

Newsletter - June 2011

Greetings!

We are mid way through our spring road trips! It's been great to meet so many clients at the BCLA, CALL, CHLA and ACA conferences. Our Inmagic Training and Ideas sessions have been very well received - don't forget there is still time to register for the ones in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto. We will also be adding an extra session in Halifax in the fall.

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Latest Andornot Projects

Here's a snapshot of some of the projects we had the pleasure of working on in recent months.

New Westminster Archives Database Now Online

New Westminster is the oldest city in Western Canada with a long and rich [history](#). Andornot has been working with the City Archives for several years and is delighted that a search interface to selected archival records and photos is now available at <http://archives.newwestcity.ca>. "This will be the first time in our city's history that people with access to the Internet will be able to view our excellent photograph collection from either the comfort of their homes or any other location in the world," says archivist Barry Dykes. [Read the complete press release here.](#)

Behind the scenes the Archives uses [Inmagic DB/Text for SQL](#) software plus a version of the [Andornot Archives Starter Kit](#) to manage their archival descriptions. A subset of records in the database is then transferred to the public facing website outside the firewall.

"We enjoyed working with Andornot and are very pleased with the search interface they developed for us. The advice and suggestions we received along the way were essential to the completion of this project. For instance, they encouraged us to incorporate some of the latest social bookmarking tools."

[Barry Dykes]

Please [contact us](#) for more information.



New site design for RCVO@Volunteer Alberta

The collection of the Resource Center for Volunteer Organizations (RCVO) has recently come under the management of Volunteer Alberta. The resources, which focus on the volunteer and nonprofit sector, are available at <http://rcvo.org> and are hosted by Andornot. While the collection itself has not changed a great deal from under its previous management, the website interface has been completely redesigned and features a lively new look.



The site uses the [Umbraco](#) content management system to allow RCVO staff to easily add and modify site content. Andornot assisted RCVO in the selection of a website design and its development. Access to the collection is via the Inmagic WebPublisher PRO search interface, with quick and advanced search screens. A popular feature are the pages of canned searches available as Quick Subject Searches on the [quick search](#) page. An RSS feed is available on the new catalogue additions and [Google Book Covers](#) and links augment the site.

A user searching the collection can add items to a cart as well as bookmark or copy the link for each item via its [permalink](#). The RCVO collection continues to be part of the [Canadian Non-profit Library Network](#) along with [Imagine Canada](#) and [Volunteer Calgary](#) making its combined collection the largest source of materials for this sector in Canada. RCVO staff commented:

"We have long been working on a website update, and are pleased to have it available for the nonprofit/voluntary sectors. Our ability to link with Imagine Canada and Volunteer Calgary's library collections makes us an excellent hub for information relevant to the nonprofit/voluntary sector."

Fraser Health Library Launches Resource Rich Site

Fraser Health, with its 13 hospitals and 5 main and 8 smaller library locations, is one of the largest Authorities in British Columbia in terms of population served and health and medical resources collectively held. The web-interface for the library catalogue, which has been hosted by Andornot since 1999, has just been recently completely revamped.

The new site, at <http://library.fraserhealth.ca>, uses the [Umbraco](#) content management system, allowing authorized library staff from any location to quickly add and change content on the site. The new catalogue interface features quick and advanced search pages as well as an RSS feed for recent acquisitions on the [Quick Search](#) page. Fraser Health staff can search the catalogue, add selected items to an ordering cart and send in a request for delivery to their nearest hospital library location.

One of the fabulous new features of the site is the [Subject Guides](#). Fraser Health Librarian Niki Baumann coordinates this area and has moved all the information from individual BlogSpot websites. She has completely revamped the interface to this resource rich area of the website by dividing each Subject Guide topic into What's New, Journals, Books, Databases and Websites and has used the catalogue's permalink feature to link from the featured new books to the actual record in the catalogue. The pages are kept constantly up-to-date with embedded RSS feed headlines from various journal websites, with the links to the titles available directly by IP address authentication if within the hospital locations or via a user name and password from outside the hospital. These resources are now readily accessible to all Fraser Health professionals, from their offices, their homes or on the road.



During the launch of the site the library staff encouraged users to "play" with the new site and designed a series of questions requiring users to search the catalogue database in order to find the answers. Once the survey was completed, the user's name was entered into a draw for a 4GB USB Drive.

"Staff are thrilled with the new catalogue and web site. We all feel like proud parents who have collectively given birth to a beautiful new child. The catalogue includes additional special features that allow the user to search for items by format or site with ease. The site is more streamlined and cleaner, yet offers more content." comments Linda Howard, Interim Library Manager.

Andornot News

Watch our blog for announcements of our first two **discovery interfaces** coming soon! Our demonstrations at conferences and

our [Inmagic Training and Ideas Days](#) have created a lot of discussion. Register for Session 3 in Ottawa, Montreal or Toronto and find out what all the buzz is about. If you want some insight into the techie side behind the scenes, check out our [blog post on Solr and the Trend to Open Source Search](#) after the Lucene Revolution conference in San Francisco.

Andornot on the Road

Conferences

Visit us at the last of the spring conferences for a demonstration of Inmagic software, discovery interfaces, or a discussion about our products and services.

- **June 19-20, 2011**

[Association of Jewish Libraries](#)

Marriott Montréal Château Champlain, Montréal, PQ



Inmagic Training and Ideas Days

Join us for a day of Inmagic training and ideas to help you get the most out of your software and to keep your web search interface fresh and current.



Session 1: DB/TextWorks training - 9am to noon (\$125 per person)

- Refresher on basic concepts of searching, editing records and report design.
- Database design best practices and tips for optimizing your databases.
- Review of features in the latest releases and how to implement them.
- Attendees will receive a sample DB/TextWorks database illustrating the concepts to be discussed.

Session 2: Web interface design options - 1 to 3:30pm (\$125 per person)

- Easy enhancements to exported query screens (radio buttons, hidden parameters etc.).
- Topic or canned searches.
- Permalinks / Social Media links (ie. to allow users to bookmark, Tweet or Like on FaceBook etc.)
- Options for selecting records for requests or orders.
- Implementation of RSS feeds plus ways to dynamically update your web pages with brief displays of your latest records.
- Attendees will receive an Andornot utility to assist in the implementation of RSS feeds.

Session 3: Introduction to discovery interfaces - 3:45 to 5pm (no charge)

- Learn about the options for adding these exciting new web interfaces to your databases.
- Source data can be from Inmagic, or from other ILS systems, or from software such as Filemaker, Access, Excel, etc.
- One of the highlights of these systems is faceted or guided searching to allow users to narrow down their search results, ie. by record type, date range, language etc. (Think of Amazon, Home Depot etc.- most major websites with product catalogs are now using this type of interface.)

We will in these cities:

- Ottawa - June 16 - [Capital Hill Hotel & Suites](#)
- Montreal - June 21 - [Delta Centre-Ville](#) Class will be in English only
- Toronto - June 23 (New Date) - [JPR Meeting Rooms - Downtown location](#)
- Halifax - Fall 2011

Tweets of Interest

As we come across news, projects, resources and other items we think might be of interest to our clients, we tend to post a quick tweet on our [Twitter page](#), rather than a longer blog post. We've included a selection of recent tweets in this newsletter, but encourage you to follow us on Twitter or subscribe to the RSS feed of our tweets.



Schema.org: Google, Bing & Yahoo Unite To Make Search Listings Richer Through Structured Data

<http://t.co/mtYmjvV>

Designing the Samurai sword: using facets to support agile, highly-effective information management

<http://t.co/4I5b2xf>

Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About CAPTCHAs But Were Afraid To Ask <http://t.co/pWlzLdL>

Coming to a Website Near You: Google '+1' Sharing Button | Epicenter | Wired.com <http://t.co/J9r03Dj>

Rapid Capture: Faster Throughput in Digitization of Special Collections Dublin, Ohio: OCLC Research, April 2011.

<http://bit.ly/jKtQIe>

16 Smarter Ways to Use LinkedIn to Build Your Business <http://t.co/brc5ZxR> via [@copyblogger](#) - excellent overview with lots of great tips

Open Source to the Enterprise - <http://bit.ly/ix14rB> - Survey: Half Of Enterprise Software Will Be Open Source Within Five Years

Library of Congress May Begin Transitioning Away from MARC <http://t.co/brZaB7c>

Tips and Tricks

Using DB/TextWorks for Research Notes and Reference Questions

While visiting clients, we have noticed on occasion folders on hard drives and servers full of research notes and other background historical material, each in their own separate document. However logically these files and folders may be arranged and named, searching through them for a name or topic can be time consuming, but can save repeating the same research for similar requests.

However, with the Import Document function available in DB/TextWorks, it's quite easy to import the full text of these files into a textbase, to make them more easily searched.

Our [Archives Starter Kit](#) includes a Research database that is designed to allow you to track requests for information, but it can be used for indexing existing documents too, or a custom database can be developed just for this purpose. They key is to have a field for the full text and a field for the document name.

[You can read more about this idea in this blog post.](#)

Cool Tools: Screencast-o-matic

Screencast-0-matic! Not only does it have a fabulous name, it's a great tool too.

Here's the 411 on it:

- It's a screen recorder - it records the motions, clicks and actions you make on your computer, whether using software or browsing the web. It's like pointing a video camera at your screen.
- You can limit the recording to just a portion of your screen (e.g. to avoid capturing personal information).
- You can also record audio, or video from a webcam.
- You can upload the result to YouTube immediately after recording, or export it to a video file on your computer.
- It's Java-based and launches directly from the [Screencast-o-matic website](#) , so there's no software to download and install.
- It's free (though there's a Pro version that doesn't apply a logo overlay to the video).

I particularly appreciated that it didn't require a software install, just Java, and that I could upload the result to YouTube right away (though of course I wouldn't do that if the video showed anything confidential or proprietary). With just a few clicks, I can record something and send it to a client to illustrate a point, almost effortlessly. I often make screenshots, drawings and diagrams to help convey information, but sometimes a video is better.

Have any cool tools of your own that you'd like to share with other readers? [Send them to us](#) and we'll include them in an upcoming newsletter, in a [tweet](#) , or on our [blog](#).



