



## Podcasting @ WPI

*Library wisdom for the MP3 masses*

*2006 October Conference: Biomedical Libraries at  
Dartmouth "Cool Tools and New Technologies"*

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## About WPI

- More than **50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs** in science, engineering, technology, management, social sciences, and humanities and arts
- 2,851 undergraduates/1018 graduate students
- 324 faculty
- [Corporate & Professional Education:](#) Advanced Distance Learning Network
- Off campus global project centers



## About the **Library Wisdom** Series

- Started August 2005
- Short (< 3 minute) weekly segments on information sources and search techniques such as:
  - [eJournals Revolution](#) - the Library is not run by Robots
  - [Fire Codes are Dynamite](#) (NFPA fire code database)
  - **From the Magic 8 Ball to the Etch-A-Sketch to Your Cell Phone [the Inner workings](#)...** a peek inside how things work
  - [Digging into the Deep or Invisible Web](#) The Molten Core
  - [MESHing with Medical Professionals](#) (PubMed tips)



## About the **Two Towers** Reading

**Two Towers**  
*The Story of Worcester Tech 1863-1965*

- Summer 2006 faculty, students, staff and alumni came together to read chapters
- No hobbits, but this is the story of *Worcester Polytechnic Institute* fed in weekly segments
- Time consuming but way to include the community and build awareness



# How to Listen Up

- **Subscribe to [Audio To Go Podcasts](#)**  
[GO](#) [wpi.edu/+Library/Borrowing/Podcasts/](http://www.wpi.edu/+Library/Borrowing/Podcasts/)
- Obtain the latest podcasts by setting your podcast software to grab the latest information for you. Point your iTunes (click *Advanced, Subscribe to Podcast*) or point any other podcatcher to this URL:  
<http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/Library/Borrowing/Podcasts/wpiaudiotogo.xml>



# How We Did It

- Addressed file storage issues
- Purchased tools
  - quality headset/microphone (\$90)
  - iPod 20G & Griffin Talk Device (\$340)
- Explored [RSS feeds](#) & readers
- Learned how to create XML files
  - Use [validator.w3.org/feed](http://validator.w3.org/feed) and [others](#) to assure RSS feed works
- Created & tested MP3 files
  - [Audacity](#) & LAME encoder to create & edit audio files
  - Test using [various readers](#) (Google reader, Bloglines, etc.)
- Marketing: posters, web site, brochure, word of mouth



Part of *Audio to Go* program, we also offer eAudio books on library MP3 players



## Why We Did and Still Do It

- Capture MP3 audience, perhaps a *different type* of library user
- *Push* information wisdom to tech savvy students/faculty
- After fall pilot looked at download statistics and keep on trucking
  - Since beginning, more than 3000 downloads of the MP3 files (of 32 files total)
- Time spent: 30-60 minutes to create & make available each segment
- Working on incorporating into [Information Literacy program](#)
  - perhaps pre- or post-class audio segments that could be linked to Blackboard
  - More interested in creating “reusable” content



## Future Prospects

- Fall 2006-March 2007: **Course Project**
  - Team of two students working with marketing professor on podcasting in higher education/libraries
  - Will survey the WPI community on podcast use and perceptions
- Fall 2006: **more feedback needed**
  - Added *podcast Comments/Suggestions* form on web page
- Spring/Summer 2007
  - Are vodcasts, vidcasts, screencasts next?



# Questions?

**Feel free to contact me**

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