



*Virtual Dave Lankes*

P r e s e n t a t i o n

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**TITLE:** Reference Roundup - Integrating the Virtual Reference  
Experience: Theory and Practice

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**ABSTRACT:** Presentation on current issues and themes in digital reference and  
overview of the Virtual Reference Desk accomplishments.

**KEYWORDS:** digital reference, virtual reference, conference



# Reference Roundup

Integrating the Virtual Reference Experience:  
Theory and Practice



# Digital Reference is Pervasive

- Moving from Experiment to Core Service
- QuestionPoint in 1 Year:
  - 1,000 Libraries, 20 Countries, 24 Languages, 150,000 Reference Interactions
- 24/7 Reference 90 Participating Libraries
- Technical Standards, Assessment Tools, Training Initiative, International Conference, Research Agenda
- All in 5 years!



# Some Highlights

- “Google Meets eBay” D-Lib
  - Kenney, McGovern, Martinez, Heidig
  - <http://www.dlib.org/dlib/june03/kenney/06kenney.html>
- Send in the Standards
  - IFLA Digital Reference Guidelines (<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s36/pubs/drg03.htm>)
  - MARS Ad Hoc Committee on Virtual Reference Guidelines
  - Updates to RUSA Guidelines
- Ideological Librarians



# Initiatives: Setting the Agenda

- Quality Metrics
- Standards
  - NISO NetRef
- Research Agenda
  - ACRL Publication
  - The Global Census of Digital Reference
    - Joe Janes' Session Tuesday
  - Digital Reference Electronic Warehouse



# Say Hi to DREW

- Nearly 400,000 Digital Reference Transactions from AskERIC, Virtual Reference Desk, and others
- Expanding NISO Standards to Archiving
- Research Purposes ONLY
- Strong Security and Privacy Protection
- Open Playpen of Investigation:
  - Bibliomining
  - Knowledgebase Construction
  - Trend Analysis
  - Tool Development



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# Digital Reference Education Initiative

- Born from Last Year's Clinical Teaching Initiative
- Adaptable Collection
  - Core Competencies and Training Standards
  - Tools for Training
    - Access to Software Trials and Practice
    - Training Materials
    - Software
  - Internship and Matchmaking
- Pre-Professionals, Professionals, Para-Professionals



<http://DREI.syr.edu>

The Virtual  
ReferenceDesk presents

Digital Reference Education Initiative

advancing general reference practice & library education







# Goodbye AskERIC...

- 11 Years
- Firsts:
  - 100 Gopher Sites
  - First 100 Web Sites
  - First U.S. Department of Education Site
- Over 300,000 Digital Reference Questions Answered
- 17,648,218 Unique Visitors
- 948,441,778 Web Hits



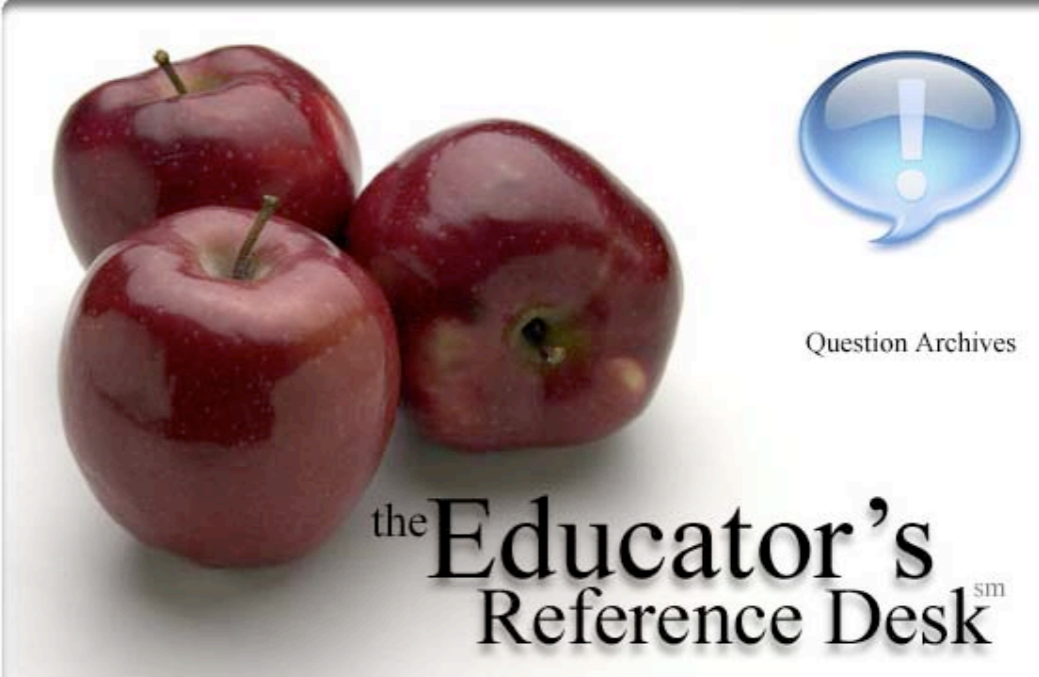


# ...Hello Educator's Reference Desk

[www.EduRef.org](http://www.EduRef.org)

- Familiar Content
  - 2,000 unique lesson plans
  - 3,000 resources on a variety of educational issues
  - The ERIC Database
- Take 11 Years of Investment and Transform it into a Showcase for the essential nature of Libraries
- Education libraries
- School Libraries
- Others
- Coming in December
- **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**


Coming December 2003



Question Archives

the Educator's Reference Desk<sup>SM</sup>

From the people who created AskERIC



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# The Digital Reference Agenda

- “The use of human intermediation to answer questions in a digital environment” - *The Digital Reference Research Agenda*
- An agenda to increase the visibility and technical knowledge of libraries while building bridges to (and respect in) the digital library and other communities
- The Time has Come to Expand that Vision to All of Reference and Libraries!



## The Expanded Agenda

We Will Be the ***CENTERS*** of our  
Communities!

We Will Improve Education!

We Will Save Libraries!



Robert Martin

- **Virtual Services for Real People:  
Building and Sustaining a Knowledge Society**

Robert Martin

Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services

