

# Annual Activities & Faculty Self Evaluation

(clickable links to projects, papers and research included)

**Name:** Ray Uzwyshyn

**Position Title:** Head, Digital and Learning Technology

**Rank:** Associate University Librarian

**Department:** Digital and Learning Technology

**Supervisors:** Lisandra Carmichael/Helen Wigersma

**Period:** July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

## Professional Activities/Academic Support

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### July 2009 – June 2010 (UWF Libraries)

New Library [Web Presence](#) (September 2009, CSS, Templates, Cold Fusion Infrastructure)  
LMS System Upgrade with FCLA, Aleph v.19 (August 2009)  
[Books and Bytes](#): University of West Florida Libraries Weblog: (2009-2010, 25 articles)  
[SATELITE: A Statistical Analytic Toolkit for Endeca and Library Information Technology Environments, Summary](#) 2007-2009 (Completed)  
[Skylab Grant](#) and [Skylab Technology Manager Position](#)  
[Metalib](#) and [SFX](#) Technical Responsibility (Expanded)  
Libraries Websites, Webmaster (New & Expanded)

This was a productive and creative year for the advancement of the libraries' information infrastructure and growth of the Department of Digital and Learning Technologies. A range of digital and online products and services were implemented and previous seeds for a digital and learning technology infrastructure found fertile ground through the Skylab project.

In the fall of 2009 a new [web redesign](#) was developed and launched for the libraries' web presence including new css sheets, university congruent templates and a Coldfusion infrastructure. On the backend, a system-wide upgrade of the UWF Library Management System (Aleph v.19) was also facilitated. This occurred smoothly and without major challenges.

2009-2010 also saw the previously set up library weblog, [Books and Bytes](#), flourish. A range of twenty-five weblog articles was marked-up, edited and published for the UWF Libraries' weblog. This included setting up wider connections with other social media

applications (Facebook, Twitter) and active participation from library departments and branch libraries. I was also approached by university IT and the Chair of the Dept. of Public Health to consult on setting up other university weblog infrastructures. The libraries' weblog is regarded as the university 'best practice' model for these new technological methodologies.

At the end of 2009, a second major stage of a larger project involving gathering statistics and datalogs for the new library catalog, Endeca, was completed. This resulted in a two year organized statistical set and online application "[SATELITE](#): A Statistical Analytic Toolkit for Endeca and Library Information Technology Environments". This was an interesting project in data analysis and may be revisited in the future as system configurations present new possibilities.

January 2010 began with putting together a [grant application](#) from several disparate areas of the libraries for a system-wide application involving a larger information literacy classroom, multimedia studio and media conversion center. The libraries' application resulted in the successful 168,000.00 dollar university award for the Skylab, a university libraries' student technology initiative. Following this, the next four months of 2010 were spent planning and advancing the Skylab's fifth floor infrastructure. The technology components have been accomplished with relative facility. Whitepapers for various components had been set in previous years (2007-2009). As of July 1, 2010, Skylab technology hardware and software was specified, ordered and in transit. A new Skylab technology manager's position was also envisioned and [position description](#) created. This went through the approval process and a search committee formed. The new Skylab infrastructure will launch sometime in the fall of 2010.

With the departure of the Library Web Developer (Fall, 2009), I assumed day to day library front-end web responsibilities for the libraries [web services](#) and sites ranging from daily site maintenance to the development of online forms, new website sections and servicing all departmental and branch library requests. With the departure of the Electronic Resources/Serials Librarian, I assumed backend technical duties related to [SFX](#), our electronic journal link resolver and journal aggregator. Responding to the interim dean's request, I also took over administrative technological duties relating to [Metalib](#), our federated search engine. Immediately after assuming these newly transferred responsibilities, I worked with the Department of Reference to conduct a system-wide overhaul of the Metalib application to update and correctly reflect holdings. This made for a busy but productive year punctuated by shepherding various system upgrades ([Illiad v.8](#), Aleph v.19), facilitating email transitions (Gmail migration) and taking over EZProxy server duties associated with Metalib (database) and SFX (e-journal) permissions and maintenance.

**Rating: Excellent**

## Research and Creative Activities:

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"[Envisioning the Skylab: The New University of West Florida Libraries 21st Century Learning Space](#)" (Panel Presentation). For [Academic Learning Spaces Conference: Invention, \(Re\)Invention and Innovation](#), June 7&8, 2010, Florida State University. ([PDF](#)), [Books & Bytes Article](#).

"Semi-Structured and Unstructured Information Systems: Information Visualization" (Book chapter) forthcoming in *Introduction to Information Science and Technology*, Medford: ITI Publishers, 2010.

[An Arbitrage Opportunity for Image Search and Retrieval](#). Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science and Technology: Special Issue on Visual Representation & Search and Retrieval). June/July 2009. 35:5. ISSN: 1550-8366.

Visualizing Higher Mathematics, Digital Videos 2010 ([The Poincaré Conjecture](#), [The Riemann Hypothesis](#))

Medical Digital Library Visualization, [Pulmonary Pathology Prototype](#) (CoolIris/Flickr Web 2.0 API Mashup).

Various library-oriented technology workshops, webinars and teleconferences were planned for UWF libraries' faculty and staff throughout the year ranging from a group of webinars related to copyright in the digital age to SATELITE as a statistical tool to an ongoing series of webinars on mobile web technologies to educate the wider faculty and staff on current trends. Through online workshops, strategic synergies for Library/University IT collaboration were also explored as were pathways to new information discovery tools (PrimoCentral) to begin to engender wider conversations. A series of ongoing workshops was also hosted on new metadata standards and access possibilities involving FRBR, FRAD and the new Resource Description and Access metadata standard (RDA). I was also able to attend two local PLAN technology-focused workshops, one on social networking applications and another on Open Source possibilities for Libraries. Following this, the libraries adopted many of these applications including Facebook and Twitter and wider integrative open source software possibilities for our information commons patron machines.

During this period, two publications I authored went to press - a textbook chapter on semi-structured and unstructured information systems and an article on new possibilities for digital libraries. Both of these documents resulted in further collaborations. In December 2009, the [thematically focused bulletin](#) of which the article was a part, received the SIG Publication of the Year Award by the American Society of Information Science and Technology. My proscriptive article also later led to an invitation by a pulmonary pathologist to explore a few of the digital library ideas here in a more pragmatic manner. This resulted in a CoolIris/Flickr API mashup [digital library prototype](#) surrounding medical visualization.

Digital and learning technology possibilities were also explored with regards to Florida and higher education's new thrust towards the [STEM disciplines](#) (Science Engineering Technology and Math). This work largely followed and complemented a past year's [HASTAC](#) (Humanities, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory) forum on the

future of the humanities. Here, it was suggested that ideas from information visualization should be explored with regards to new student learning methodologies and the STEM disciplines. In this regard, a set of digital videos were developed focusing on visualizing concepts of higher mathematics (i.e. [Poincaré Conjecture](#), [Riemann Hypothesis](#)). These videos have found a sustained audience from the higher Ed mathematics community, now in excess of more than 50,000 combined views, YouTube.

In May, an academic [panel proposal](#) was submitted for a refereed call for a conference on Academic Learning Spaces: Invention, (Re)Invention and Innovation at Florida State University, June 8, 2010. This was accepted and I presented along with Interim Dean, Lisandra Carmichael, and Director of the Curriculum Materials Library, Jeannie Kamerman, on the theory and pragmatic realization of the Skylab project. My presentation focused on [spatial design and academic learning spaces](#) through the upcoming John C. Pace fifth floor Skylab Information Literacy Classroom, Multimedia Studio and Media Conversion Center. The panel was very well received.

**Rating: Distinguished**

**Service:**

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**UWF, State and National Committees 2009 -2010 and Service**

ECDC. Electronic Resources Development/Collection Development Committee  
LMT/DAG. Director's Advisory Group/Library Management Team  
UWF Libraries Automation Group (Chair)  
UWF Libraries Faculty Advisory Council  
UWF Web Advisory Committee/ Library Website Committee  
State Metadata Subcommittee  
Florida State Digital Initiatives Subcommittee (DISC)  
State University System LMS Technology Coordinators Group(Aleph 19, Endeca)  
Azalea Trace Seniors Professional Group Presentation UWF Libraries Digital Resources (2009)  
Skylab Planning and Implementation Committee (Chair)  
2010 [Haitian Earthquake Relief Digital Videos](#), [Batey Relief Alliance](#)  
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, [Access to Learning Technology Awards](#) Review Committee

I served, as a member, on several committees this year on library, university, state, national and international levels. Library and university-wide, I served on the Electronic Resources/Collection Development Committee, Director's Advisory Group/Library Management Team, Library Automation Group (Chair), Library Faculty Council and Library Web Committee. During 2009, I also served on the first part of a cataloging department head search. For the spring and summer of 2010 a significant part was devoted to the Skylab technology planning and implementation committee.

On local Pensacola community outreach levels, I volunteered again for the library book sale (Festival on the Green) and participated in a presentation for the Azalea Trace

Seniors Professional Group on [UWF Libraries Digital Resources](#) with the Head of Library Special Collections and Head of Reference. On university levels, I worked with university development and the past dean to make the libraries a part of the University online giving presence. Through 2009-2010, I also took weekly shifts on the library's information commons reference desk to keep current on the needs and technical challenges of our patrons in this highly connected area of the libraries.

On Florida state levels, I continued to serve on the State Universities' Metadata Subcommittee and Library Management Systems Aleph 19 Technology Coordinators Group which successfully transitioned to the next version of the LMS (v.19 upgrade). I also took a new role on the state Digital Initiatives Subcommittee (DISC) in 2010. For DISC, I coordinated UWF's part of a larger state-wide review and white paper on the status of Florida's SUS Digital Initiatives Infrastructure. The larger report was presented to the CSUL directors group in January 2010. Currently, I also serve as the FCLA/UWF liaison for Primo Central beta testing, a new information discovery tool currently being tested with FCLA and UWF libraries for the state.

On national levels, I was invited to sit on a review panel for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation [Access to Global Learning Technology](#) Awards. The review process allowed me to gain valuable knowledge on the state of global libraries, information centers and learning technologies. I was privileged to witness global challenges of access to information and gained insight into 'best practice' possibilities of internet communication technologies for various geopolitical regions of our wider global village.

On international service levels and immediately following the Haitian Earthquake of 2010, I was asked to produce a series of digital videos on the aftermath of the [Haitian Earthquake](#) and international response for the [Batey Relief Alliance](#), a Caribbean basin medical/humanitarian aid organization for which I have volunteered technologically for [the past twelve years](#). Recent online infrastructure support helped the organization in its humanitarian/medical efforts to garner a larger 2.5 million dollar [USDA/USAID donor grant](#) for 2009-2012. The informational videos and previous digital infrastructure set-up are the main informational point of contact and primary medical recruitment tool in the organization's humanitarian/medical mission for the wider Caribbean.

**Rating: Distinguished**

**I evaluate my overall performance as: Distinguished**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_