

The objective of this third symposium session is to listen and learn from you, the wildlife health professionals, about what tools and services you would like WDIN to develop that would help you find information that keeps you up-to-date on current wildlife disease issues. We want your feedback and guidance to ensure that the time and resource we spend actually create tools that this community will use.



So to begin, I wanted share our vision of WDIN. We want to grow beyond just being a website warehousing information, adding content now and again. We are striving to make WDIN an online community where members can connect with people and content: a place where they can collaborate on a project with distance colleagues, or a place to go to find and share current, useful information among themselves. In the near future, we would like this professional community to feel as though WDIN belongs to them.

We on the WDIN staff, with the exception of Dr. Josh Dein, are not wildlife disease experts. We are just information and technology geeks who would like to help wildlife health professionals connect and network together better, with the result of hopefully becoming a larger and stronger community. In order to bring the WDIN vision to full fruition, we need your feedback. We need your thoughts on what tools and services you think we should develop that would help this group stay up-to-date on the latest developments in the wildlife disease arena, and hence assist in achieving the larger goal of disease management.

Outline What are we going to talk about? 1. What kinds of tools are available to find current information for your job and/or your hobbies? 2. What kinds of information are missing? - Share some ideas WDIN has 3. What kind of tools would allow the wildlife health community to better share information and thereby help each other keep up on changes and developments in the arena of wildlife disease? - Provide examples and how these can be modified for professional use

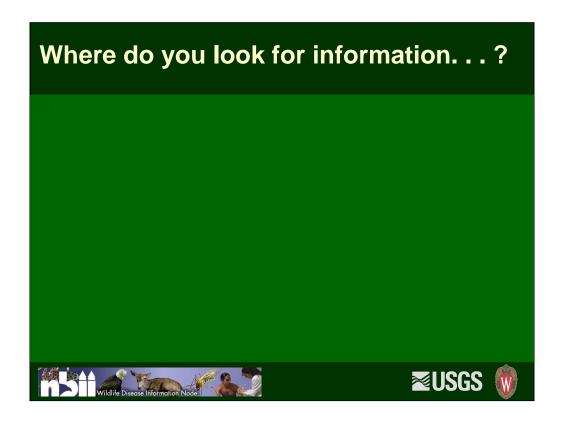
To accomplish this objective, these are the areas I am going to focus on.

First, I'll provide examples of tools people are using to find current information for their job and/ or their hobbies.

Next, we'll discuss what kinds of information are missing from the landscape of wildlife diseases. I'll provide some examples of gaps WDIN has identified to get the conversation started.

Lastly, we'll look at ways people are sharing information. I will provide some interesting and innovative examples of how people are talking and networking online and offer some ideas of how these same tools can be modified for wildlife disease work.

At the end, I'll open the session up for discussion about which of these ideas interest people and get a general consensus from the group as to which ideas WDIN should pursue further.



Where do you look to find current information for your job? How do you. . .

- Learn about new local outbreaks?
- Find out about current research?
- Hear about disease outbreaks in other states or countries?
- Find an expert?
- Learn about what other wildlife disease organizations are up to?

These questions are just to get you thinking about the tools you use in your job to find information or answers. I'll review some of the more traditional methods folks use, and then I'll move onto discussing new tools that are available for finding and sharing information both at home and at work.



Newsletters



Journal articles

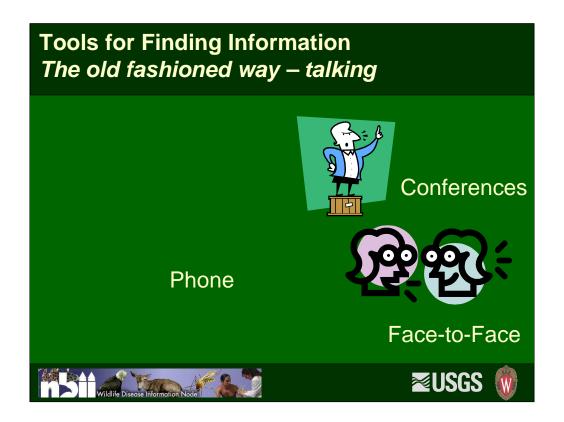


There is, of course, the big one, Google. But, there are other search engines out there. For example, Scirus, which is for scientific information only. You can specify if you are interested in finding a journal article or website or both.

Ask.com provides suggestions on how to narrow or broaden your search. You can also preview a snapshot of a website homepage before you go to it, and it gives you matches on different formats - images, news and videos.



Listservs - you can find a listserv on almost any topic, including wildlife health.

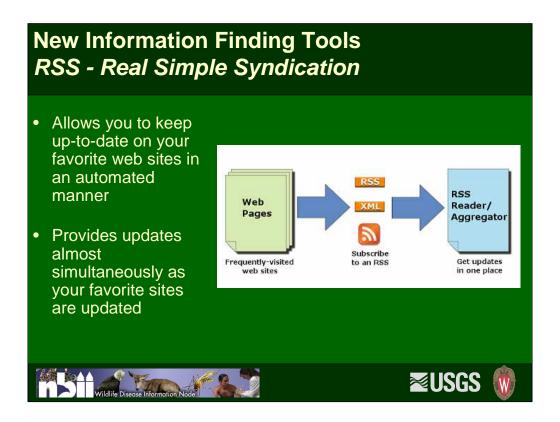


And of course you can actually talk to someone. Yes, this still works even in today's world of computers and the internet.



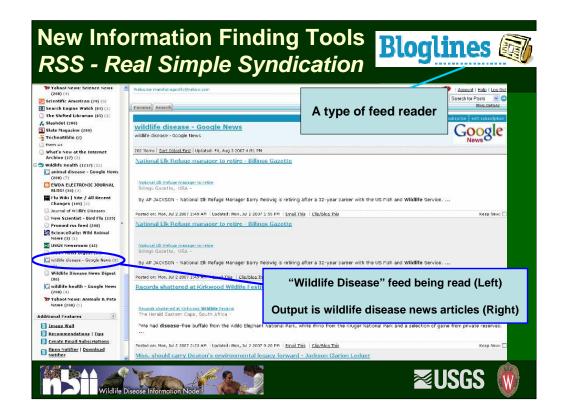
So now on to the fun, techie tools, all of which are part of a push to transform the Internet into a more interactive place. Back in the days before the Internet, people used to organize get-togethers in order to socialize with those who shared similar interests, like quilting parties, book clubs, and church socials. Of course people still do this, but it seems like organizing group gatherings is harder today because everyone is so busy with work and family.

The Internet has helped some to overcome this by providing virtual meeting grounds where people can connect anywhere at anytime by providing social networking tools. You have probably heard of some of these tools: blogs, wikis, RSS feeds, podcasts, forums and so on. These social networking tools play an important part in transforming the Internet into the next version of itself: Web 2.0. The web is in the process of moving past just being a collection of websites, or isolated information silos, to a genuine place of social interaction and exchange. In some areas of interest, these tools have already greatly improved the efficiency of and ability to support the sharing of information and knowledge in a timely manner.



One new, fun tool out there is RSS feeds. RSS stands for Real Simple Syndication. Developers format information so that it can be streamed into the Internet. You can subscribe to these streams of information by using a feed reader or news feed aggregator.

In using this application, you don't have to go and check your favorite sites manually, all the content from each site can be pulled into one location. It is like building your own newspaper out of your favorite sites. Anytime your favorite site is updated, your feed reader is simultaneously updated, and you will see this new content next time you visit your feed reader website.

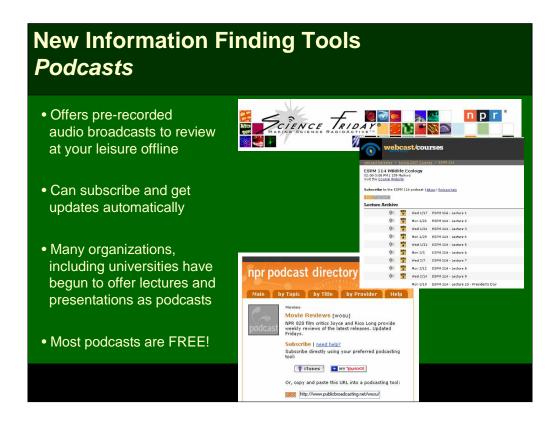


There are a number of feed readers online. I use Bloglines. I have over 50 news sites that I check regularly to stay current on wildlife disease issues, library news, movies, science in general, and Internet developments. Each feed I check on the left provides a brief list of updates from that site source on the right.



Many sites, including the Wildlife Disease Information Node, offer RSS feeds from their site. As you surf the web, look for the RSS symbols. If one is present, the site offers some kind of the RSS feed to its content.

Here is an example of the many different kinds of websites that offer RSS feeds.



Whether you have a iPod or not, you can get information through podcasts. These audio broadcasts can be downloaded directly to an iPod, or any MP3 player, or you can just listen to them on your computer at your leisure. There are podcasts on almost any topic you can think of. Like RSS feeds, you can subscribe to them and get the latest broadcasts automatically.

Many universities are making their lectures available through podcasts, such as UC Berkeley. Here is a class on Wildlife Ecology. Conference proceedings are also being made available in a podcast format.



Blogs are a fun way to find the latest news or what people are talking about.

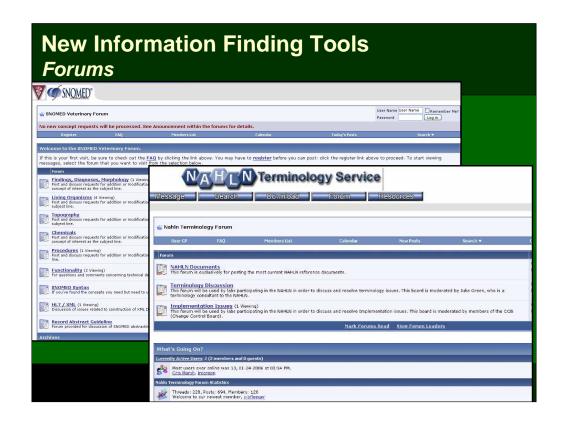
For example before seeing a movie you can check out what moviegoers are saying about a particular movie. Here bloggers gave Winged Migration a thumbs up.

Blog can also be used to bring news about specific topics together into one place. There are a number of science blogs that harvest daily science news. The example used here, Science Blog, brings together content from over 60 science blogs and organizes them by topic.

WDIN puts out the Wildlife Disease News Digest which is a blog. Almost daily, wildlife disease news that is making the headlines is brought together in one place, posted to our blog.

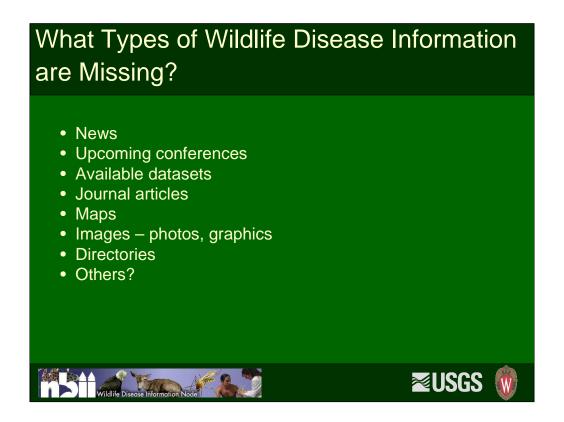


Web forums are another way to find information, they are also known as message boards, bulletin boards or electronic discussion groups. Members use this tool to talk about various topics. The discussions are organized chronologically and archived.



Forums can be used by professional groups when working on projects to gather members' thoughts and opinions, and to document discussions and decisions. Here are two veterinary organizations that are using forums to develop standards for veterinary databases. SNOMED - Systematized NOmenclature of MEDicine - is a standardized vocabulary system for medical and veterinary record databases.

NAHLN - National Animal Health Laboratory Network — is an organization working on standards for electronic messaging and coding of laboratory diagnostic data for both test orders and results. This allows the lab and submitting computer systems to exchange test information without having someone to manually enter the information.



Despite all the fancy information finding tools, despite the "all knowing" Google that everyone has come to rely on, what types of information do you still have trouble finding? Over the next few slides, I'll share some gaps that WDIN has identified.



WDIN thought it would helpful to have a wildlife disease expertise directory so people both in and outside the wildlife community would know who best to contact with questions or proposals. Here is an example of a layout.

Hey, Here is an Idea! An Expertise Directory

Create an online entry form with the following fields

- Name
- Mailing address
- Email
- Phone number
- Areas of expertise
- Recent publications
- Publications of note
- Research areas
- Research projects
- Education
- · Date last updated

We could create a easy online form for people to complete about themselves. It could be reviewed every year or two for accuracy. These are some of the fields we could include.



Another kind of directory we thought people would find useful is a research directory.

Hey, Here is an Idea! Research Project Directory

Searchable fields could include the following:

- Research investigators w/ contact info
- Start and end dates
- Location of research
- Abstract or description of project
- Published articles









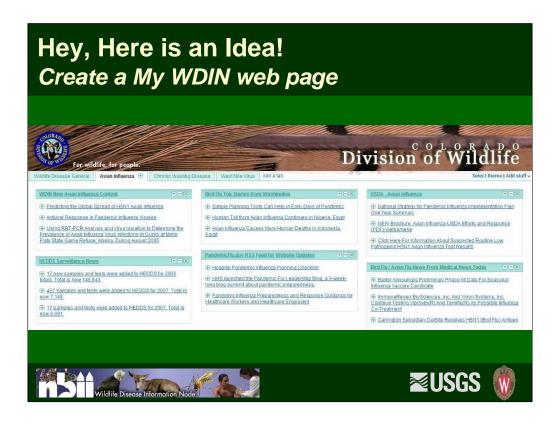
WDIN could use the iGoogle portal as an example of how we could customize the WDIN website for individual users, so they could create a My WDIN web page. Much of the content on WDIN right now is or can be converted to RSS feeds or other formats which allows the information to be streamed in and a plopped into a web page.

This iGoogle page is being filled with RSS feeds from the WDIN website. Anytime new content is added to the site, the section labeled "WDIN New Content" is updated when page refreshes or the user returns to the site. The other feeds listed here are from our Events Calendar, the Wildlife Disease News Digest and newly added Wildlife Publications.

iGoogle also allows you to select more stuff to add to your page.



We can create more wildlife health stuff that could be added to customized page. Here iGoogle provides a menu of tools and gadgets you can add to your iGoogle website. With a little tweaking, it is possible that we could allow people to add iGoogle gadgets and stuff to a My WDIN page.



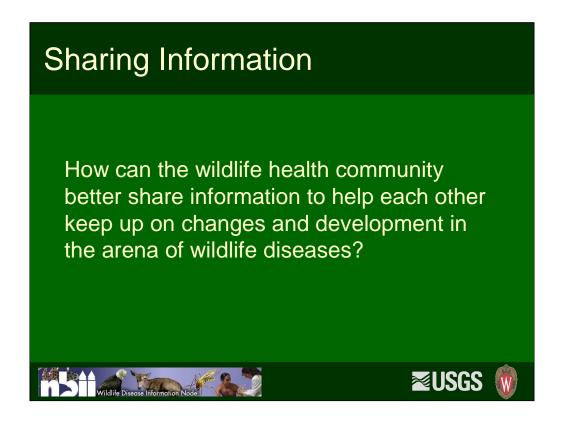
Here is an example of what a customized My WDIN page might look like for someone working for the Colorado Division of Wildlife whose research focus is avian influenza (AI). This page is set up to pull in AI RSS feeds from the WDIN site and the HEDDS system. There are also news feeds being pulled in from other sources, Top bird flu stories from Washington, USDA AI updates, feeds from Pandemic Flu and AI related medical news.

Hey, Here is an Idea! WDIN training on new web applications Organize training sessions on how to use WDIN tools/ services. (e.g. rss feeds, interactive maps, search engines) Conduct training sessions on useful web applications (e.g. how to use a forum or an online citation manager)

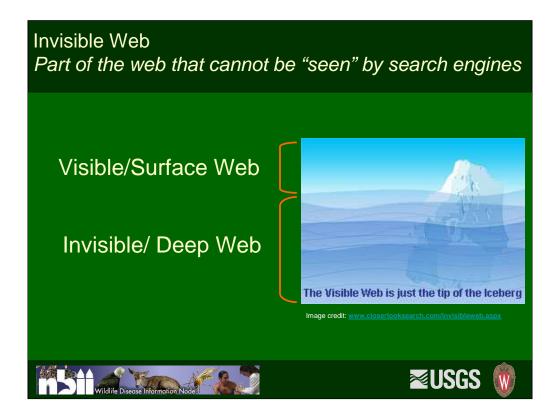
Lastly, WDIN could organize training sessions via webcasting for those interested in learning how to make use of the tools and services WDIN offers. For example, maybe a training session on how to use WDIN RSS feeds or how to make the most of WDIN's advanced search engine.

We could also offer training sessions on the many free web applications that can be very useful, such as how use a forum for a work project or how to use an online citation manager to organize your journal article collection.

These are just some of WDIN's ideas. At the end of the presentation, we'll be interested in hearing if you have some ideas of your own.



For the final part of the presentation, I am going to show you examples of ways people are sharing information. And you may be asking yourself why is WDIN so interested in getting folks to share information, especially in the workplace? It takes time and it is often cumbersome. Is it really necessary? Won't people eventually find what they are looking for on their own?



Well, actually they might not. One of the key reasons why we with WDIN are continuously jumping up and down on our soapbox about this is because of the Invisible Web. A larger portion of the web is elusive. It cannot be crawled and indexed by search engines and hence it contents remain invisible and irretrievable. A significant amount of the invisible web is information that is hidden in databases where even Google can't find it.

[1] Baker, J. 2004. Invisible web: What it is, why it exists, how to find it, and its inherent ambiguity". UC Berkeley-Teaching Library Internet Workshops. http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/InvisibleWeb.html

[2] Sullivan, D. 2000. Invisible web gets deeper. *The Search Engine Report*. Search Engine Watch

http://searchenginewatch.com/showPage.html?page=2162871

Invisible Web How much information is out there? • Invisible web = 91,000 terabytes • Surface web = 167 terabytes • Library of Congress = 11 terabytes ■ Library of Congress = 11 terabytes

One source cited by Wikipedia from a Berkeley study, titled *How much information is there?*, estimated that the deep web consists of about 91,000 <u>terabytes</u>. By contrast, the surface web, which is easily reached by search engines, is only about 167 terabytes. While the L<u>ibrary of Congress</u> for comparison contains about 11 terabytes.

Add to this the significant amount of valuable agency information that is not yet in digital form capable of web access, and I think you can see why we feel it is important that wildlife health organizations share the information they are aware of or have developed in-house, because it may not be accessible any other way.

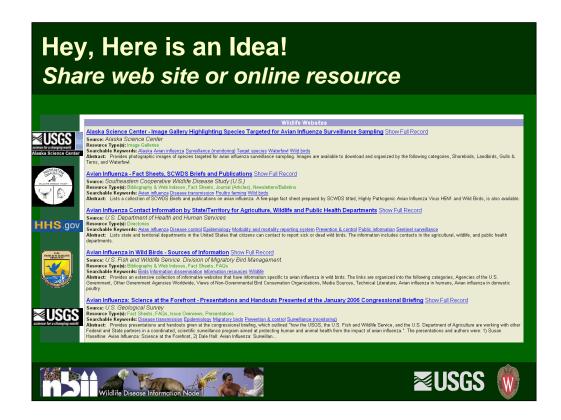
WDIN is very interested in assisting agencies in converting their resources into an electronic format, so that they can offer them to others through the Internet. This could be photos, videos, audio recording, bibliographies, or datasets.



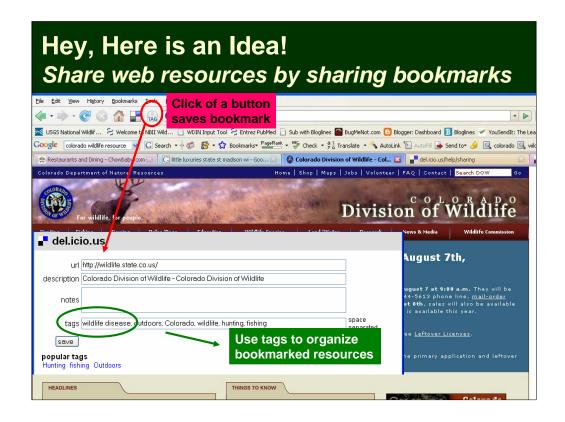
WDIN can create tools to connect people to each other and to wildlife disease content, but the challenge is continually gathering new, quality information, especially when information can be either buried deep within the Internet or confined to local systems.

To succeed we need more than just cool gadgets, we need help from the wildlife health community to contribute content in order to build a large collection of wildlife disease resources. Certainly, the amount of quality information that could be collected as a result of a shared community effort will be far superior to that collected by a couple of WDIN staff members.

To facilitate this, WDIN could create an easy to use online form that community members could use to contribute content.

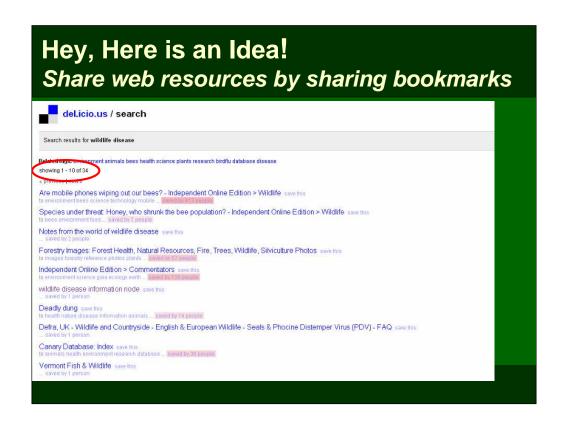


We could give credit to those organizations that suggest a resource by including their logo next to the resource.

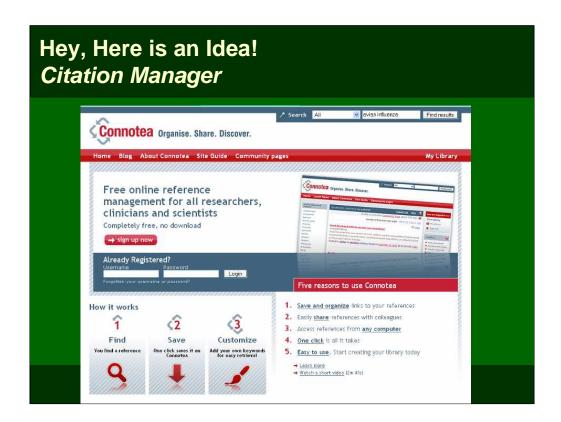


If folks don't like the idea of filling out yet other online form, we could use a bookmarking services like del.icio.us. As you come along interesting websites, journal articles, maps, images and so on, you simply click a button, here, "Tag", and tag it with keywords. The advantage to you is you have access to an organized list of your bookmarks no matter whichcomputer you are working at, and the advantage to the community is the tag like "wildlife diseases" that we all agree to use will bring together and build a collaborative repository of wildlife disease related information. Using RSS feeds, WDIN along with others, can monitor what new resources are being tagged with the term "wildlife disease". WDIN can take these resources, catalog them and make them searchable on the WDIN website.

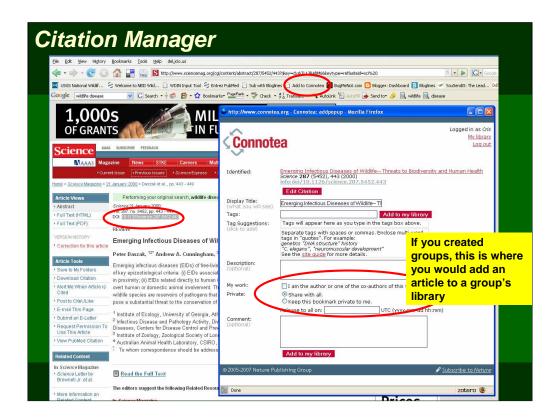
There are a number of ways to share bookmarks, including creating group accounts, building a network, or sharing bookmarks directly. There are privacy settings, so users can control which bookmarks people can see. You can hide it.



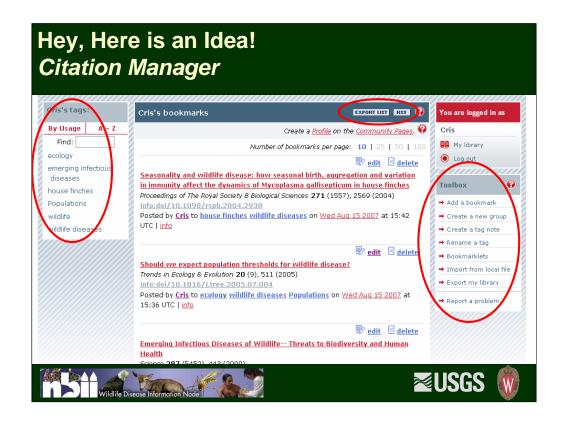
To date there are only 34 web resources users thought were worthy of tagging with the keyword "wildlife disease".



Connotea is similar to del.icio.us, but it is specifically for scientists to help them manage and share their online article references. It is a FREE service. We could use this to build searchable bibliographies on various wildlife diseases.



Like with del.ious.us, as you are on the web and come across an interesting article, you can click on the "Add to Connotea" button. Where it can, Connotea will pull the citation information in automatically, and then you can add tag terms. You can also decide if you want to share with everyone or just members of your group. You can also create groups among your colleagues and build a collection of articles together. You can have more than one group.



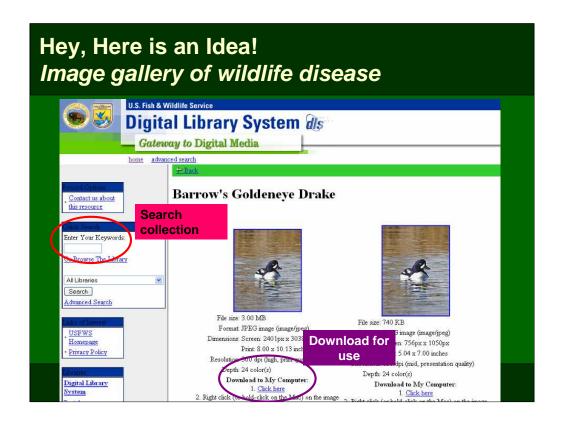
This is a screenshot of my library. You can edit and manage your tags, you can export your library, and there is a toolbox for different ways to manage your citation collection.

I am not going to go into any more detail how it works, but just wanted to point out it is another way you can organize your literature collection and share it with colleagues, and hopefully with WDIN.



People submit news items to this website, digg, and then other folks come along and rate it. The more "digg it" votes it gets, the higher up on the list the news article goes. "Bury it" votes quickly send the article to the site's catacombs. It can still be found if searched, but it will no longer be easily found by someone browsing. People can also add comments about the article or email it to a friend.

WDIN could provide something similar. This would provide the community control over what content is easily viewable and valued by your peers. With all the information you have to evaluate everyday to see if something is worth reading, wouldn't it be helpful if a group of your peers helped filter out the not-so-great-stuff and highlighted the good stuff?



Organizations are beginning to understand the importance of their image collections and have made them available online. For example, FWS service began to make their collection of photos searchable and available for download.



Flickr is one of many photo sharing services. I wanted to show you this because of the many different ways in which the photos can be organized, and also the use of tags again.



On the left shows how you can add a photo to a sub-group, which can be anything you want, by disease, species or place. A groups can be closed to the public and require an invitation. They also can have an administrator who monitors submissions to the group.

On the right shows photos being organized geographically. Here are 29 photos linked to the Bronx Zoo. And below are all my photos I have linked to this point.

If folks had photos they wanted make available via the web, WDIN would be interested in helping them. We could create tools similar to those used by Flicker to organize photo collections and make them highly searchable.

Good Ideas? Not So Good? Other Ideas? We are Listening...

- · Which ideas are of interest?
- Which ideas are of the least interest?
- What are your ideas? What tools do you already use that you really like? Can WDIN incorporate them into the web site?
- Which 3 or 4 tools/ services are worth developing (group consensus)
- Should WDIN organize training sessions?
- What incentives can WDIN set up to encourage participation? What can WDIN do to minimize participation barriers?
- Would there be restrictions to sharing content?



■USGS



I have shared some ideas of tools and services WDIN could develop borrowing concepts and functions established by social networking tools, but what I would like to learn from you in the next 20 minutes is which of these ideas, or if any of them, are worth pursuing? We can build these things, but most will be worthless if the community does not contribute to them.

