



Virtual Reference Service

Revisited and Revived

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Chat Problems

Journey mapping project identified problems with chat service:

- Inability to locate chat service link when needed
- Uneven mechanics and browser inconsistencies
- Inability to launch chat widget with triggers
- Service delays



Chat Requirements

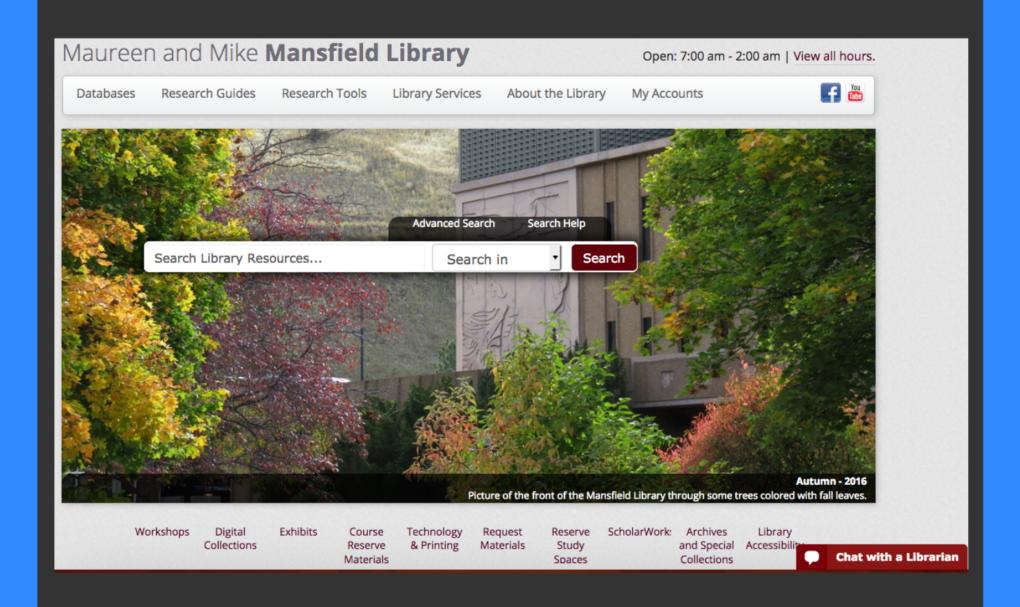
- Better visibility
- Clear online/offline indicator
- Customizable triggers
- Automatic replies



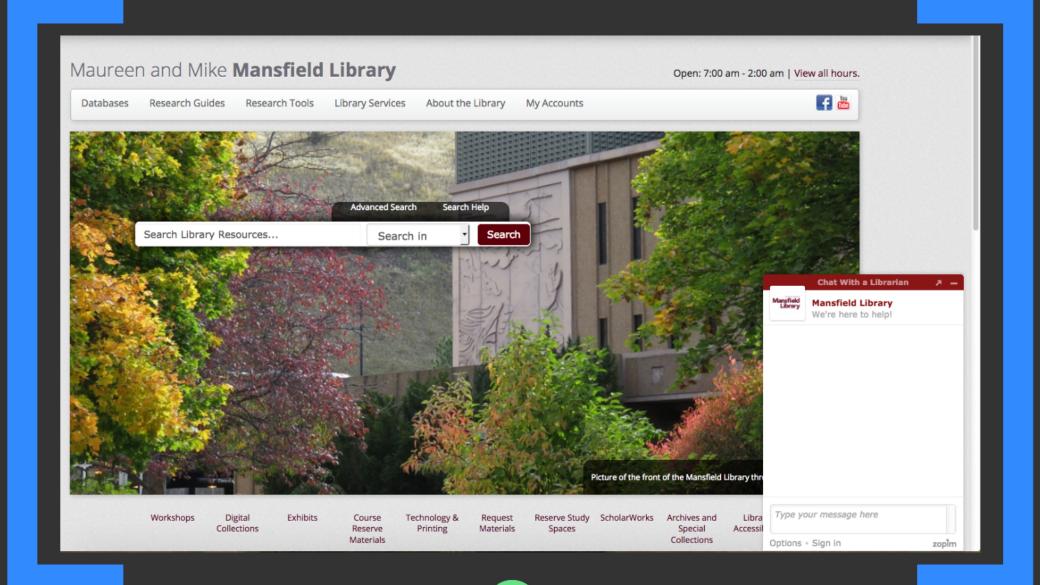
Chat Services

- Libraryh3lp
 - Trillian
 - Pidgin
 - Fire
 - Adium
 - Miranda
- Mosio for Libraries
 - LiveZilla
 - RefChatter
 - Zopim

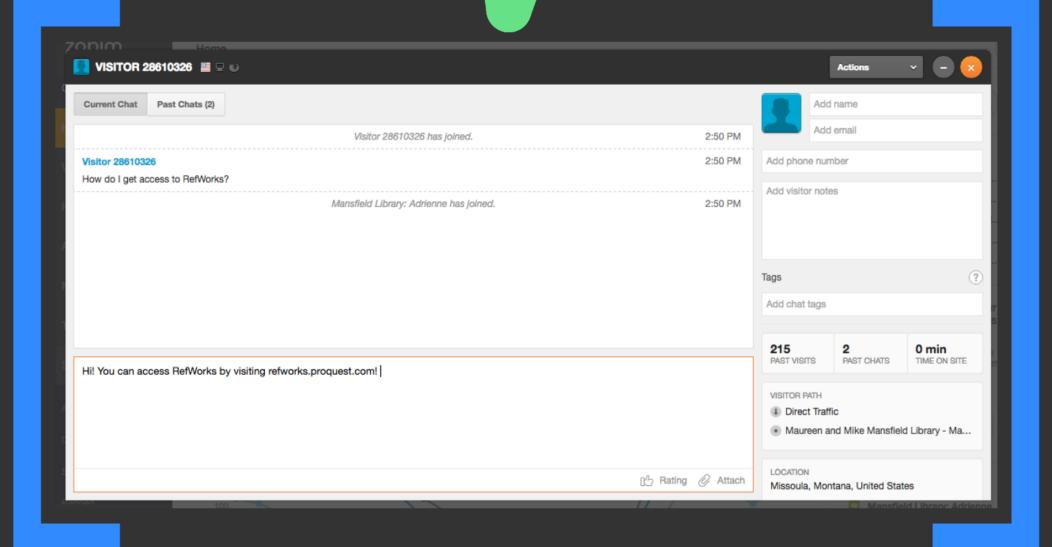














Usage

- 1,609 chats for FY 2016
 - On campus 612 (38%)
 - Triggered 837 (52%)
 - Initiated 770 (48%)
- 665 chats Spring 2016 compared to 90 in Spring 2015 (638% increase)
- Locations
 - Missoula 73%
 - Other MT 11%
 - Other States 14%
 - International 2%



Stats

Analytics for Week of 10/9/16

- Total chats = 39
- Chats completed = 31
- Chats dropped = 7
- Chats missed = 1
- Offline messages = 12
- Average wait time = 34s
- Average chat duration = 9m 45s
- Satisfaction = 100%



New Models

The robust increase in queries encouraged us to add/adapt the following services:

- Main reference desk provides first level of service.
- Librarians provide backup during their office hours spread across the day.
- Evening hour shifts (Sunday through Thursday, 5pm-9pm) are covered remotely.
- Circulation staff refer patrons to the Chat Service during evening hours.



Thank You!

