Trial Run: Sharing Registration Information Using Google Docs

Background
- Founded in 1918
- 300 Members
- Includes greater Philadelphia region (also the Delaware Valley): Philadelphia, southeastern Pennsylvania, northern Delaware, and southern New Jersey.
- Chapter members serve large (QVC) to small (CFAR) companies, universities (TJU), hospitals (Chestnut Hill) and everything in between.
- Active student chapter at Drexel University (DUSLA). We also draw library school students from Clamp.

Events
Traditionally, the Chapter has held 5-8 events per year.
Three of these are Chapter traditions:
- Annual Banquet (Spring)
- Wine & Cheese Reception (Fall)
- Holiday Party/Silent Auction (December)

We also include 1-2 “professional development” programs (lecture style) without networking and 1-2 Continuing Education programs (hands-on learning in the spring and/or fall).

The TechTopics Series
In the Fall of 2007, Karen Krasznalvolgyi in her role as Professional Development Chair organized a series of hands-on TechTopics workshops. The goal was to provide an overview of new technologies, such as wikis, blogs, office applications, etc. and how to apply them to your organization. The following 5 very popular and successful programs were scheduled:

For more information on:
- The Philadelphia Chapter of the Special Libraries Association: http://units.sla.org/chapter/cphl/
- Pbwiki:  http://pbwiki.com/
- Google Docs: http://docs.google.com/
- Your Library in Second Life: Taking the Virtual Plunge, October 9, 2007
- Firefox 2.0: Customize, Automate, and “Redeiscover the Web” with Add-ons November 13, 2007

Further Reading
- “Technology is now making global collaboration not just possible but easy and productive. And the value of working across not only universities but nations is clearly immense, while limiting yourself to the skill set found in your immediate department or working group seems self-defeating. It’s perhaps not surprising, then, that researchers who spend a lot of time working with researchers in other nations are significantly more productive than researchers who don’t.” Farkas, Meredith G. Social Software in Libraries: Building Collaboration, Communication, and Community Online. Medford, N.J.: Information Today, 2007.

- "Social software does an excellent job of overcoming the barriers of distance and time, giving people a chance to communicate and work together wherever they are... Using wikis, people can collaborate on a project online without having to be in the same room together or work at the same time.”
- "Although the Internet has made workers more independent, it has also led to communication breakdowns. In other words, our degree of separation from our customary workplace has increased, while at the same time, we have been more socially connected.”
- "It’s perhaps not surprising, then, that researchers who spend a lot of time working with researchers in other nations are significantly more productive than researchers who don’t.”
- "The authors thank Medical Media Services at Thomas Jefferson, for printing services, Jamie Sims, Drexel University/DUSLA for sponsorship and hosting of our TechTopics workshops.

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Lessons Learned/Challenges
Wikis are easy to create and edit!
Pulling readers/contributors in is always a challenge.

Web 2.0 Inspirations: Collaborative Chapter Event Planning Using Wikis and Google Docs

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