

→ **Fast Facts**

→ **Citizen journalism**

While the concept of citizen journalism is not new, your library can become a hub for the activity. Your library community can play an active role in the process of collecting, reporting, analyzing, and disseminating news and information to the world. Ideas include promoting the use of blogs and other social software on your library Web site, developing programming to expose your local community to the world of participatory journalism, hosting a blog that can aggregate different citizen journalist voices from within your local area, and helping to build an online community with roots in your library.

Kenton Good, "The rise of the citizen journalist," *Feliciter* 2006, Vol. 52 Issue 2, 69-71

→ **Academic libraries**

Of the 3,700 academic libraries in the United States, 218 held more than 1 million volumes each in 2004, the latest year for which aggregate figures are available. The total holdings of all academic libraries tops 983 million. During FY2004, there were more than 155 million circulation transactions and 73 million reference transactions. About one half of all library expenditures were spent on salaries and wages.

B. Holton, K. Vaden, and P. O'Shea P (2006). *Academic Libraries: 2004*. (NCES 2007-301). U.S. Department of Education, Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Statistics. nces.ed.gov/pubs2007/2007301.pdf, Dec 10, 2006.

→ **Most popular blogs**

According to Technorati, a Web site that claims to track 62.5 million blogs, the top five most linked-to blogs are MySinablog (Chinese-language popular culture), Engadget (gadget news), Boing Boing (geeky culture), Gizmodo (gadget guide), and Xu Jinglei (another Chinese-language popular culture blog). Close behind is The Huffington Post. Technorati offers a list of the Top 100 blogs as measured by unique links in the last six months.

Technorati, Inc., "Popular blogs," technorati.com/pop/blogs/, Dec 12, 2006.

→ **MySpace**

For the first time, more than half the visitors to Myspace, a social networking Web site, are now over 35 years old. Last year only about 39 percent were older than 35. In November 2006, MySpace recorded 38.7 billion page views, surpassing Yahoo (at 38.1 billion) for the first time. Yahoo continues to have the largest audience with 130 million unique visitors in November 2006.

comScore Networks, Inc., "More than half of MySpace visitors are now age 35 or older, as the site's demographic composition continues to shift," www.comscore.com/press/release.asp?press=1019, Oct. 5, 2006, and Anick Jesdanun, "ComScore: Myspace tops in November page views, beating Yahoo for first time," Associated Press, December 13, 2006.

→ **Swivel**

Swivel.com describes itself as "Youtube for data." The site allows users to upload data and display it to other users visually. Users can then compare their data to other data sets on the site, combining and suggesting possible correlations.

Swivel.com. December 10, 2006

Gary Pattillo is reference librarian at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, e-mail: pattillo@refstaff.lib.unc.edu