



Virtual Dave Lankes

Presentation

<http://www.DavidLankes.org>

TITLE: Can Librarians Afford the Cutting Edge?

AUTHOR(s): R. David Lankes

PUBLICATION TYPE: Presentation

DATE: 2003

VENUE: Keynote Polaris Users Group, Syracuse, NY.

ABSTRACT: A discussion of digital reference and a call for more software development in the library world.

KEYWORDS: virtual reference, open source, catalogs, innovation

Can Librarians Afford the Cutting Edge?

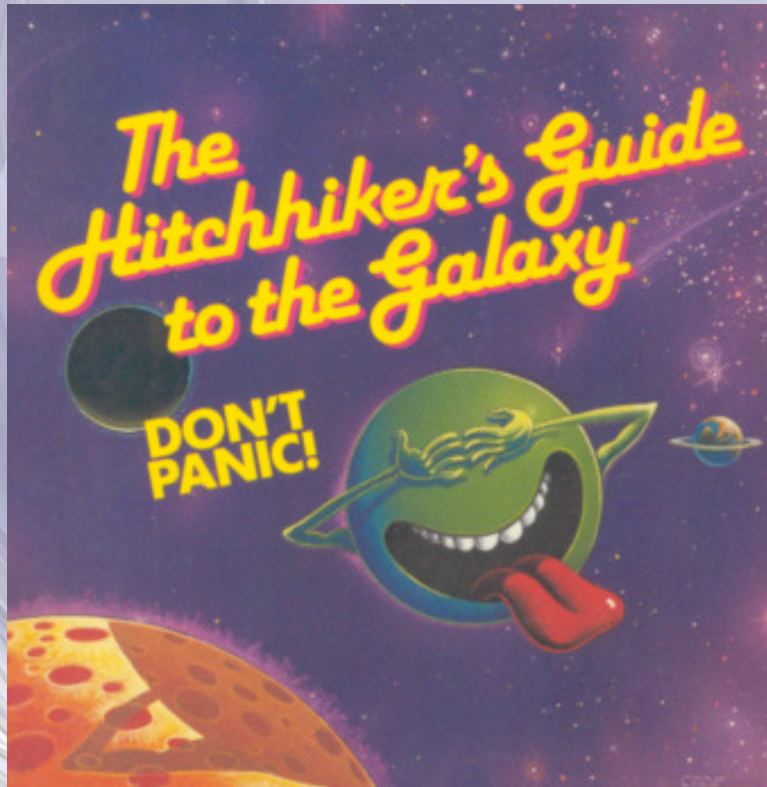
R. David Lankes

Information Institute of
Syracuse

<http://www.DavidLankes.org>

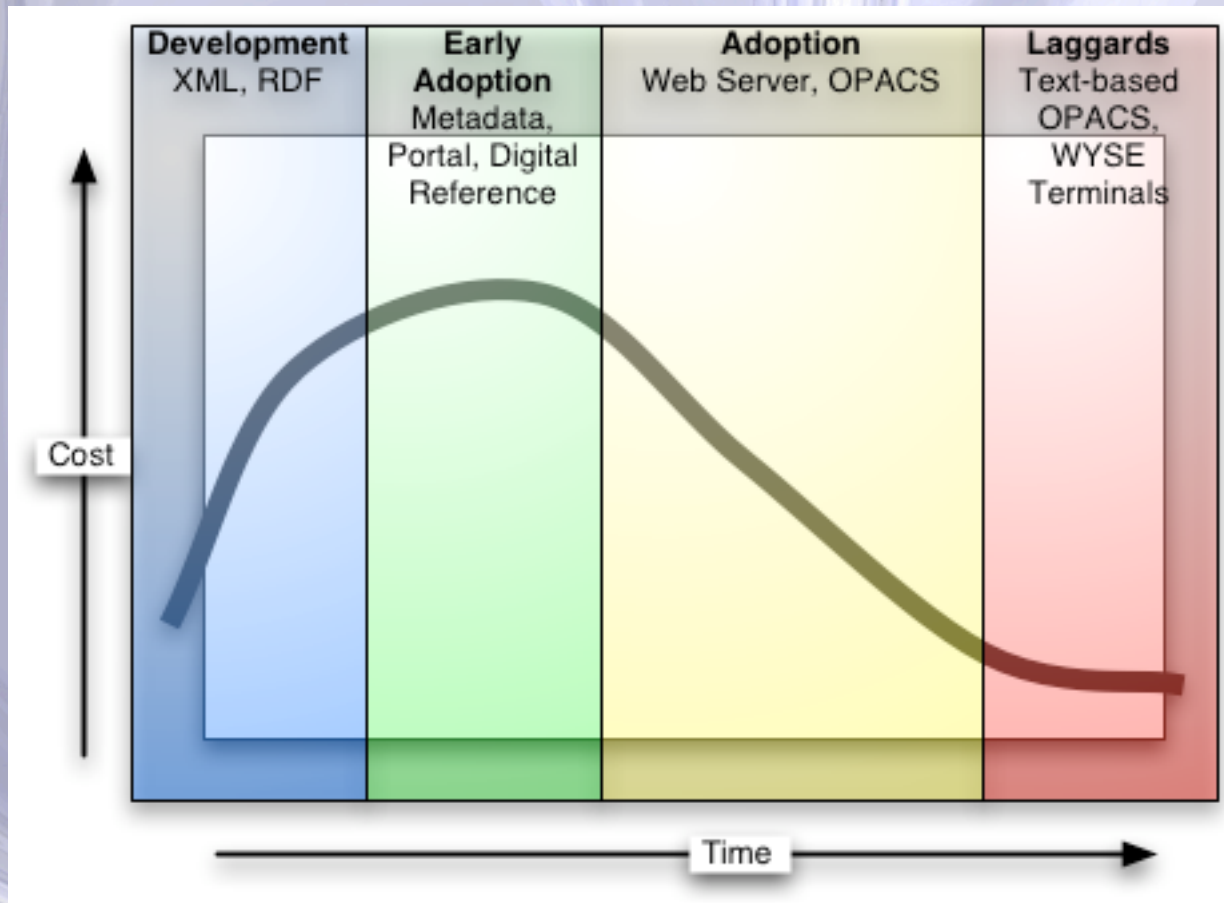


Don't Panic



- Technology and Standards are Learned Languages...
 - just Like French...
 - or MARC
- Technology (Internet/ Software) is the Price of Respect

Buying on the curve



Technology Adoption in Libraries

- The Library field is not always well-served by vendors from other communities
 - OPACs and Databases
 - Digital Reference and Help Desks
- Cutting Edge Open Standards
 - Dublin Core, NISO AZ, OAI

Build Versus Buy

- The More you Pay, the Less Reliable the Software
 - Remedy, PeopleSoft
 - The “Consultant Class”
 - Sybase, Oracle
- Cost of Software versus Salary

Build Versus Buy



COMPUTERWORLD 14th Annual Salary Survey

STAFF AND ENTRY LEVEL (PAGE 1)

Network administrator	E-commerce network administrator	Information security specialist	Senior systems analyst	Systems analyst/administrator	Senior systems programmer	Senior programmer	Senior programmer/analyst
Average salary: \$52,735 Bonus: \$4,277 Total: \$57,012	Average salary: \$58,741 Bonus: \$5,446 Total: \$64,187	Average salary: \$62,013 Bonus: \$4,268 Total: \$66,281	Average salary: \$63,711 Bonus: \$5,362 Total: \$69,073	Average salary: \$57,766 Bonus: \$5,194 Total: \$62,960	Average salary: \$63,732 Bonus: \$5,293 Total: \$69,025	Average salary: \$54,383 Bonus: \$5,039 Total: \$59,422	Average salary: \$61,803 Bonus: \$5,049 Total: \$66,852

Build Versus Buy

- The More you Pay, the Less Reliable the Software
 - Remedy, PeopleSoft
 - The “Consultant Class”
 - Sybase, Oracle
- Cost of Software versus Salary

Open Standards (Alphabits for Adults)

- XML
 - XML Schema, XSL, XSLT DTD, XQL
- Dublin Core
- RDF
- NISO AZ, Z39.50 (ZING)



The Open Source Revolution

- “Copyleft”
- Operating Systems
 - Linux, FreeBSD (MacOS X), Windows: \$274.95
- Databases
 - MySQL, Postgress
- Content Management
 - Zope
- Office
 - OpenOffice



OpenOffice

The screenshot displays the OpenOffice 1.1 application window, which is divided into several panes. The top pane shows a spreadsheet titled "OOoFlyer11.sxw" with a table of data and a chart. The middle pane shows a presentation slide titled "Project 'Freedom' Migration to OpenOffice.org 1.1". The right pane shows a "Highlights" section with text about the software's features. The bottom pane shows a status bar with the text "TextEdit: Paragraph 2, Row 2, Column 1.03 / 4.24" and "Slide 2 / 28".

OpenOffice.org 1.1

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Window Help

/home/john/win/files/OOoFlyer1.1/OOoFlyer11.sxw

Default Luxi Sans 10.5 B i U

Paragraph Styles

Addresssee Caption

Project Freedom.sxi - OpenOffice.org 1.1

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Slide Show Window Help

Bitstream Vera Sa 20 B i U

7 6 5 4 3 2 1 1 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

Presentation X

Insert Slide...
Modify Slide Layout...
Slide Design...
Duplicate Slide
Expand Slide

Project "Freedom"
Migration to OpenOffice.org 1.1

- **Business case**
 - ✓ Massive annual license fee savings
 - ✓ Central support costs reduced
 - ✓ Minimal migration cost
 - ✓ Reduced storage/archiving
 - ✓ Enable migration to thin client computing
 - ✓ Extend life of existing desktops 'indefinitely'

5 year savings

1000
750
500
250
0

Yr 1 Yr 2 Yr 3 Yr 4 Yr 5

Server's
Clients
Support
Licenses

Highlights

- The all-in-one office software package for beginners and power users alike.
- Available in 30 languages today and another 30 in development, including complex text languages
- Four best-in-class tools: CALC (spreadsheet);
- Runs on Microsoft Windows 95/98/2000/XP,

Page 1 / 2 Default 96% INSRT STD HYP

TextEdit: Paragraph 2, Row 2, Column 1.03 / 4.24 13.09 x 14.31 58% * Slide 2 / 28 Default

The Open Source Revolution

- “Copyleft”
- Operating Systems
 - Linux, FreeBSD (MacOS X), Windows: \$274.95
- Databases
 - MySQL, Postgress
- Content Management
 - Zope
- Office
 - Star Office



Scripting Kiddie vs Coding Hacker

- The Internet has *LOWERED* the bar on coding skills:
 - One Click Web Server
 - HTML by Falling on the Keyboard
 - Open Scripting Tools
 - PHP, JSP, JavaScript
 - Vendor Cousins
 - ASP, Cold Fusion

Advantages of Building

- Creation of Intellectual Property
 - Licensing and Revenue Generation
- Better Relationship with Existing Vendors
 - Get Paid to be a Guinea Pig
- Re-Center the Library in the Community
 - Build Partnerships in the web of information
 - County/City Offices
 - IT Departments
- Control

Disadvantages of Building

- Significant Cultural Shifts
- Increased Personnel Costs (and Disparities)
- False Starts

Some Bottom Lines

- Buy in mature markets
 - OPACS
- Build in early markets
- Adopt Technology People and Skills into Culture
 - Define librarianship as a set of technical skills
- Buy for Support, but Ensure the Support is There!
- Become Comfortable with TMTLA

So *WHY* Should Libraries be at the Cutting Edge?

- Digital Libraries Equals Empowerment
- “Research” Focus versus “Library” Focus
- “Old Style Librarians” Equivalent to “Ignore”
- NO Digital Library without a Digital Librarian!





Questions?