

Create Your Own Pupu Platter with Library a la Carte: An Open Source Alternative to LibGuides

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People are the necessary component for successful implementation of emerging technologies. People make technology happen. This poster session focuses on how a small size academic library explored and planned the pilot implementation of the open source software Library a la Carte. This includes the collaboration and planning with the campus IT department for installation, the customization specs by our systems librarian, timeline for implementation, and Google Analytics to track usage once implemented.

Over 1,000 libraries have already subscribed to a similar, but proprietary, tool called LibGuides. However, with budgets diminishing each year, the funding for such technologies is dwindling and some libraries are turning to applications developed in-house and to open source products like Library a la Carte.

It is easy to become fascinated by technology for its own sake. However, librarians implementing technologies like Library a la Carte need to consider users' needs, try to articulate those needs when users cannot, collaborate with all involved throughout the development process, promote technology services when necessary, and critically evaluate the technology to ensure that it is serving its purpose.