

University of Rhode Island

DigitalCommons@URI

Public Services Faculty Presentations

Public Services

6-6-2009

Diving into Sakai: One Librarian, Twenty Students, and a Brand New, Open Source CMS

Amanda Izenstark

University of Rhode Island, amanda@uri.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/lib_ps_presentations



Part of the [Information Literacy Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Izenstark, Amanda, "Diving into Sakai: One Librarian, Twenty Students, and a Brand New, Open Source CMS" (2009). *Public Services Faculty Presentations*. Paper 3.

https://digitalcommons.uri.edu/lib_ps_presentations/3


This Article is brought to you by the University of Rhode Island. It has been accepted for inclusion in Public Services Faculty Presentations by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons-group@uri.edu. For permission to reuse copyrighted content, contact the author directly.

Diving into Sakai: One Librarian, 20 Students, and a New, Open-Source LMS

Amanda K. Izenstark
University of Rhode Island

New England Library Instruction Group
Annual Program
June 5, 2009

What is Sakai?

- 
- * Open Source Learning or Course Management Software
 - * Moodle
 - * OLAT (Java-based)
 - * CourseWork

Sakai@UD Gateway



News



Welcome

Help

Your Collaboration and Learning Environment

Welcome to Sakai@UD, the University of Delaware's new Learning Management System! Because it's an open source product developed by educators for educators, Sakai provides an engaging platform for learning and collaboration that will enrich UD students' experience and provide additional teaching tools for UD faculty.



UD's other learning management system: [MyCourses \(WebCT\)](#)

Sakai@UD

RSS feed for Sakai at the University of Delaware.

[\(Graphic Version\)](#) - Copyright (C) 2008 University of Delaware -

[Sakai@UD Down Tomorrow Morning 05/15/09 @ 7:00 am](#)

Sakai@UD will be unavailable tomorrow, Friday 5/15/09, beginning at 7:00 am. Access should be restored by 7:30 am.

[\(Full Story\)](#) (May 14, 2009)

[Sakai@UD Down Tomorrow Morning 04/16/09 @ 7:00 am](#)

Tomorrow, Thursday, 4/16/09, beginning at 7:00 am Sakai@UD will be unavailable until approximately 7:30 am to add a fix for an issue regarding tests and quizzes.

[\(Full Story\)](#) (Apr 15, 2009)

[Sakai@UD Down Tomorrow Morning 04/09/09 @ 7:00 am](#)

Sakai@UD will be unavailable tomorrow, Thursday 4/9/09, beginning at 7:00 am for a system update. Access should be restored by 7:30 am.

[\(Full Story\)](#) (Apr 8, 2009)

[Sakai@UD Down Briefly Today 04/07/09 @ 5:30 pm](#)

Sakai@UD will be unavailable today, 4/7/09, beginning at 5:30 pm for a system update. Access is expected to be restored by 5:45 pm.

[\(Full Story\)](#) (Apr 7, 2009)

[Access to Winter 2009 Course Sites](#)

On Monday, March 23, Winter 2009 Sakai courses will be unpublished. Students, assistants and guests will not have access. At their discretion, instructors can [republish](#) any course and [make all or some participants active](#), restoring their access.

Start Page

[Login Help](#)[Info for Site Members](#)[Info for Site Owners](#)[New in Sakai](#)[Training Workshops](#)[Known Issues](#)[Technical Information](#)[FAQ](#)[Site Listing](#)[Sakai Policies](#)[Help](#)

OIRT Blog

The Office of Instructional and Research Technology Blog

[\(Graphic Version\)](#) - -

[Google Labs Similar Images](#)

I saw a tweet yesterday from Lisa Thumann at the Center for Mathematics, Science and Computer Education. She's got her finger on the pulse of the educational technology world and she mentioned a new technology from Google Labs called Similar Images. In my short play-test, I found it to be extremely successful. Here is quick walkthrough of how it works:1. Visit the site and search for an image

[\(Full Story\)](#)

[Honoring Our Fallen Soldiers Using a Google Earth Layer](#)

During Memorial Day weekend, it is easy to get caught up in barbecues and summer rituals and forget the original purpose of the observance of this holiday. I happened across this blog post that I felt would be appropriate to share during this time of remembering those who lost their lives defending our country. Sean Askay, an engineer for Google, unveiled on his blog a Google Earth layer he

[\(Full Story\)](#)

[data.gov is live!](#)

For those of you interested in government datasets and an invitation to play and shape the future of publicly available government data, your day has arrived! From the main page of data.gov: The purpose of Data.gov is to increase public access to high value, machine readable datasets generated by the Executive Branch of the Federal Government. Although the initial launch of Data.gov provides a

[\(Full Story\)](#)

[Looking ahead to the new Sakai... \(Part 3\)](#)

Tomorrow's the big day! Here are the last of the changes we will be making. Site life There have been some improvements to the "Import from

Announcements

Can't find your course? If you have not paid your summer session bill, you will no longer have access to your summer course in Sakai. Go [here](#) for more information or to make a payment.

Summer Students: [Create a NetID](#) to log in to Sakai and access your course web site.

Upgrade a success! Welcome to Sakai 2.6. We have upgraded to a new version of Sakai as of May 20. For an overview of changes, click "New in Sakai" to the left. If you encounter any issues not on the "Known Issues" page to the left, email sakai@rutgers.edu.

Swine Flu Announcement: Information regarding swine flu can be found at <http://emergency.rutgers.edu/swine.shtml>.

New in Sakai

On May 20, 2009 we upgraded Sakai to a new version. Below is an overview of the changes and new features. For more information on the updates, [click here](#).

General

- Added the ability to view sites from the perspective of another role. E.g. instructors can view their site as if



User Id: Password:

- Tools
- Welcome
- Reset Password
- Features
- Sites
- Training
- Help

🔄 Welcome! ?



****Summer Session Login to bSpace****
Berkeley Summer Session students log in to bSpace with their CalNet ID and passphrase. There is more information on how to get a CalNet ID and passphrase at:

<http://summer.berkeley.edu/mainsite/telebears.html>

bSpace News

****Summer bSpace Trainings****
[Dates and workshop descriptions.](#)
[Register now!](#)

Log in information
To log in to bSpace, enter your CalNet ID or guest account ID above.

- Top bSpace FAQs**
- [How do I enter or update grades using a spreadsheet?](#)
 - [Can I calculate weighted grades in the Gradebook?](#)
 - [How do I finalize course grades?](#)

Browser Information
bSpace works with the following browsers:

- [Firefox 1.5 and newer](#)
- [Internet Explorer 6 and newer](#)

Welcome 

[About](#) 

[Features](#) 

[Sites](#) 

[Training](#) 

[Acknowledgments](#) 

[Help](#) 

Message of the day

To login to Sakai:

Faculty & Staff: Use your 9-digit URI employee number and your email password.

Students: Use your 9-digit URI student number and your email password.

Welcome!

[*Get the Boston Sakai Conference \\$170 Discount Price Now*](#)

If you need assistance with login or browser issues, please contact the ITS Help Desk at (401) 874-4357.

• For other problems, send email to sakai-uri@etal.uri.edu.

Also, please note:

• If you are using Internet Explorer, we recommended using IE7 as there are compatibility problems with IE8.

• Join our discussion listserv, sakai-uri@listserv.uri.edu, by sending an email message to listserv@listserv.uri.edu with the following command in the body of the email:

SUBscribe sakai-uri


• Consult our schedule for summer [Short Courses!](#)

• Stay tuned for announcements on migrating your course materials from WebCT to Sakai.

• Check the Sakai Website, <http://www.uri.edu/its/sakai.html>, for new developments.

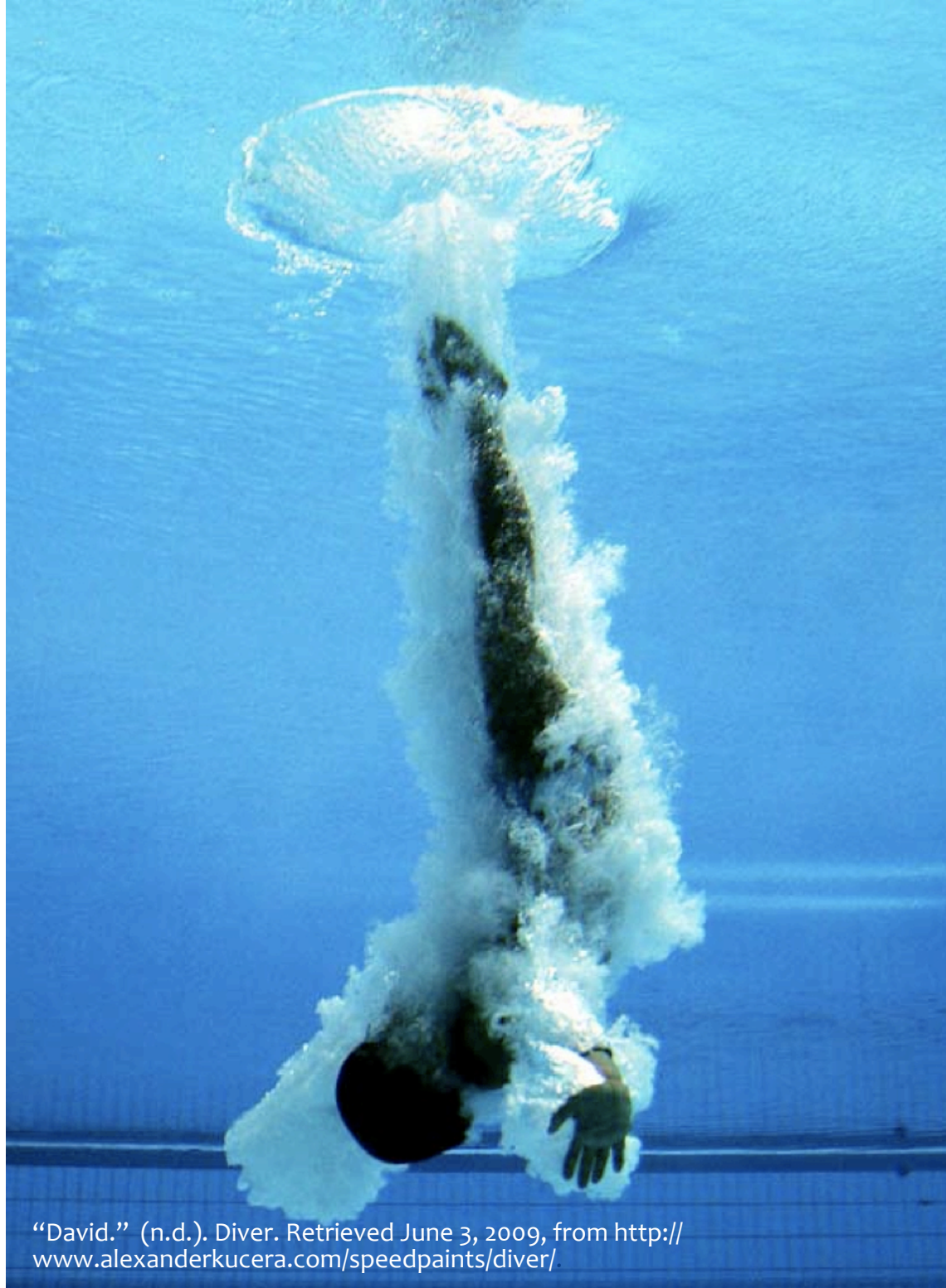
How did we get here?

- * WebCT support ending
- * Call for selection committee members...
- * No librarians picked!
- * But we sat in anyway...


- 
- * Reviewed newer versions of WebCT, Blackboard, and two “versions” of Sakai
 - * Moodle, Desire2Learn, and Angel had software requirements the University couldn’t meet
 - * Ultimately, the native Sakai was selected.

Information Literacy meets Learning Curve

- * Fewer staff means need more flexibility in the schedule.
- * Online seems the way to go...
- * But why design for an obsolete system?



“David.” (n.d.). Diver. Retrieved June 3, 2009, from <http://www.alexanderkucera.com/speedpaints/diver/>

- 
- * One of five professors to jump in
 - * Got access to the course shell about a week and a half before classes started
 - * ... But we weren't told that all of the functionality we expected would not be there!

Workarounds

- * “Presentation” tool wasn’t available
- * Portfolio tool wasn’t available
- * Wiki tool was inadequate
- * Discussion Forums were quirky

What Worked?

- * Gradebook had a vast amount of flexibility
- * Assignments, Tests & Quizzes were simpler to adjust.

- * ... And a vast amount of student patience.

Lessons Learned

- * Be prepared for anything
- * Have a plan B
- * Your priorities may not = those of the tech folks


- * Communicate
- * Be nice!

Student Survey


- * I am generally comfortable using new technology and computer programs.
- * I like learning to use new technology or software.
- * The version of WebCT I usually use is easy to use.
- * I had a difficult time using Sakai at the beginning of the semester.

Student Survey


- * I found Sakai to be generally easy to use.
- * Although I initially had a difficult time using Sakai, I eventually learned my way around.
- * Please indicate which system you prefer.




“I found it really hard to stay on top of assignments. Even with reminders and frequently checking the site, there was just stuff in too many places for me to keep track of it all. even then, i'm not very good with technology so uploading projects and files was really hard for me.”



“I had never used WebCT for an online course, but I like the layout of Sakai and it seems easy to use to me. I do not have anything to compare it to though.”



“It was a little confusing at first because it was a new program that I wasn't used to. It didn't take long to figure out though! I like it much better than WebCT; the layout is better and I feel that it is much easier to navigate around Sakai!”



“Though there are some aspects of Sakai that I am still uneasy with (in comparison to in-person classes), I found that it was much easier to use than WebCT. I like that there is a sidebar for easy navigation! The one big problem I had with Sakai was finding due dates and that not all of them would show up on the weekly calendar with the big red boxes. When they did, it was great, it would just be nice if that were more consistent on the site!”