Library Science and the Ivy League

R. David Lankes
OITP Fellow • Slides: http://ptbed.org

Arm's Thought Experiment

- What is the Fundamental and Recognizable Contribution of Library Science in the Academy

Participatory Librarianship

- Knowledge is Created Through Conversation

- Libraries are in the Knowledge Business

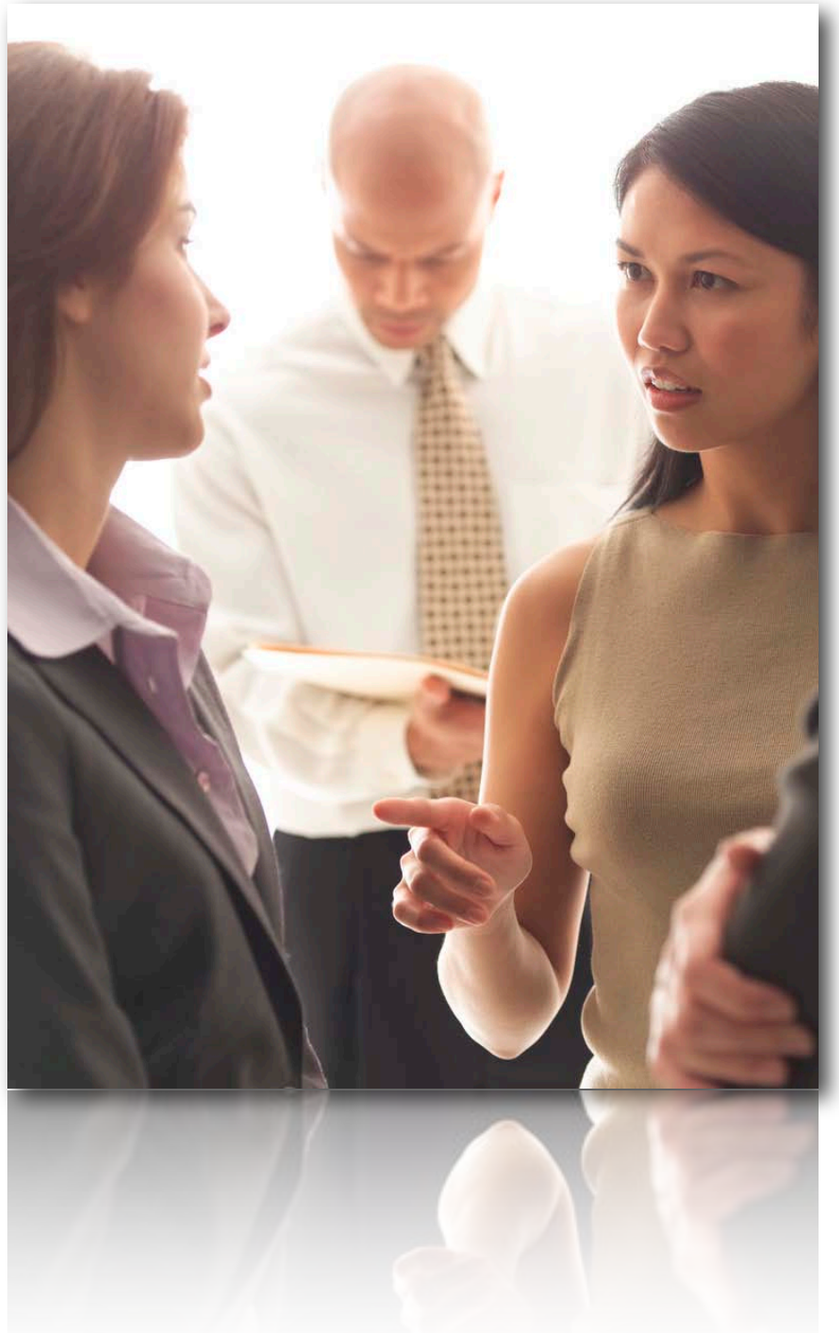
- Therefore, Libraries are in the Conversation Business

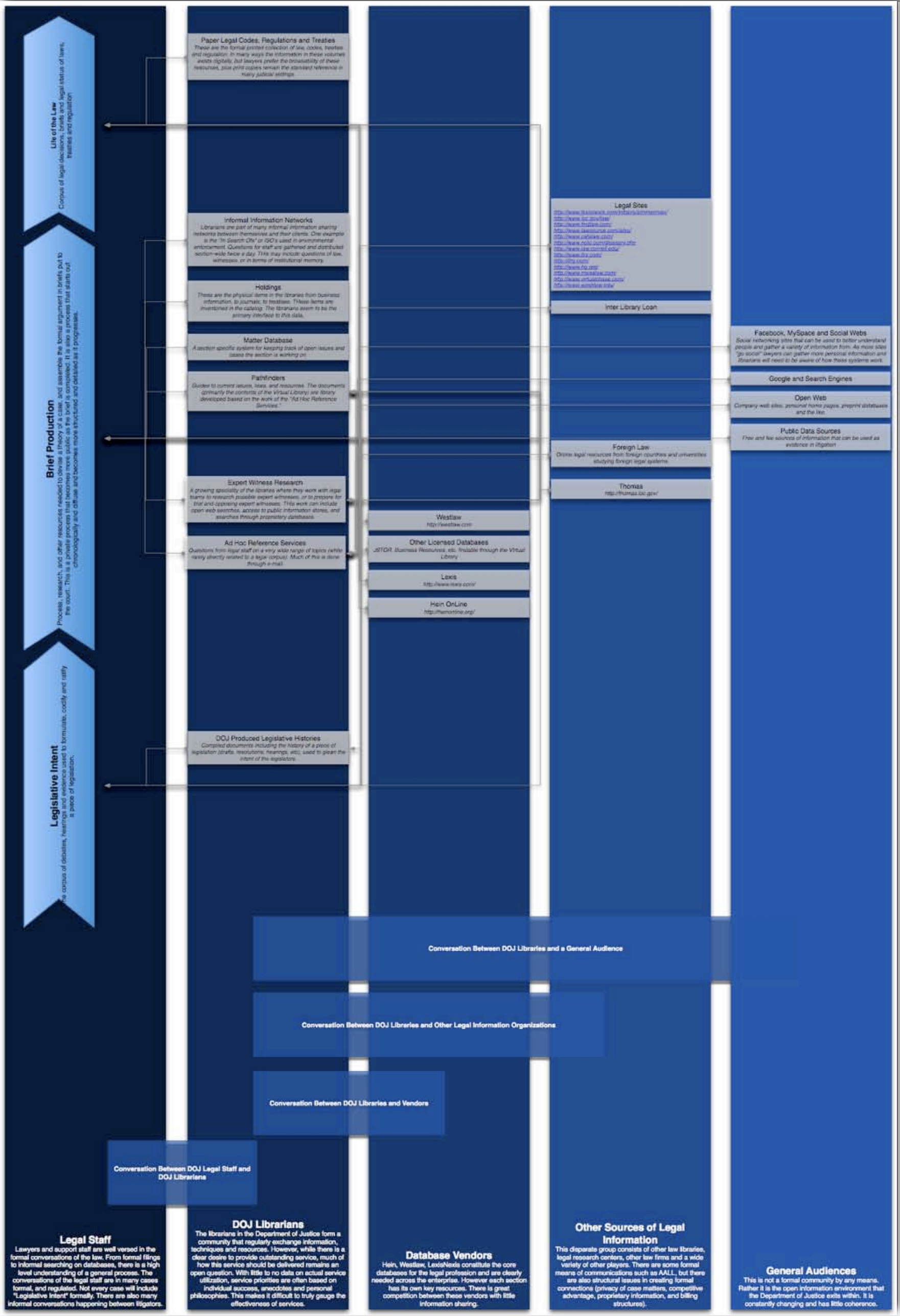
Conversation is not a Metaphor

- Conversants
- Language
- Agreements
- Entailment Mesh (Active Memory)

Conversants

- Two or More Cognitive Agents
- Paying Attention
  - Take Turns
- Over Time
  - Seconds - Millennia





Life of the Law
Corpus of legal decisions, briefs and legal status of laws, treaties and regulation
Brief Production
Process, research, and other resources needed to devise a theory of a case, and assemble the formal argument in briefs put to the court. This is a private process that becomes more public as the brief is completed. It is also a process that starts out chronologically and diffuse and becomes more structured and detailed as it progresses.
Legislative Intent
The corpus of debates, hearings and evidence used to formulate, codify and ratify a piece of legislation.
Paper Legal Codes, Regulations and Treaties
These are the formal printed collection of law, codes, treaties and regulation. In many ways the information in these volumes exists digitally, but lawyers prefer the browsability of these resources, plus print copies remain the standard reference in many judicial settings.
Informal Information Networks
Librarians are part of many informal information sharing networks between themselves and their clients. One example is the "In Search Ofs" or ISO's used in environmental enforcement. Questions for staff are gathered and distributed section-wide twice a day. This may include questions of law, witnesses, or in terms of institutional memory.
Holdings
These are the physical items in the libraries from business information, to journals, to treatises. These items are inventoried in the catalog. The librarians seem to be the primary interface to this data.
Matter Database
A section specific system for keeping track of open issues and cases the section is working on.
Pathfinders
Guides to current issues, laws, and resources. The documents (primarily the contents of the Virtual Library) are library developed based on the work of the "Ad Hoc Reference Services."
Expert Witness Research
A growing specialty of the libraries where they work with legal teams to research possible expert witnesses, or to prepare for trial and opposing expert witnesses. This work can include open web searches, access to public information stores, and searches through proprietary databases.
Ad Hoc Reference Services
Questions from legal staff on a very wide range of topics (while rarely directly related to a legal corpus). Much of this is done through e-mail.
DOJ Produced Legislative Histories
Compiled documents including the history of a piece of legislation (drafts, resolutions, hearings, etc), used to glean the intent of the legislators.
Westlaw
http://westlaw.com/
Other Licensed Databases
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Lexis
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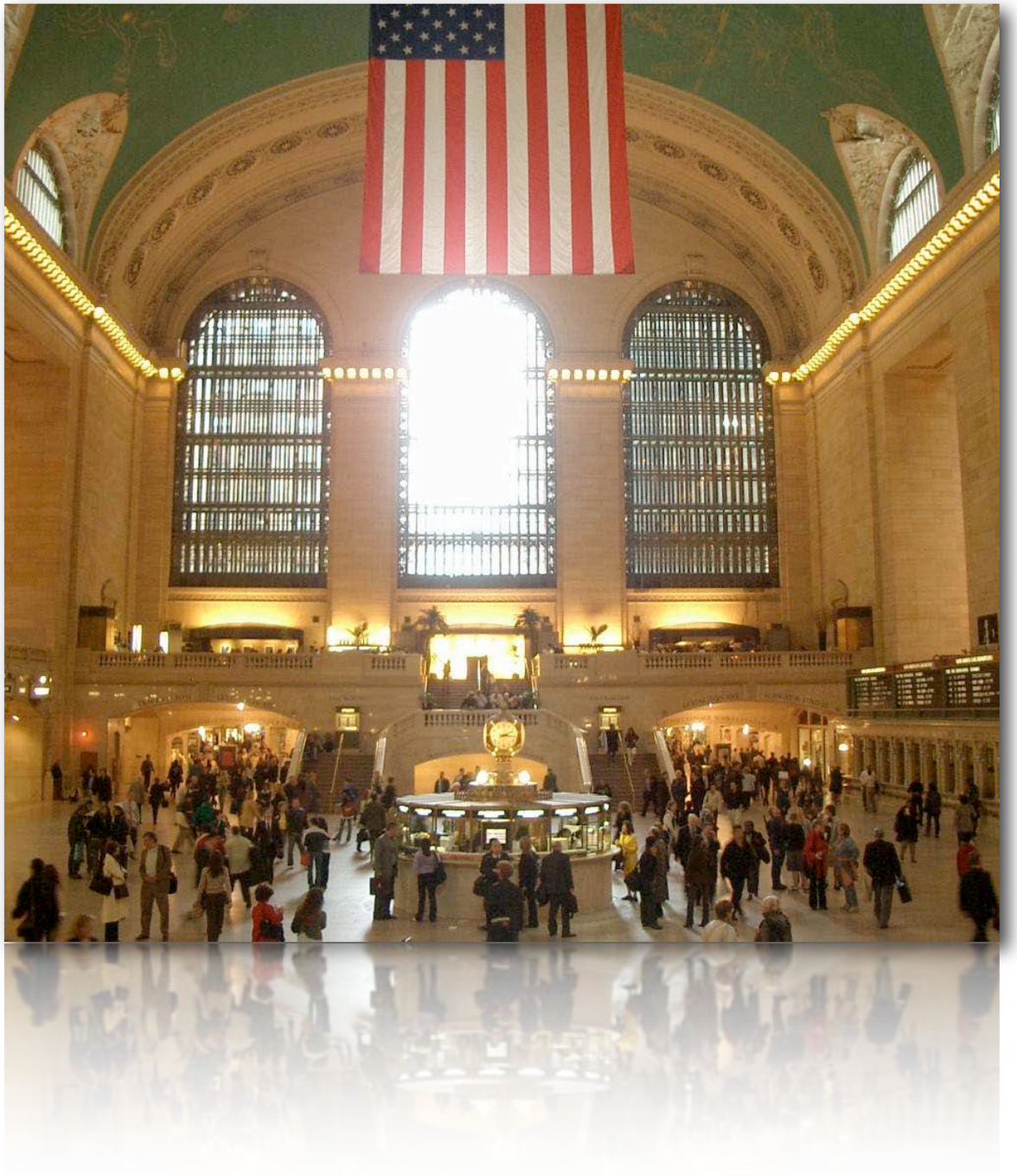
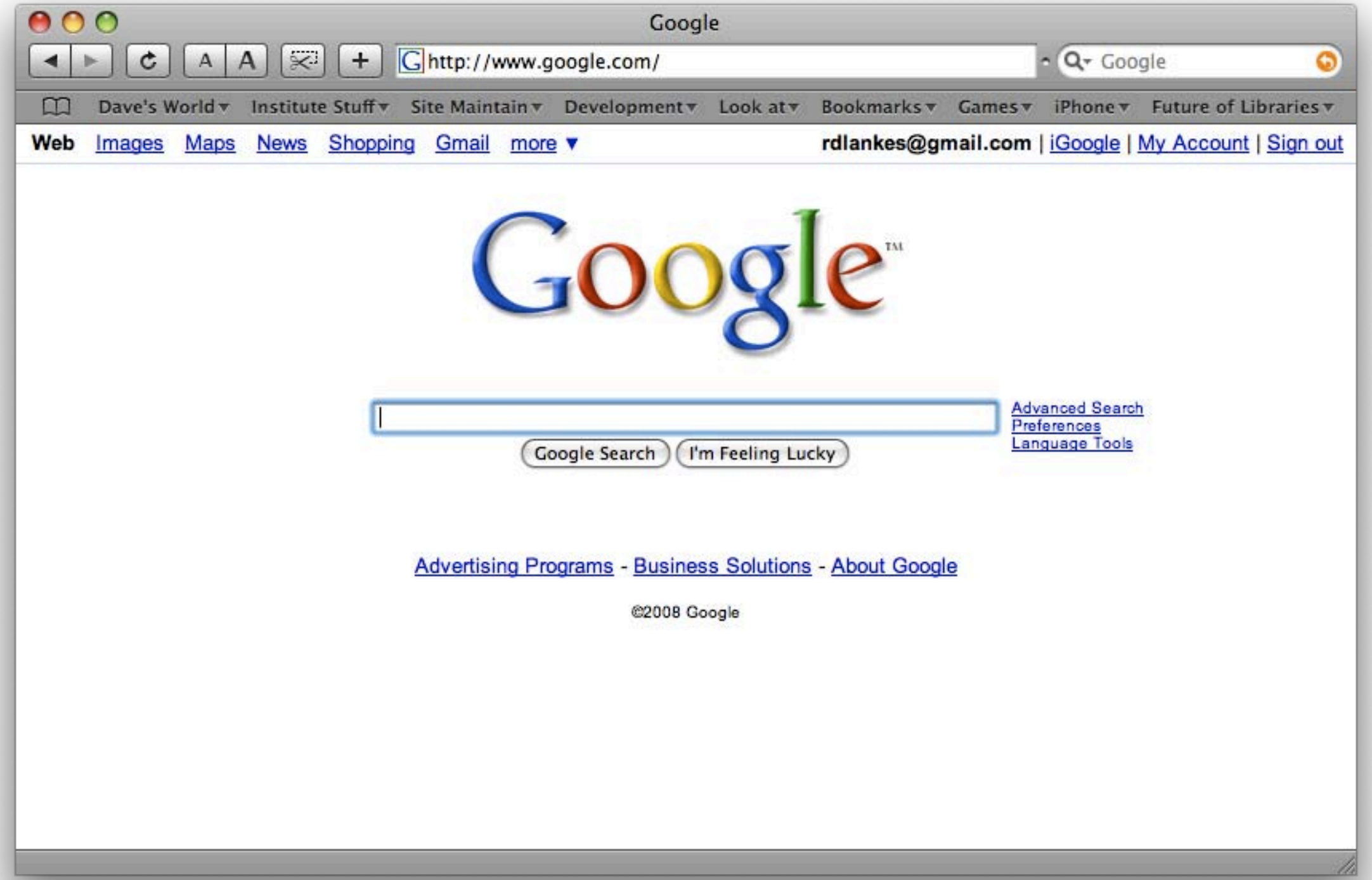
Google and Search Engines
Open Web
Company web sites, personal home pages, preprint databases and the like.
Public Data Sources
Free and fee sources of information that can be used as evidence in litigation
Conversation Between DOJ Libraries and a General Audience
Conversation Between DOJ Libraries and Other Legal Information Organizations
Conversation Between DOJ Libraries and Vendors
Conversation Between DOJ Legal Staff and DOJ Librarians
Legal Staff
Lawyers and support staff are well versed in the formal conversations of the law. From formal filings to informal searching on databases, there is a high level understanding of a general process. The conversations of the legal staff are in many cases formal, and regulated. Not every case will include "Legislative Intent" formally. There are also many informal conversations happening between litigators.
DOJ Librarians
The librarians in the Department of Justice form a community that regularly exchange information, techniques and resources. However, while there is a clear desire to provide outstanding service, much of how this service should be delivered remains an open question. With little to no data on actual service utilization, service priorities are often based on individual success, anecdotes and personal philosophies. This makes it difficult to truly gauge the effectiveness of services.
Database Vendors
Hein, Westlaw, LexisNexis constitute the core databases for the legal profession and are clearly needed across the enterprise. However each section has its own key resources. There is great competition between these vendors with little information sharing.
Other Sources of Legal Information
This disparate group consists of other law libraries, legal research centers, other law firms and a wide variety of other players. There are some formal means of communications such as AALL, but there are also structural issues in creating formal connections (privacy of case matters, competitive advantage, proprietary information, and billing structures).
General Audiences
This is not a formal community by any means. Rather it is the open information environment that the Department of Justice exits within. It is constantly changing and has little coherence.

Language

- L_0 vs L_1
  - Classification as a Conversation
- Static System, Learning System, Participatory System

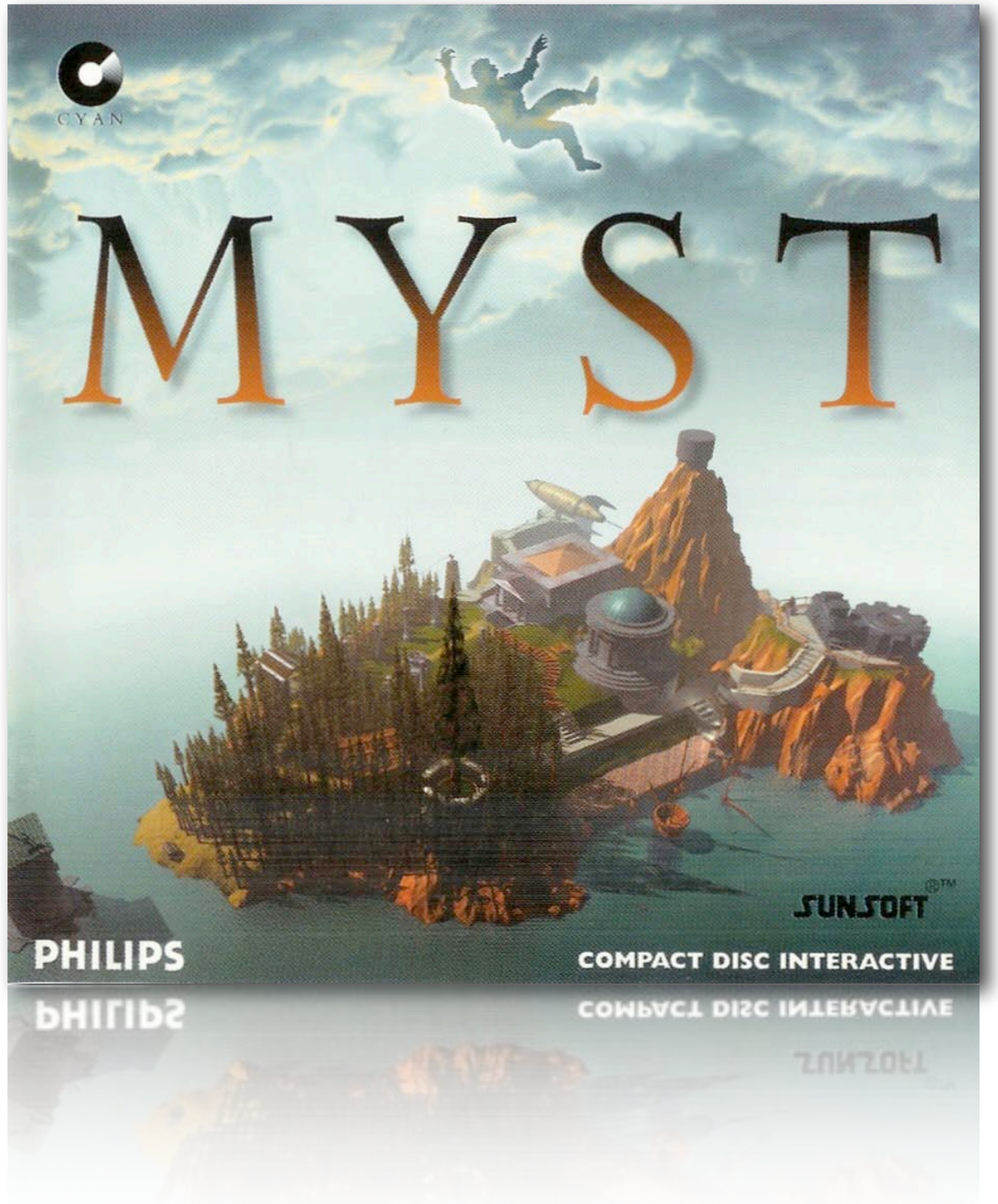


Static System: Google Box



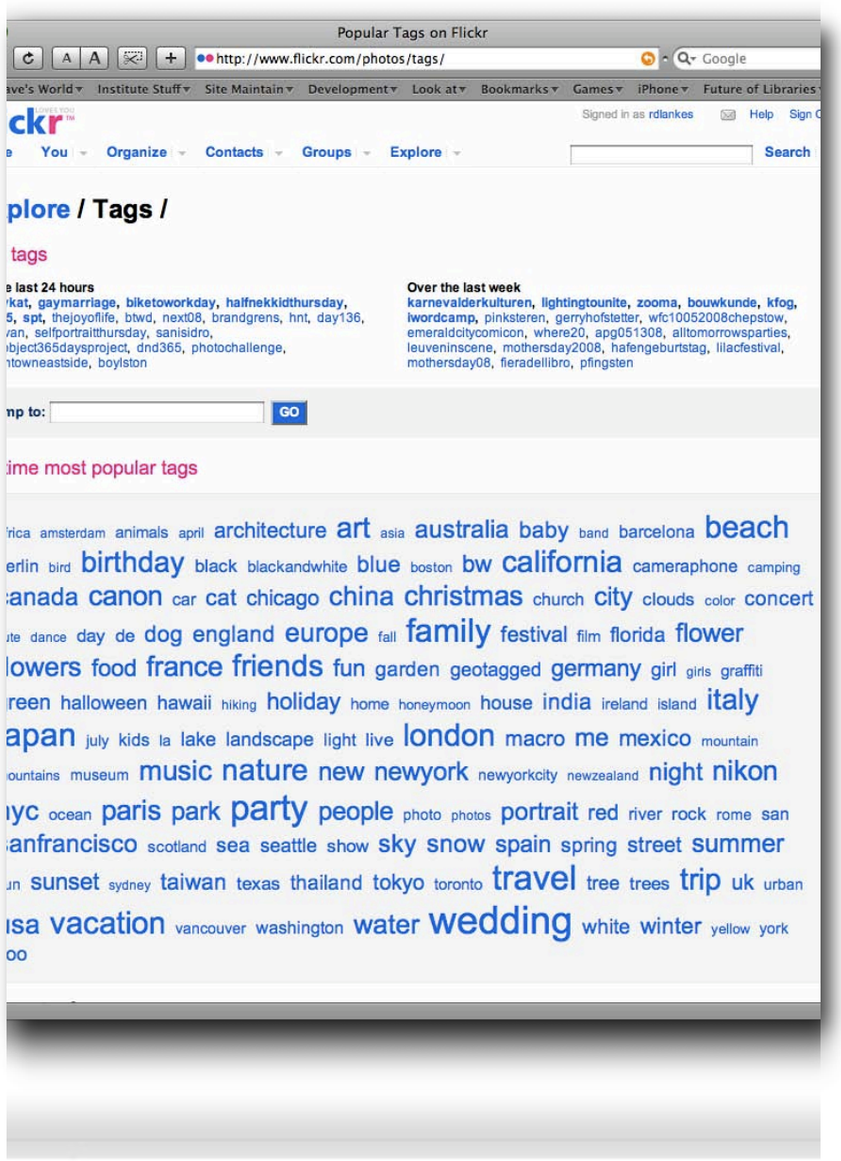
Learning System: Games

- In Game Learning Missions
- No More Manuals
- flOw



Participatory System: Social Networking

- Light on Functions
- Heavy on Customizability
- Multiple L1



Agreements

- Negotiated Meanings and Language

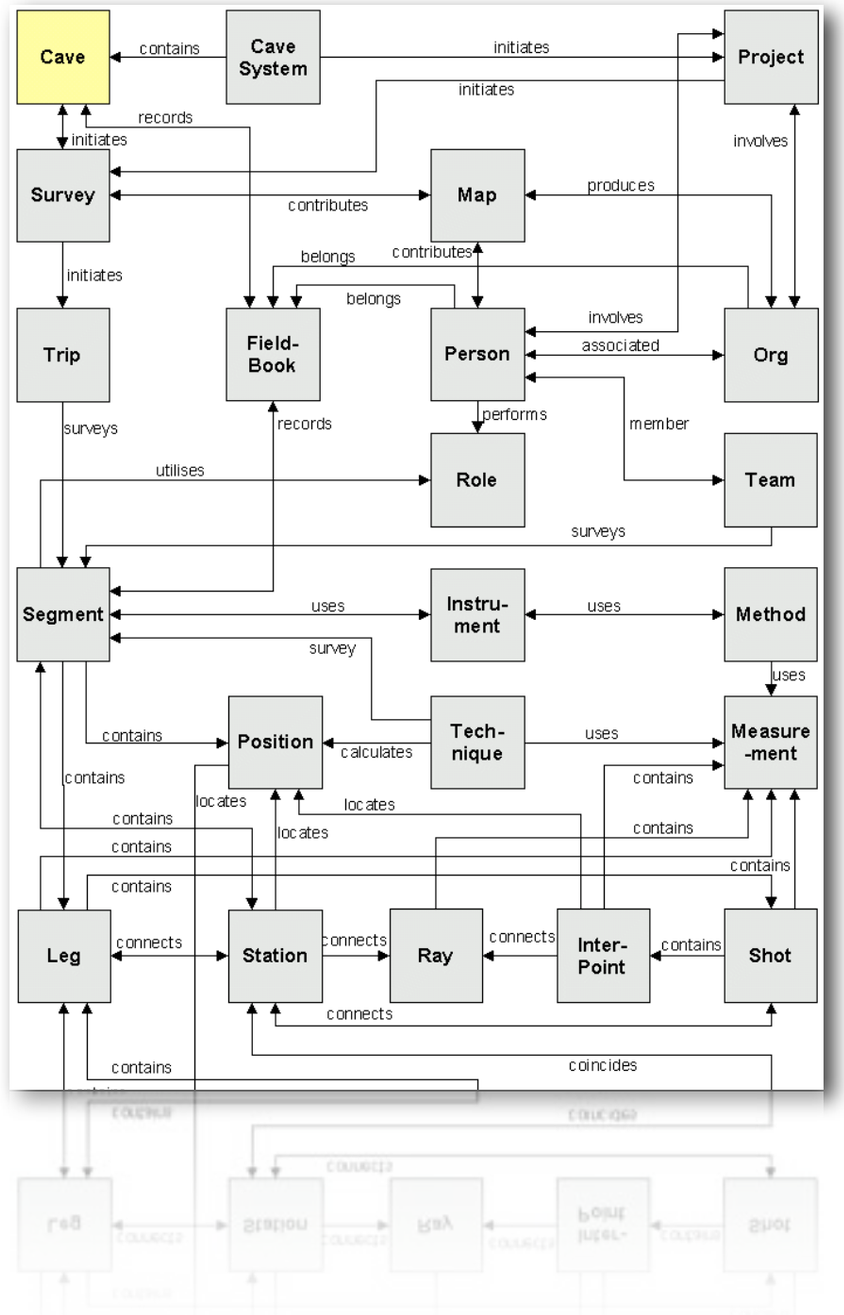
- Shared Scaffolding for New Agreements

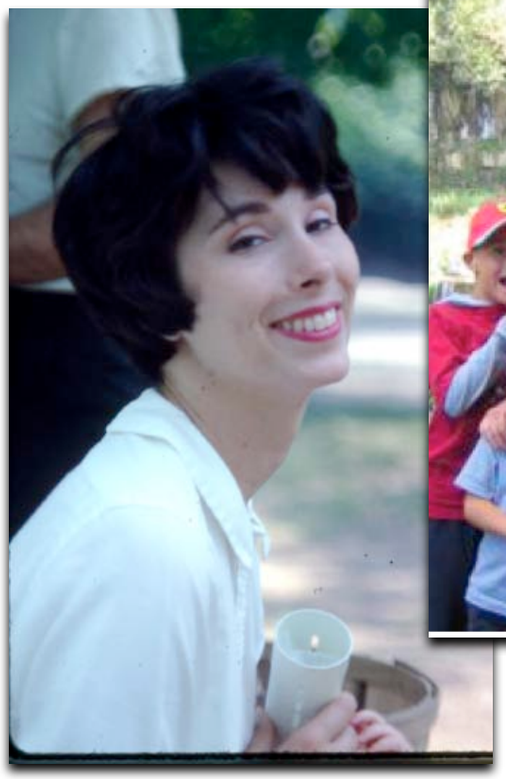
  - Licensing Problem

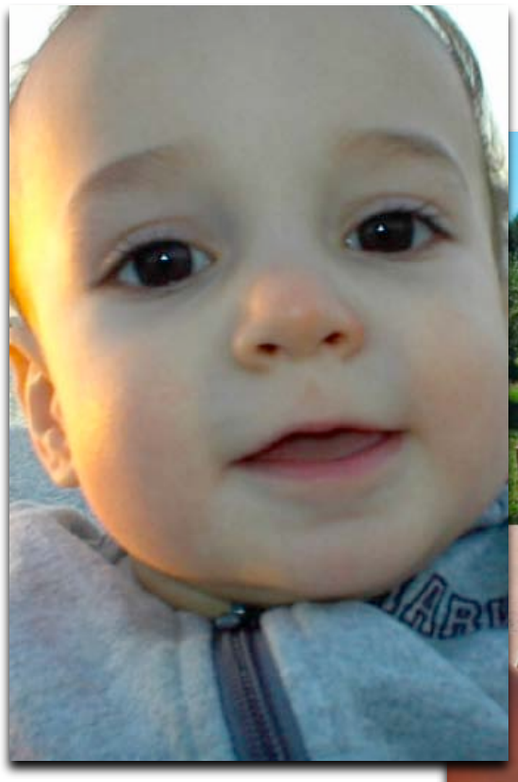
- Agree not to Agree

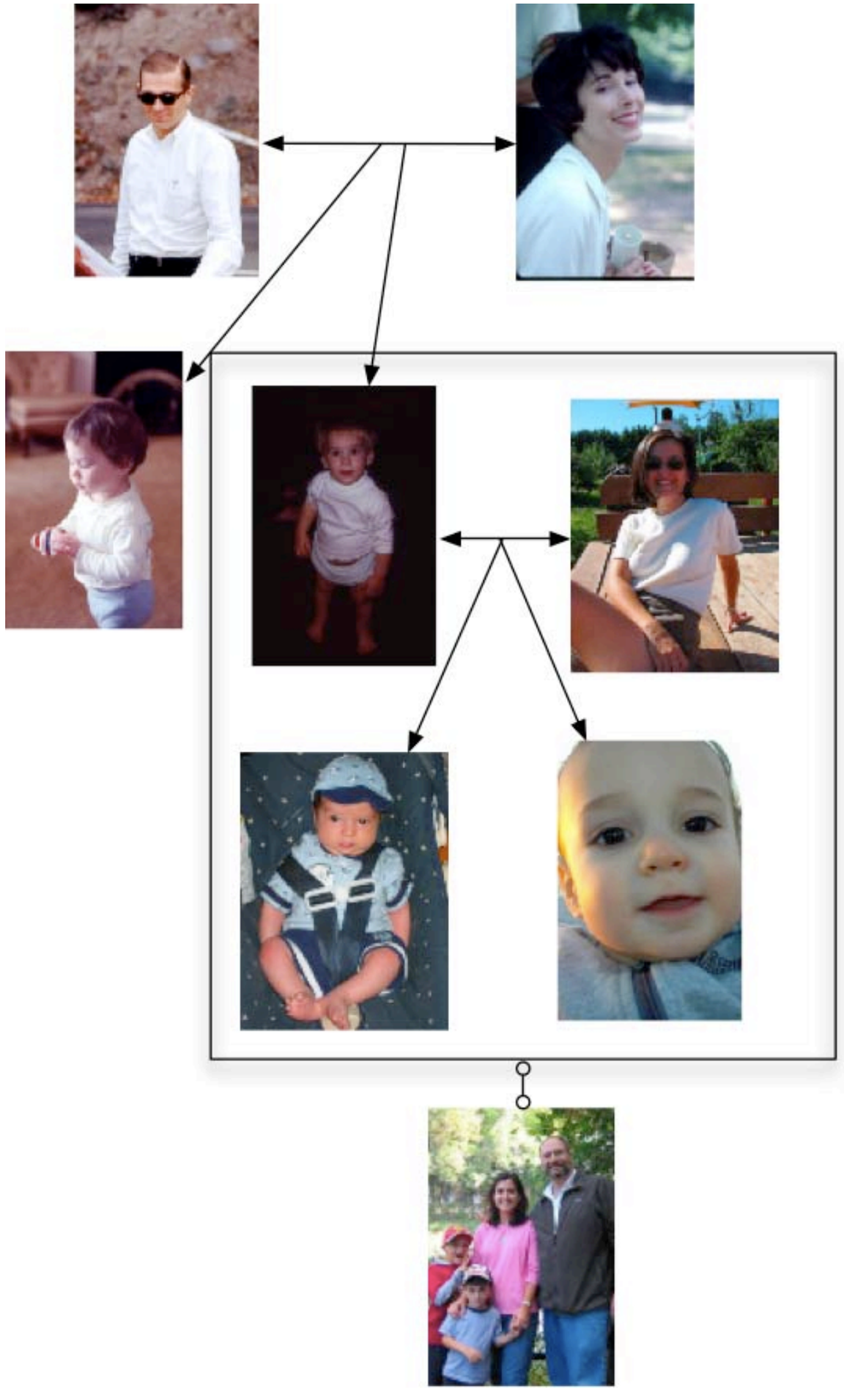
Entailment Mesh (Memory)

- Collection of Agreements ***PLUS*** Their Relationships
- Dynamic
  - "Knowing" vs Knowledge









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Burke's History

- How the North Winning the US Civil War lead to the Modern Computer

Burke's History

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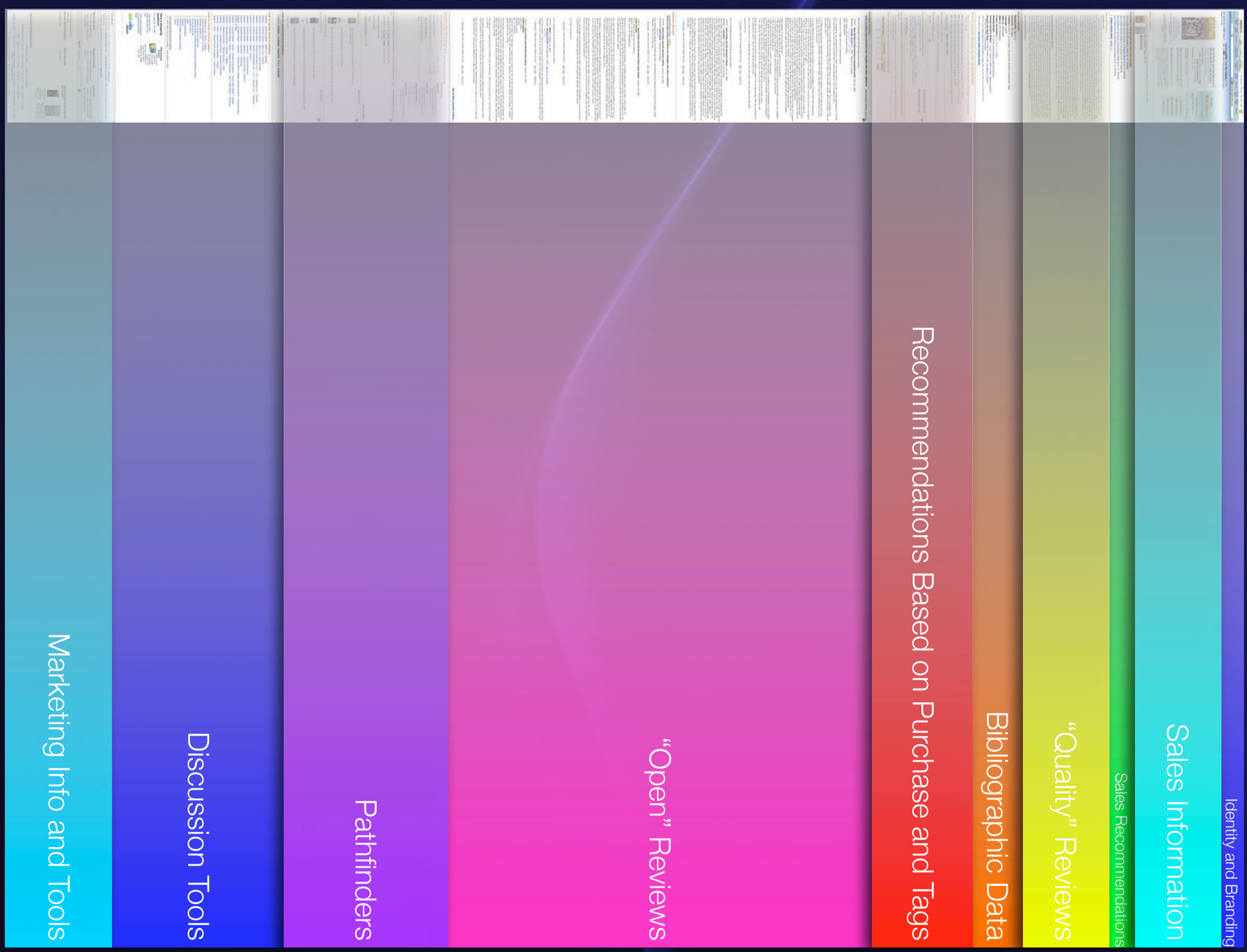

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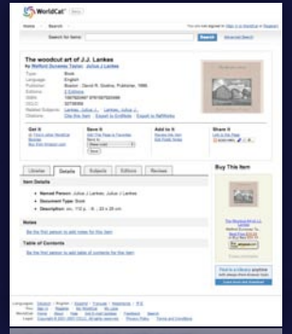

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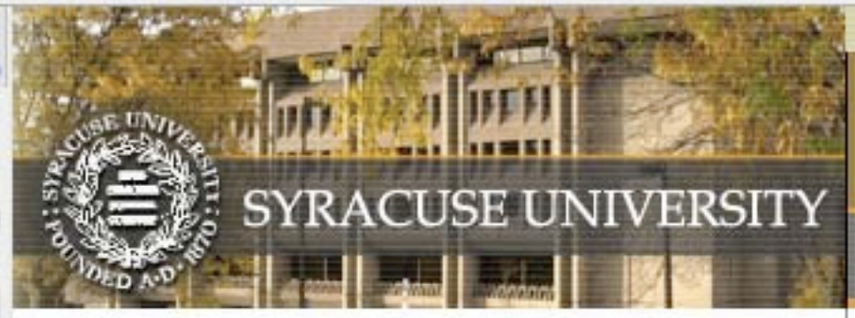

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2	Adventures in Afropea 2 [sound recording] : the best of Djur Djura : voice of silence.	FIA: Fine Arts	FIA 482: Rise of Global Pop	0001
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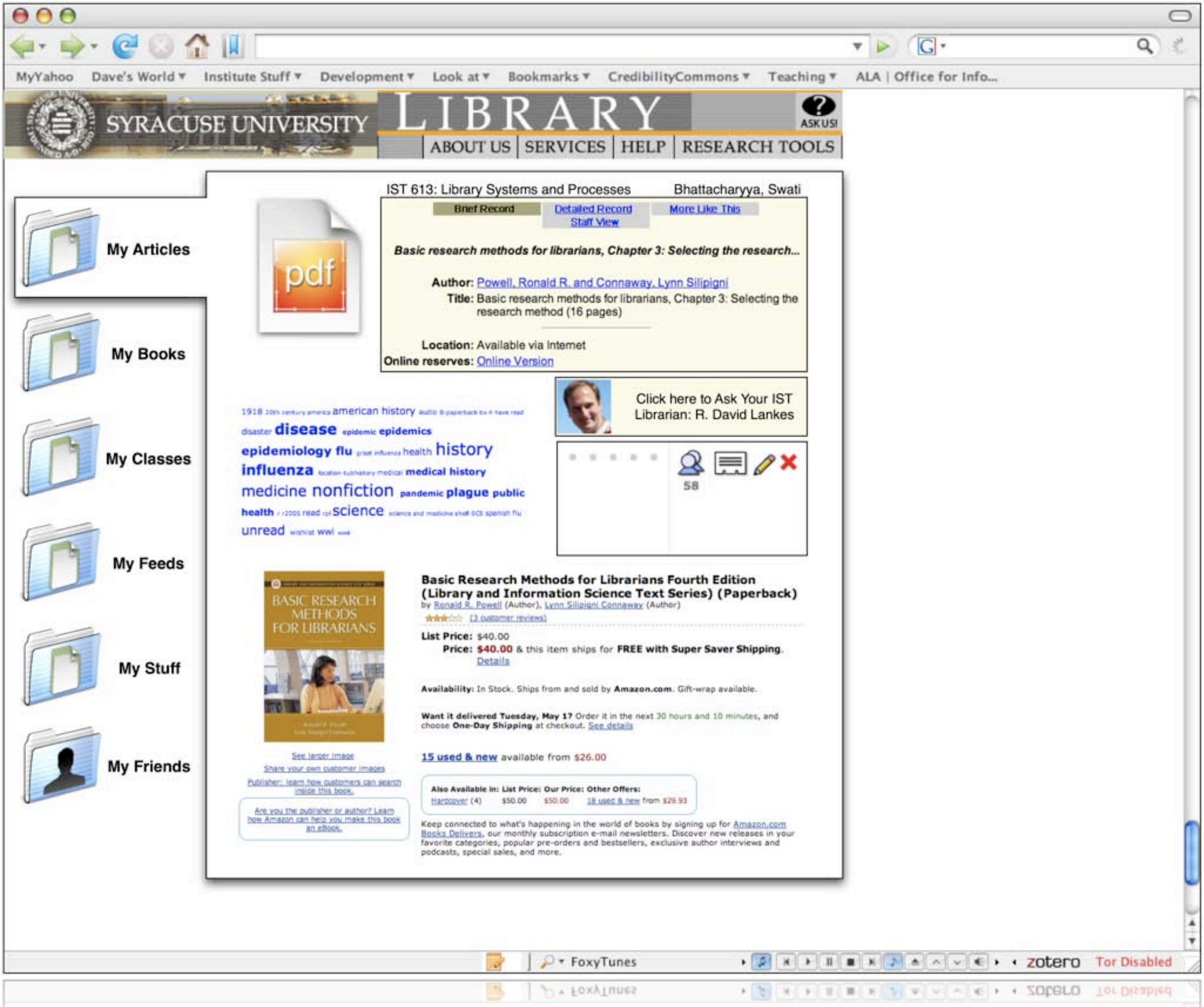
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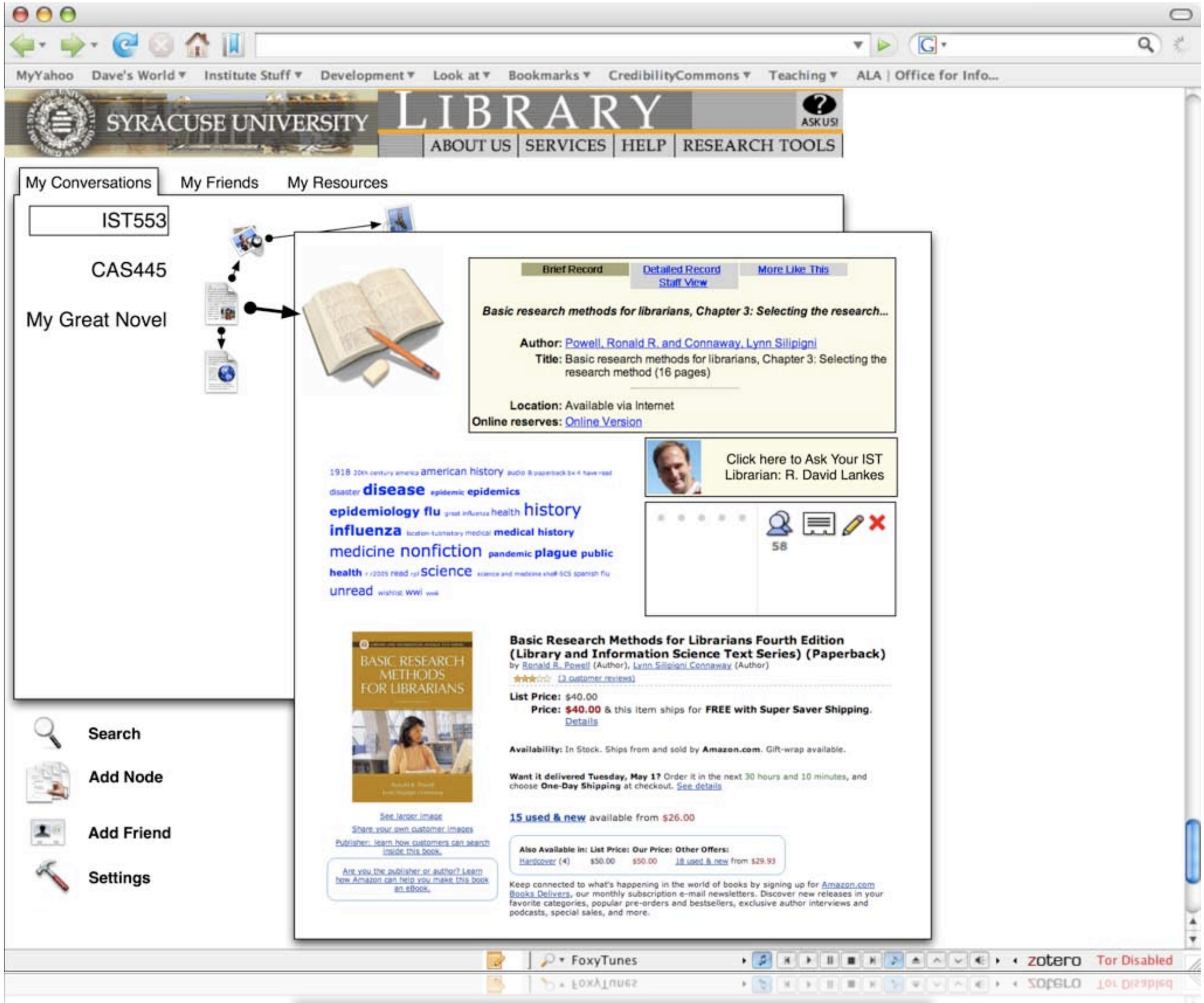
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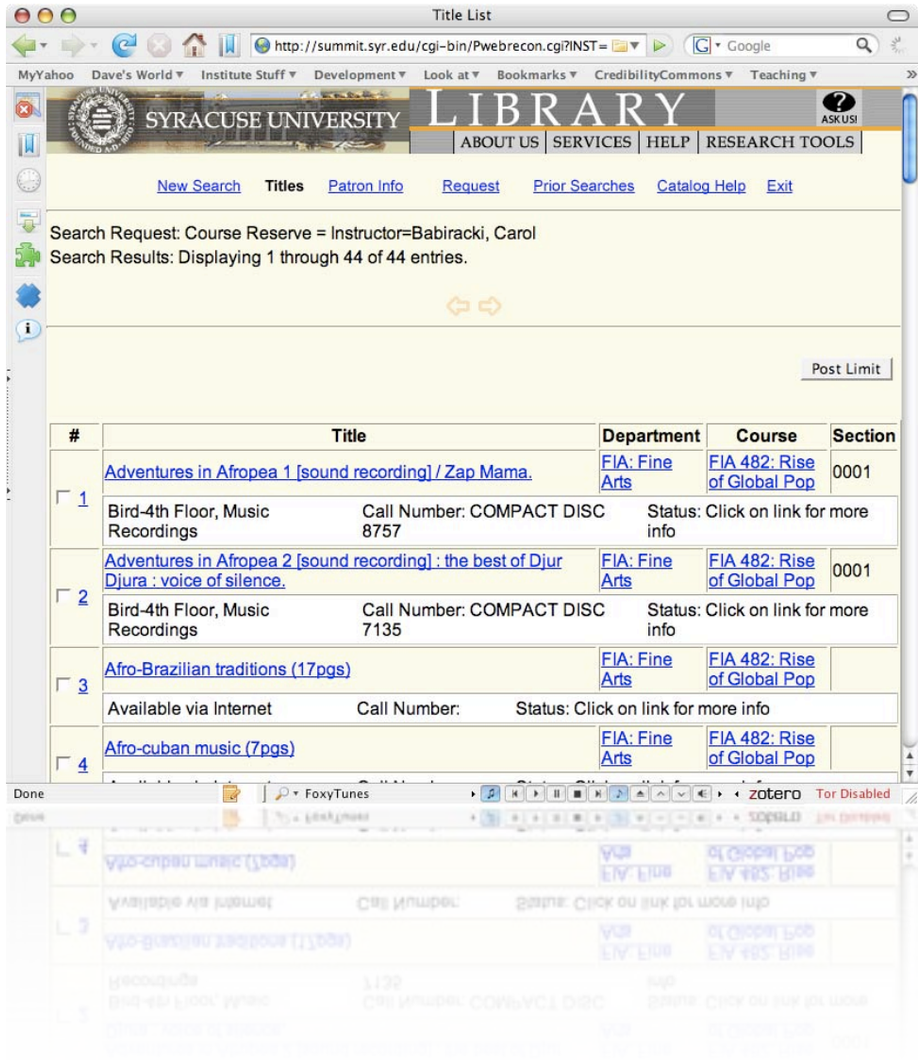
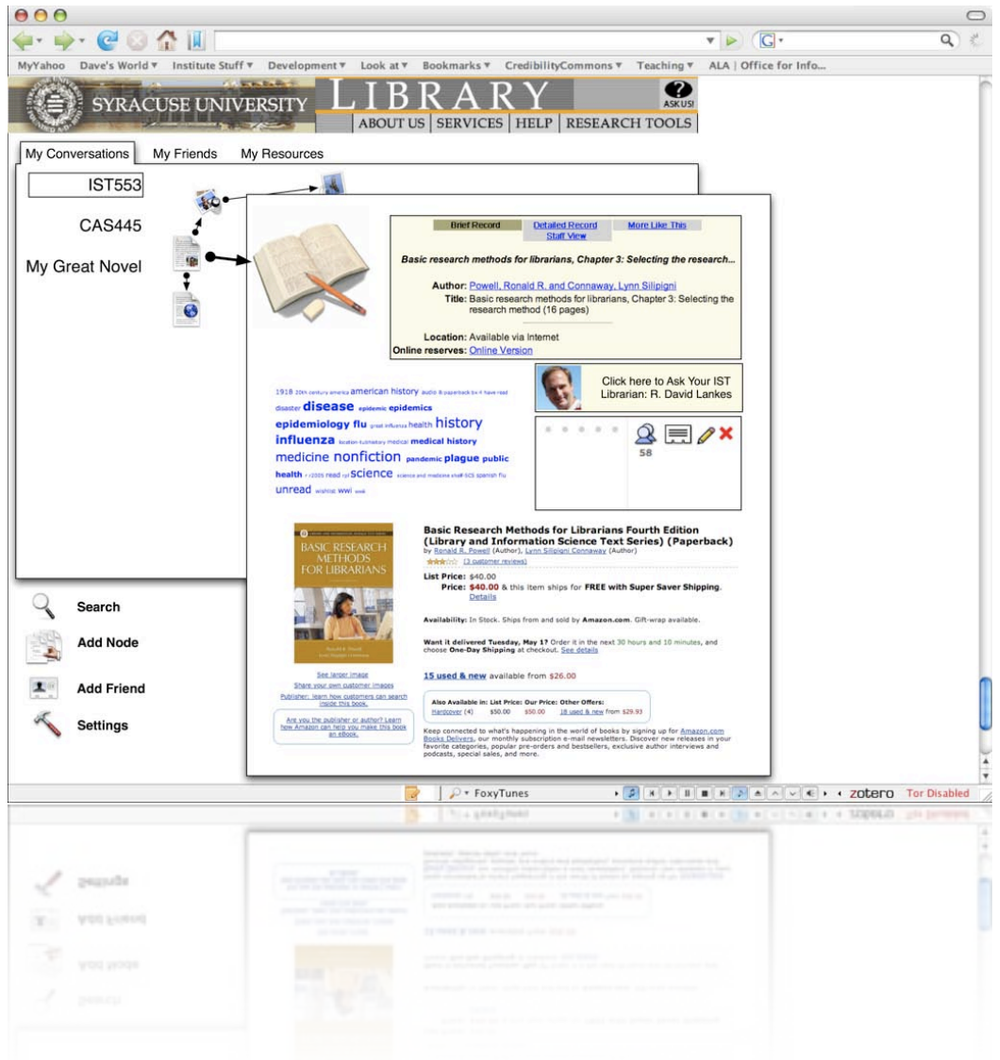
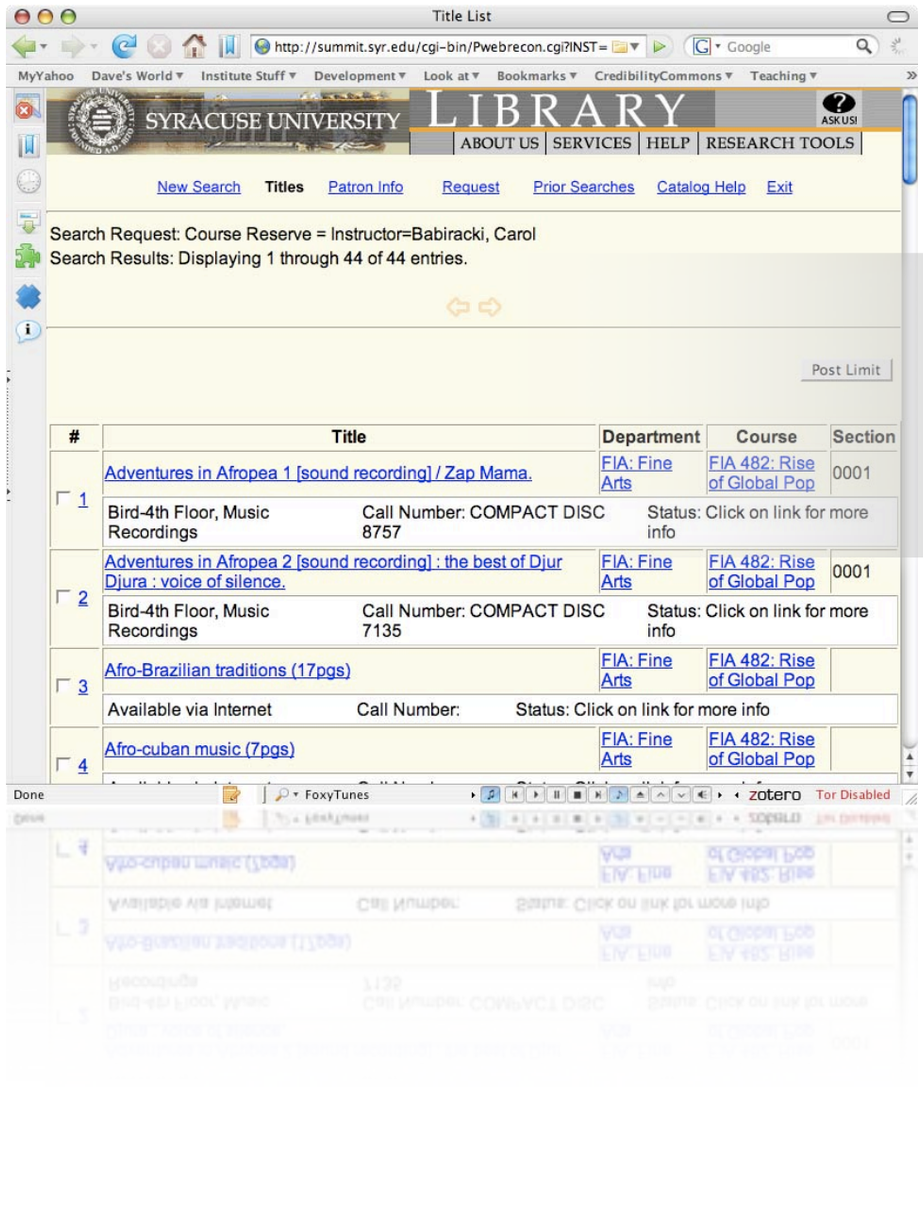
Migration from Artifacts to Conversations

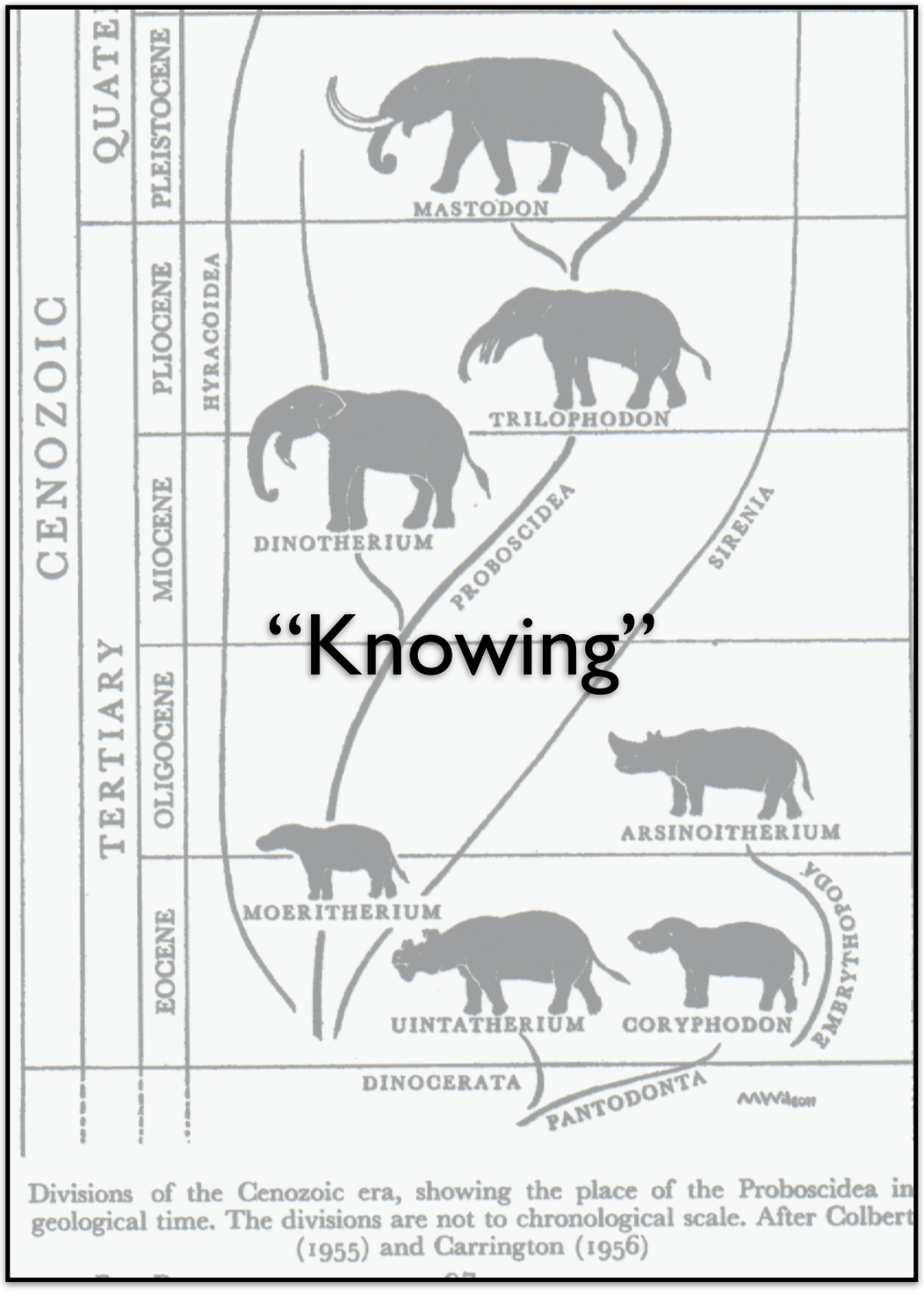




Migration from Artifacts to Conversations

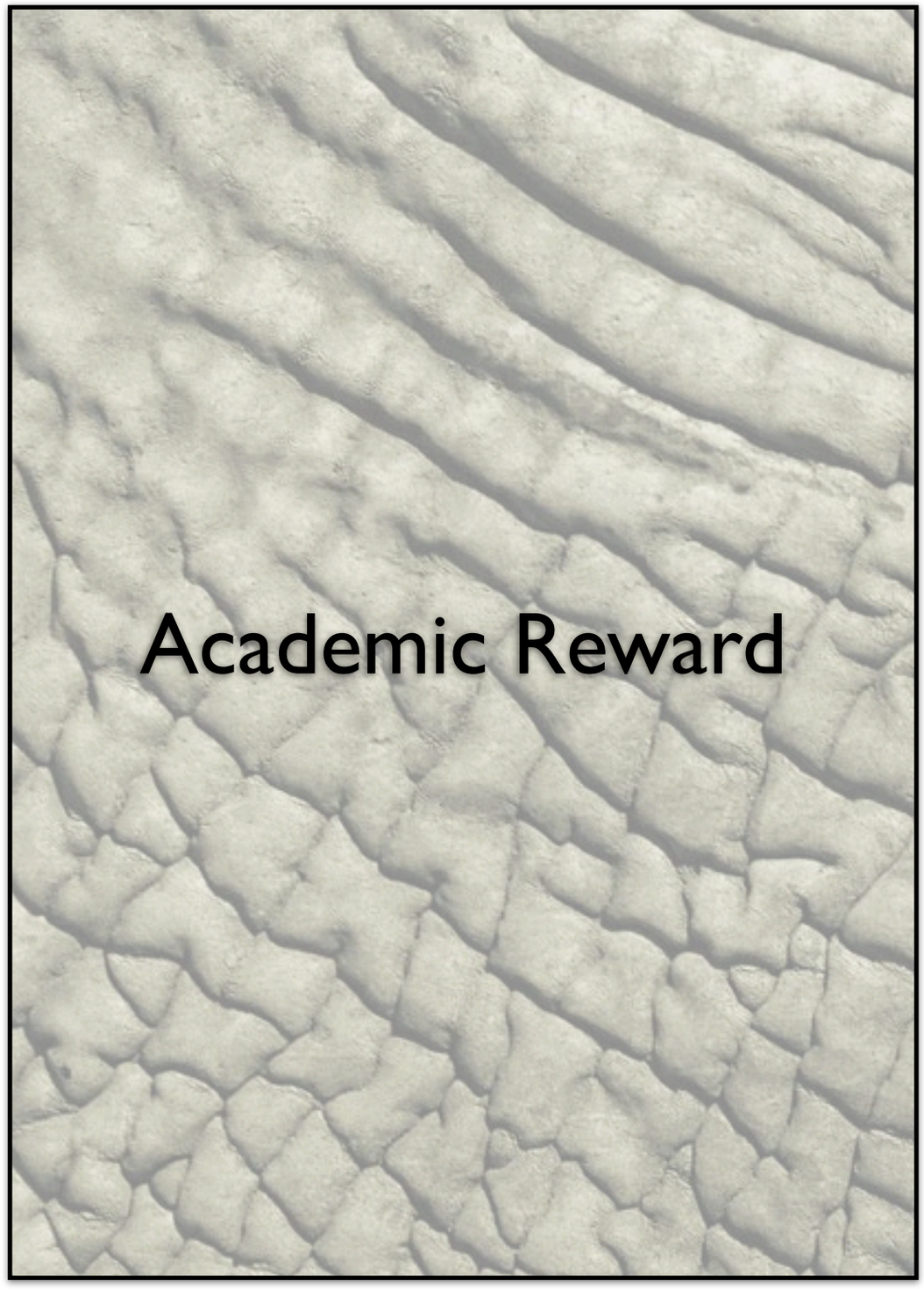


Opportunity Gap



Divisions of the Cenozoic era, showing the place of the Proboscidea in geological time. The divisions are not to chronological scale. After Colbert (1955) and Carrington (1956)

"Knowing"



Academic Reward

Arm's Thought Experiment

- What is the Fundamental and Recognizable Contribution of Library Science in the Academy
- Cohesive Set of Skills and Concepts, that through Action, Fuse the Intellectual Work of the Academy to Improve the University and Society

You are the Reason LIS Belongs in the Ivy

- Your Ability Facilitate/Enhance the Conversations of the Academy
- Your Ability to Demonstrate Value
- Your Ability to Innovate
  - From Core Principles