenged in selecting the resources to include in the text since her main objective was to provide the reader with exhaustive coverage of each resource, providing the reader with as much information as possible about structure, content, and usefulness. The selection of the resources was based mainly on independent review and the personal analysis of the author. Other factors also impacted on the selection of the resources for inclusion in the text. These included relevance of the features, function, and organization of the resource; the popularity and reputation of the resource; the longevity, reviews and technical support of the site.

The publication was organized alphabetically as an A- Z list of selected Web 2.0 technologies which made readability and functionality for the users easier. Each chapter is independent of the other, which allows the reader to go directly to the material of interest. Included in each chapter are screenshots, thus the reader is able to visualize the features of the resource. Each entry is structured as follows: name of the resource; description of the application; the URL of the website; a short overview of the site which includes its origin, development and functions; features of the website generally set out to give

the reader a summary of the main features of the resource, functionality, design and usage; “how cybrarians can use this resource” provides the information about the importance of this resource to information professionals (the main objective of the book); the For Your Information (FYI) allows the reader to find interesting information about the resource.

On reading about the resource someone entering the field of information management may wonder about the importance of the resources outlined, however, each tool aims at adding a new dimension to the field and allows professionals to keep abreast of the latest web technologies. This text provides an interesting beginner’s guide for practical applications of Web 2.0 tools in libraries and it allows the reader to discover a vast amount of resources that are unknown and can be important for libraries in this technology driven age. *The Cybrarian’s web* has the potential to assist librarians in their daily tasks as well as to enhance the delivery of reference services for library users. It was interesting how the author also emphasized the role of the librarian in using the web technology by the term “cybrarian” which illustrates the importance of cyberspace to libraries and the information profession.

*Unika Omowale is a Library Assistant at The Alma Jordan Library of The University of the West Indies and is pursuing her Masters in Library and Information Studies at the University of Aberystwyth.*

**Editors’ note:** \*Cheryl Peltier Davis is a librarian from Trinidad and Tobago. She is the Archives and Digital Librarian at Nova Southeastern University. *The Cybrarian’s Web* is her second book.