



UNC
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
AND LIBRARY SCIENCE

Bringing your library into view

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Information horizons

- A metaphor
- Useful in understanding the context of a person's information use
 - Includes information resources
 - Includes constraints on use of those resources



Prachov Rocks, 2006



Let me introduce you to....



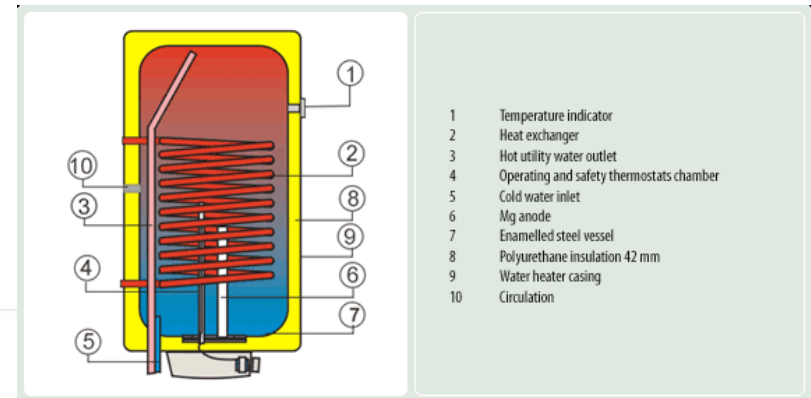
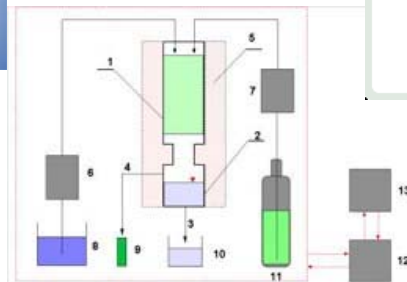
... an engineer
(a fictional story)

Jane's information need

To learn more about
current thermostat systems



T-86 "Round" Thermostat



Jane's information horizon



Jane



Other engineers in her firm



WES colleagues



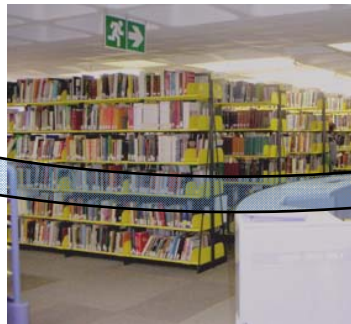
Her work team



The firm's tech reports



Personal library



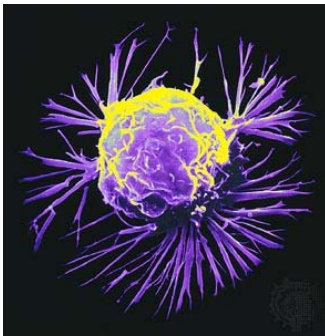
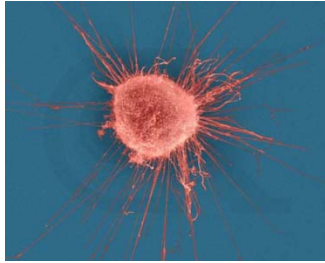
Firm info center



Database



Jane in another situation...



...recently diagnosed with
breast cancer



Jane's information horizon



Her aunt, a breast cancer survivor



Her mother



Jane



Emma, her best friend



Her father



Her husband



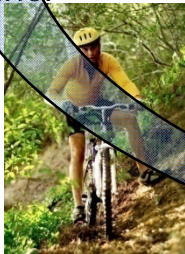
Her family physician



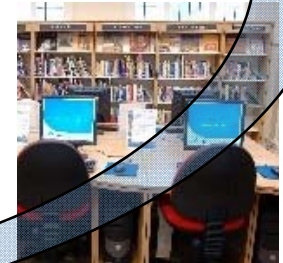
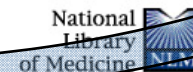
Her oncologist



WES colleagues



Her brother



Her public library



The place of libraries on Jane's information horizon

- For sense-making in her role as engineer
- For sense-making in her situation as cancer patient

Two factors affect the position of information resources

- Accessibility
- Ability to also provide social or emotional support

Should we try to influence Jane's view of her information horizon?

ANO
yes
ANO
ANO
ANO

NE
NO
NE
NE
NE

ZÁLEŽÍ NA
IT DEPENDS
ZÁLEŽÍ NA
ZÁLEŽÍ NA



Jane's information horizon (revised)



The firm's tech reports



Jane



Her work team



Personal library



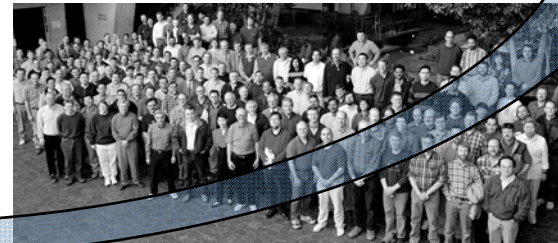
Firm info center



WES colleagues



Database



Other engineers in her firm

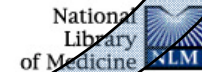
Jane's information horizon (revised)



Her mother



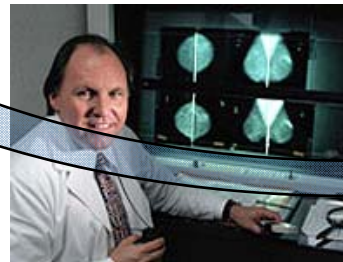
Jane



Her husband



Her aunt, a
breast cancer survivor



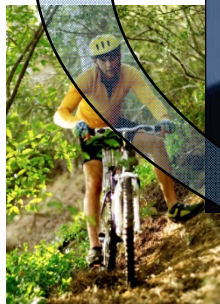
Her oncologist



Her family physician



Her public library



Her brother



Her father



Emma, her best friend



WES colleagues

How can we bring about these changes?

Move beyond

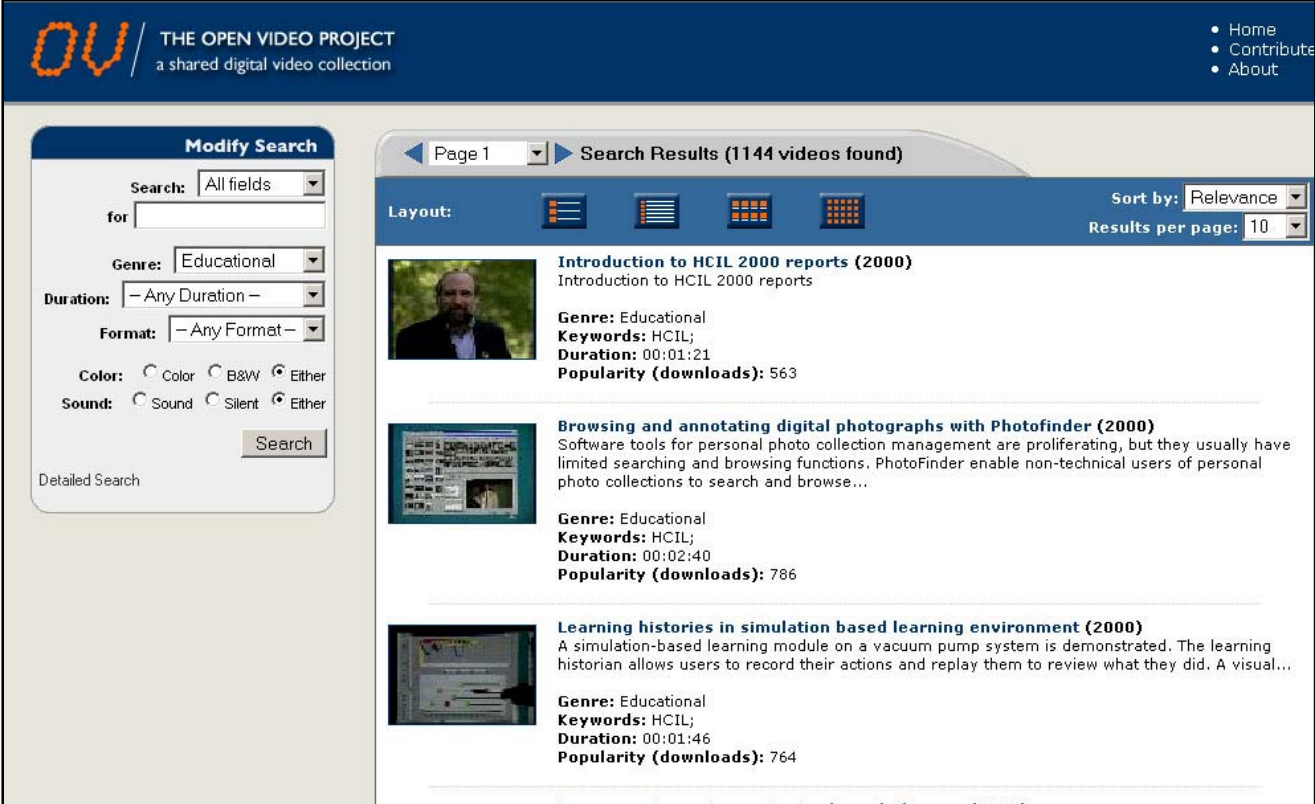
helping people FIND information...

...to helping people USE information

Library services supporting more effective information use

- Services supporting re-use of existing information
- Services supporting the creation of new information objects
- Services supporting learning
- Services supporting people helping people

Re-use of existing information: open-video.org



The screenshot displays the Open Video Project website interface. The header features the 'OV' logo and the text 'THE OPEN VIDEO PROJECT a shared digital video collection'. Navigation links for Home, Contribute, and About are in the top right. A 'Modify Search' sidebar on the left includes filters for Search (All fields), Genre (Educational), Duration (Any Duration), Format (Any Format), Color (Color, B&W, Either), and Sound (Sound, Silent, Either). The main content area shows 'Search Results (1144 videos found)' on Page 1, sorted by Relevance with 10 results per page. Three video results are listed:

- Introduction to HCIL 2000 reports (2000)**
Introduction to HCIL 2000 reports
Genre: Educational
Keywords: HCIL;
Duration: 00:01:21
Popularity (downloads): 563
- Browsing and annotating digital photographs with Photofinder (2000)**
Software tools for personal photo collection management are proliferating, but they usually have limited searching and browsing functions. PhotoFinder enable non-technical users of personal photo collections to search and browse...
Genre: Educational
Keywords: HCIL;
Duration: 00:02:40
Popularity (downloads): 786
- Learning histories in simulation based learning environment (2000)**
A simulation-based learning module on a vacuum pump system is demonstrated. The learning historian allows users to record their actions and replay them to review what they did. A visual...



Creation of new information objects



NC State University,
Digital Media Lab



Video and audio editing equipment
Florida State University Library
Digital Media Lab



Lab used for the creation of
an online herbarium
University of Virginia,
Brown Science & Engineering Library



Music technology lab
Griffith University,
Queensland



Learning

Group learning through instruction



A context for individual learning



One-on-one learning assistance



People helping people



Learning Commons,
NC State University
Library



Access Grid, NCeSS (UK)



Collaboration Center
Health Sciences Library, UNC-CH



More ideas?

Comments? Suggestions?

Questions?



References

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- Sonnenwald, D. H., Wildemuth, B. M., & Harmon, G. L. (2001). A research method to investigate information seeking using the concept of information horizons: an example from a study of lower socio-economic students' information seeking behaviour. *The New Review of Information Behaviour Research*, 2, 65-86.



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- Photo of Dawn Fitt, President of the Women's Engineering Society (UK), www.wes.org.uk/councilmembers.shtml
- FermiLab engineers, <http://www.fnal.gov/pub/ferminews/ferminews01-05-04/p1.html>
- University of the Witwatersrand - Engineering Library, <http://ewh.ieee.org/conf/powerafrica/docs/graphics/library.html>
- Intelligent Transportation Systems, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, http://www.its.dot.gov/JPODOCS/REPTS_TE/14073_files/sec_1.htm
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- IEEE Toronto Section, The Monthly Connection, August 2004, <http://www.ewh.ieee.org/r7/toronto/newsletter/aug2004.htm>
- Hope for Cancer, <http://www.hopeforcancer.com/BreastCancer.html>
- Fighting Breast Cancer blog, <http://fighting-breast-cancer.com/>
- *NCI—Science Photo Library/Photo Researchers*, Encyclopædia Britannica, <http://www.britannica.com/eb/art/print?id=56763&articleTypeld=0>
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- North Carolina State University Library, Digital Media Lab, <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/dml/>
- North Carolina State University Learning Commons, <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/learningcommons/>
- Florida State University Library, Digital Media Lab, <http://www.lib.fsu.edu/dlmc/dmc/gallery>
- University of Virginia, Mountain Lake Biological Station's Digital Herbarium, <http://atlas.lib.virginia.edu/Herb/digitization.html>
- Griffith University, Queensland (Australia) Conservatorium, <http://www29.griffith.edu.au/mutech/orientation/orientation.html>
- University of North Carolina, Health Sciences Library, Collaboration Center, <http://www.hsl.unc.edu/Collaboration/index.cfm>
- Kent State University (Ohio), Electronic Classroom, <http://www.library.kent.edu/page/10311>
- Mississippi State University Libraries, Instructional Services, <http://library.msstate.edu/content/templates/?a=318&z=30>
- Library & Archives Canada, <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/services/005-2000-e.html>
- Puyallup Public Library (Washington), <http://www.cityofpuyallup.org/page.php?id=374>
- UCLA Law Library, <http://www.law.ucla.edu/home/index.asp?page=1224>
- Kountze (Texas) Public Library, <http://www.kountzelibrary.org/new.html>
- Neen Hunt Library, Calhoun School (New York), <http://www.calhoun.org/page.cfm?p=185>
- Access Grid, National Center for e-Social Sciences, UK, <http://www.ncess.ac.uk/resources/fasttrack/photos/proj-meets/index.html>

