



SPRING 2010

Seasonal highlights to keep ipl2 Deans and Fellows informed of
ipl2 news and service activities.

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ipl2 Launched: Merger between IPL and the Librarians' Internet Index

On January 4, 2010, the merger between the IPL and the Librarians' Internet Index was finally completed with the official launch of **ipl2: Information You Can Trust**.



As the result of 18 months of research, testing and evaluation by the IPL-LII transition team, the site continues to offer the same trusted resources and services that have defined the IPL over the last 15 years, but with several enhancements designed to give users greater access to the information they need, when they need it. These enhancements include:

- A redesigned homepage that provides easier navigation to the most popular content on ipl2 (as shown by the screenshot below).



- A new monthly newsletter called *The Link*. Written by ipl2 students and volunteers, *The Link* highlights new resources on ipl2 and provides timely information about current events. *The Link* can be accessed at <http://theipl.wordpress.com/the-link/> and is also available via RSS.
- A new combined database of IPL and LII trusted resources based on Fedora Commons, the open source digital repository software, and enhanced with Dublin Core metadata.
- Improved search functionality using Lucene, the popular open source search engine library.

The ipl2 team plans to continue evaluating, testing, and adding new features to the site on a continual basis in the coming months and years ahead.

The ipl2 team was led by Dr. Eileen Abels, Dr. Xia Lin, and Dr. Mick Khoo from the *iSchool* at Drexel University, and relied on significant contributions from: Michael Galloway, Manager of ipl2 Digital Collections; Jennifer English, LII Project Liaison; Joe Adair, Web Services Architect, Bill Doran, Systems Analyst, John McNamara, Information Technology Manager, and Kara Howland, Graphic Designer, all from the *iSchool* at Drexel University; and Catherine Hall, Diana Kusunoki, Craig MacDonald, Robin Naughton, and Haozhen Zhao, all doctoral students at the *iSchool* at Drexel University.

Celebrating the IPL's 15th Anniversary: The ipl2 Institute, March 15-16

On March 17, 2010, ipl2 (formerly the Internet Public Library) celebrated 15 years of innovation, service, and research. In conjunction with this event, The *iSchool* at Drexel hosted the ***Institute on the Future of Reference and its Impact on Library and Information Science Education*** on March 15-16, 2010. The institute was part of the IMLS grant *Transforming the IPL into a Virtual Learning Laboratory*. Faculty, students and staff from Drexel University, Florida State University, The University of Washington, The University of Illinois, The University of North Carolina, Syracuse University, and the Free Library of Philadelphia participated in the institute.

Additionally, in honor of this moment in ipl2's history, two special open sessions were held, featuring presentations by Dr.'s **Mick Khoo** (Drexel University), **Joyce Valenza** (Springfield Township High School), **Joe Janes** (University of Washington), **Lorri Mon** (Florida State University), **Steven Bell** (Temple University), and **David Lankes** (Syracuse University). These presentations were streamed live on video, with information also reported live on the ipl2 blog, Second Life, and Twitter. To view the presentations please visit: http://www.ipl.org/div/about/ipl2institute/index.html#present_vids

A special thanks to Dr. Lorri Mon and Amelia Gibson from Florida State University for broadcasting the sessions on Second Life; Alison Miller from ipl2 for tweeting about the sessions; Mike Galloway from ipl2 for managing the live chat; Lily Rozaklis from Drexel University for live-blogging; and Colin Saunders and Matt Ruth from Drexel for providing live video and technical assistance throughout the sessions.

Highlights on Teaching with the ipl2

Ask an ipl2 Librarian Digital Reference Service

Eighteen instructors from 11 institutions will teach 21 classes during the Winter/Spring 2010 terms incorporating the *Ask an ipl2 Librarian* email reference service. The institutions include: Drexel University, Florida State University, Pratt Institute, Rutgers University, St. John's University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Maryland, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Pittsburgh, University of Washington, and University of Western Ontario.

Student Interns

Interns are LIS students selected through an application process. Over the last three terms, ipl2 has selected student interns from the following ipl2 consortium members: Drexel University, Florida State University, University of Washington, and University of Pittsburgh. Interns work on a number of projects supporting ipl2, including metadata quality assurance, evaluating resources, answering Rescue Reference questions, and public relations and marketing.

To view the accomplishments of student interns who assisted with digital collections and reference during Summer 2009, Fall 2009, and Winter 2010 terms, please visit <http://ipl.org/div/about/interns/>.

The “IPL 15 Things” Technology Initiative

In honor of the IPL’s 15th birthday on March 17, 2010, we launched the IPL 15 Things – introducing 15 of our favorite technologies: blogs, microblogging, wikis, virtual worlds, podcasts, videos, SMS text messaging, social bookmarking/tagging, RSS, document sharing, forums and web boards, reading, awareness tools, and images/photos. For each of these technologies, we provide background information, best practices, related readings, and most importantly, hands-on exercises.



The first and last of the IPL 15 Things were released on September 8th and March 17th, respectively. To participate and/or share this experience with students, please visit <http://www.ipl.org/15things>.

The IPL 15 Things was hosted by Florida State University and led by Dr. Lorri Mon. Special thanks to Bruce Godbout and Robert Vandagriff from FSU, Alison Miller from ipl2, Craig MacDonald from Drexel University, and students from Drexel’s Fall 2009 INFO740: Digital Reference Services course.

Staff Announcements

Beginning January 4, 2010, Alison Miller transitioned to Manager, ipl2 Reference Services. Alison has been involved with the ipl2 since it came to Drexel University in 2007, and was a student in one of the first classes at Drexel and continued on as a volunteer and intern. From there, Alison was hired as the Researcher in Distance Education with the Florida State University. Alison is currently pursuing her Doctorate of Professional Studies in Information Management at Syracuse University, School of Information Studies.

Beginning April 5, 2010, Jennifer Lau Bond joined ipl2 as the Researcher in Distance Education with Florida State University. Jennifer has previous experience with ipl2 as the User Services Coordinator, while the Internet Public Library was managed by the University of Michigan. Jennifer was previously a Reference/Instruction Librarian and Distance Learning Specialist at Roosevelt University.