Library Mashups: Exploring New Ways to Deliver Library Data

Nicole C. Engard (Ed.). Medford, NJ: Information Today, Inc., 2009. 352pp. ISBN: 978-1-57387-372-7. $39.50.

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A mashup is "a web application that uses content from more than one source to create a single new service displayed in a single graphical interface." (p. 3) Nicole Engard, Open Source Evangelist at library automation vendor LibLime, brings together a rich and useful collection of practical applications of mashups in library surroundings that is useful to a wide variety of libraries. All librarians seeking to remain up-to-date on emerging technologies and how to integrate them into existing library services will find this book a valuable resource.

The first section of the book covers the basics of mashups and the technical details necessary to make them work. The remaining sections provide concrete and relevant examples of how other libraries have used mashups on their web pages, in their online catalogs, and in building digital picture, video, and map collections. An extensive list of resources on mashups, including the websites of all the examples referenced, is provided. The author also makes this resource list available on the Web.

This book is useful to a wide range of librarians seeking to integrate Web 2.0 technologies into existing library services. Those with no knowledge of Web programming will find tips and tricks to integrate mashups into their own library web pages, and systems and Web librarians will find valuable technical examples of how libraries are using mashups to provide innovative and functional services to their patrons.