

A. deChambeau – Travel Report
Computers in Libraries
March 22-24, 2006

CIL this year was particularly rewarding. In addition to attending the presentation I was able to do some networking with current and prospective vendors for our online products. The program was packed with blog and wiki related presentations, some information literacy/instruction presentations, and many automation software sessions. I picked up some excellent new tips and techniques for searching the open web, particularly for searching blogs (which can be a bit different than searching for other types of info) and good example sites to use for demonstrating spoof versus real websites. Of particular value were presentations on effective online instruction and open source software for libraries. The conference proceedings is available in my office and additional presentations are also available online: <http://www.infoday.com/cil2006/presentations/>

Some useful sites:

<http://mindset.research.yahoo.com/>

Yahoo Mindset lets you slide a bar to focus your search more toward Shopping or Research. It's an interesting way to manipulate your search.

<http://comparesearchengines.dogpile.com/>

Dogpile helps you compare the uniqueness of results from several major search engines.

Excellent Spoof and Real pages for comparing in a BI session:

wto.org versus gatt.org

mypyramid.gov versus mypyramid.org

<http://www.marumushi.com/apps/newsmap/>

Newsmap is a data visualization tool that visually compares the relative coverage of news in the Google News aggregator. Very interesting site.

<http://a9.com/>

An Amazon affiliate. Use the More Choices pull down menu to customize places to search. Look at the 340+ other places you can search!

For searching blogs:

www.Icerocket.com ← also can use to search MySpace

www.Technorati.com

www.Opinmind.com ← Opin Mind gives thumbs up/down indication of blog entry.

Since it's entirely automatic, it works for some topics and not for others. Compare the up/down results for a search on Darfur versus a search for "Red Sox".

<http://www.oss4lib.org/>

Open Source Software for Libraries