

Unisa Library Technology Event 21-23 September 2011

As easy as "one, two, three" – using wiki technology to create "cyber shelves"

Presentation by: Lorraine Grobler, eLibrary_@_SBLUnisa



Why a wiki?

- Most students, although technologically "savvy", find libraries difficult to "figure out" when confronted with a variety of information resources on the library homepage
- Study habits range from the dedicated and serious to the last minute rush individual
- Wikis are being used as one of the ways to develop subject focused "e-spaces" or "cyber shelves"



Benefits

- Quick and easy to set up with no third party intervention required
- Minimum end user training required it is more intuitive
- Eliminates the guesswork in trying to figure out which appropriate information resource to use when confronted with a bewildering array of choice
- Other relevant and appropriate information content other than the library's resources may be linked, for example, YouTube



Benefits continued

- Not affected by changes in layout to library web pages links in the wiki take the user directly to the resource, via the WAM
- Wiki may be linked on learning platforms such as myUnisa and the SBL eds
- Wiki may be linked to library web pages as subject gateways (with the appropriate Unisa branding)
- The SBL lecturer for project management is using the project management wiki as part of his lecture during residential study schools thus promoting the library's online resources



And still more benefits ...

- The content in the wiki is applicable to modules across the College offering that particular subject
- The software promotes collaboration and the sharing of expertise irrespective of geographic location
- It will assist staff in the regional branches as well as after hours staff in directing users to focused information in a particular subject
- It is a good starting point for new professional library staff to develop subject gateways and gain confidence while using the collaborative functionality with more experienced professionals



And best of all . . .

- It will stop us from wanting to pull out our hair when students phone two minutes before closing time with a deadline ... we can email them the link
- It caters for both the serious student as it provides many avenues to explore the subject in depth and also for the "fast food" last-minute student who demands instant results.
- Let us now take a look at how the wiki works in practice

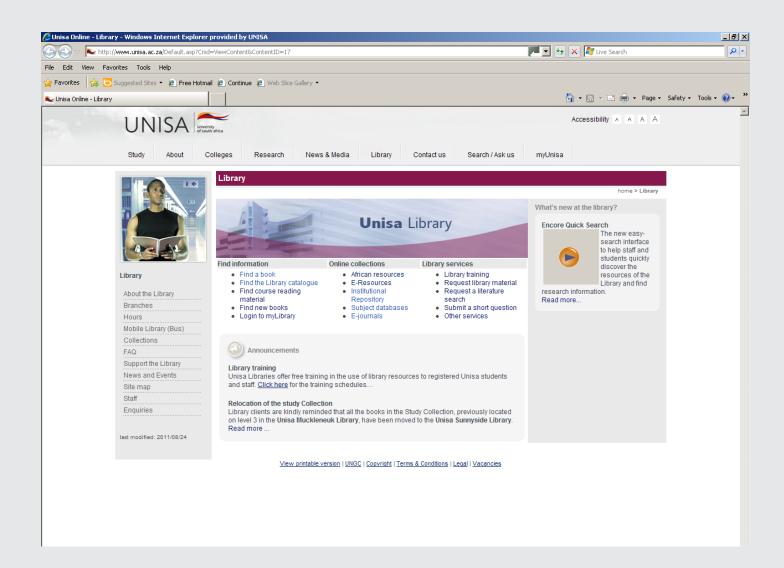


Typical case study of an MBL or MBA student

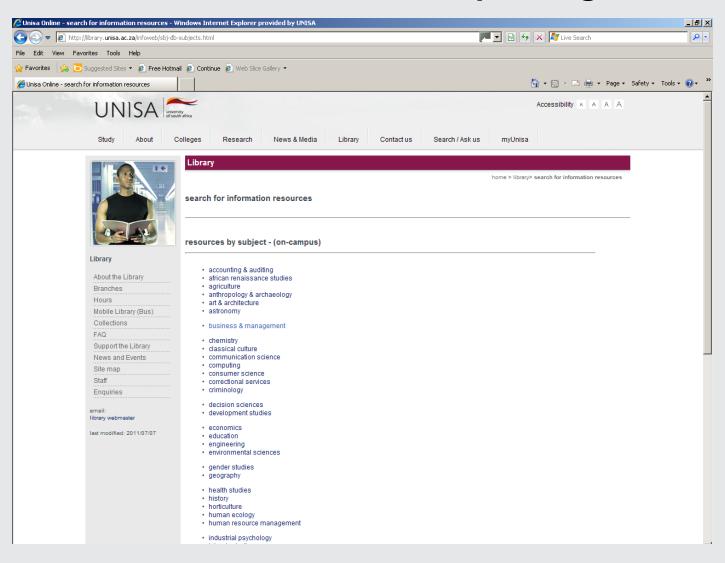
- Student has to do research or a group assignment on some aspect
 of project management and has left this to the last minute, i.e. five
 minutes before closing time on a Friday or a Saturday
- Easiest option:
 - phone any available sympathetic librarian at one of the Unisa Library Branches
 - visit the eLibrary or research space or information desk or the regional branches and demand the impossible in the shortest space of time
- How may we help to provide the student with what seems to be impossible at this late stage of the day?



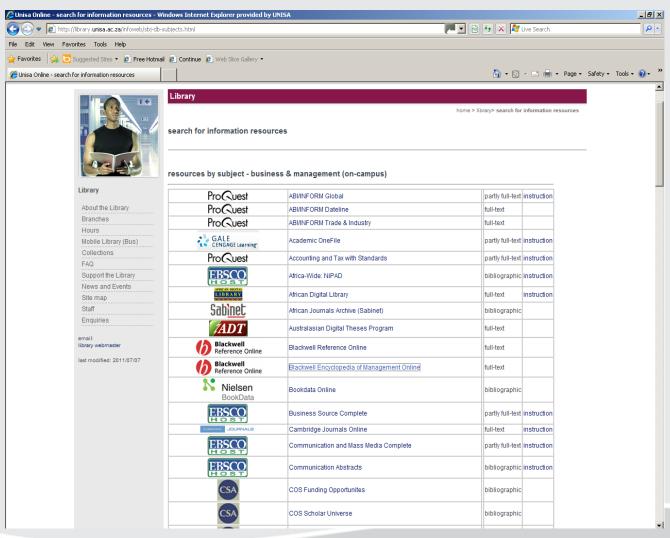
Direct the student to a the library homepage with a lot of choices and explaining



After selecting a resource still more bewildering choices !!! And more explaining ...



And still more choice !!!





Closing time is looming nearer ... and the questions and excuses keep coming

- Do not have time to work through a library tutorial
- Which resource is the best one for this subject?
- Where can one find a definition of the subject?
- What about books on the subject?
- What are the core journals in this subject?
- Where can one find completed research?



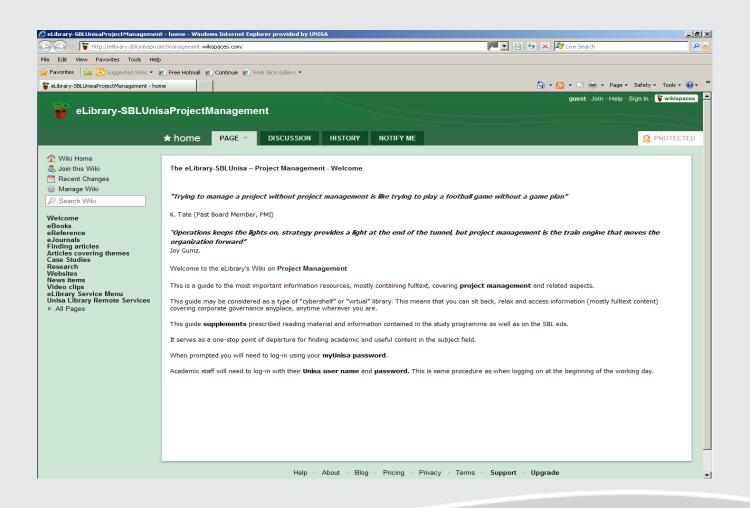
The project management wiki – a "one stop shop"

- Covers various aspects of project management
- Provides links to project management content under the following sub-headings:
 - eBooks
 - eReference
 - eJournals
 - finding articles
 - search topics on themes
 - research
 - case studies
 - websites
 - video clips



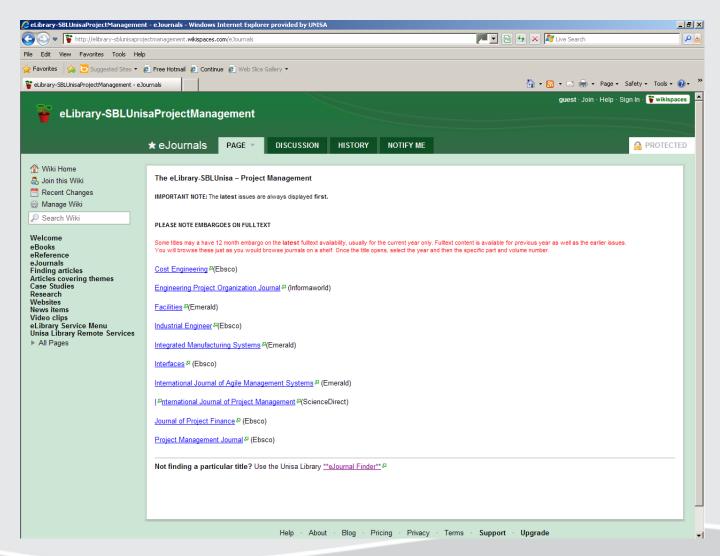
Welcome to the

eLibrarySBLUnisa Project Management Wiki



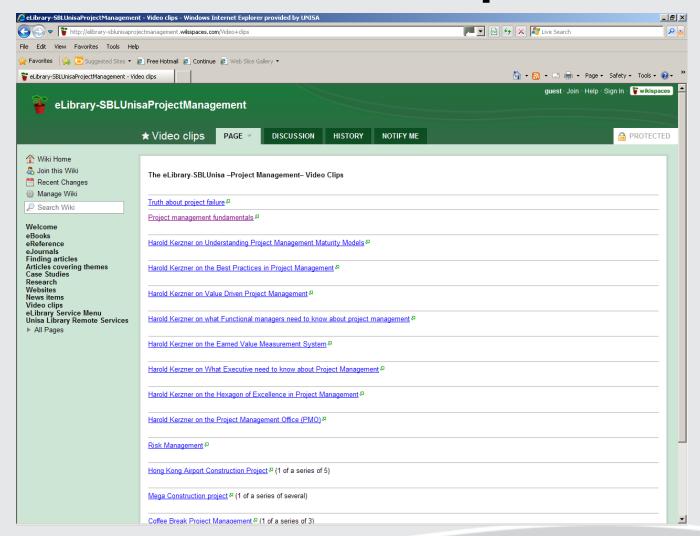


Under eJournals

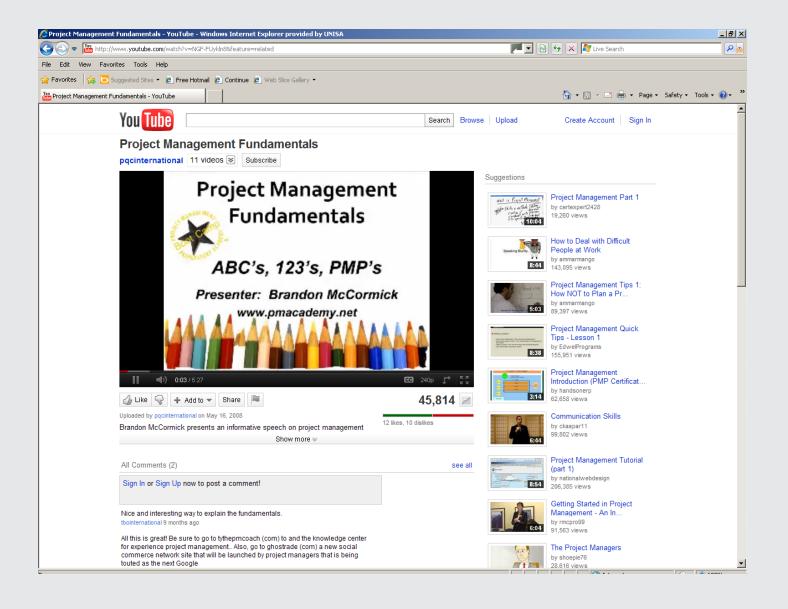




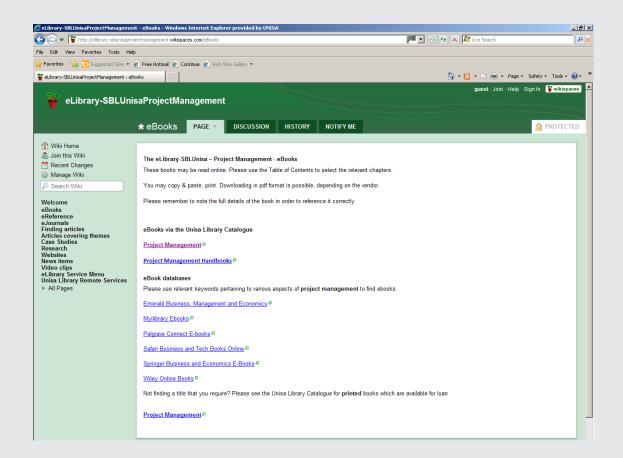
Under video clips





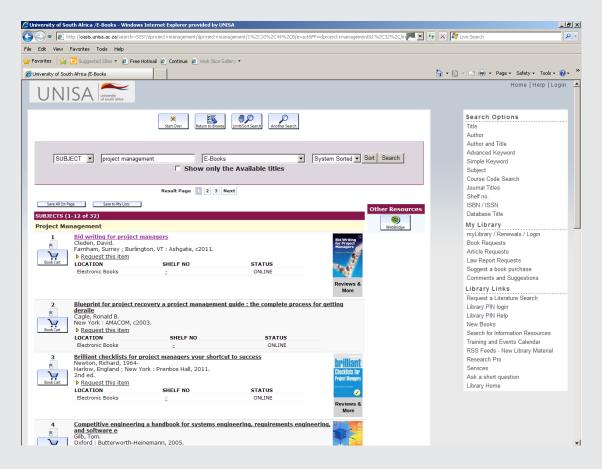


Under eBooks

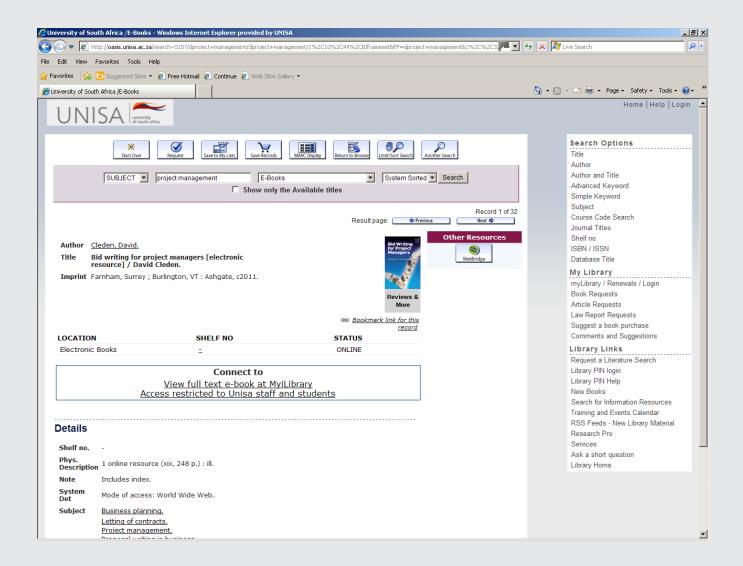


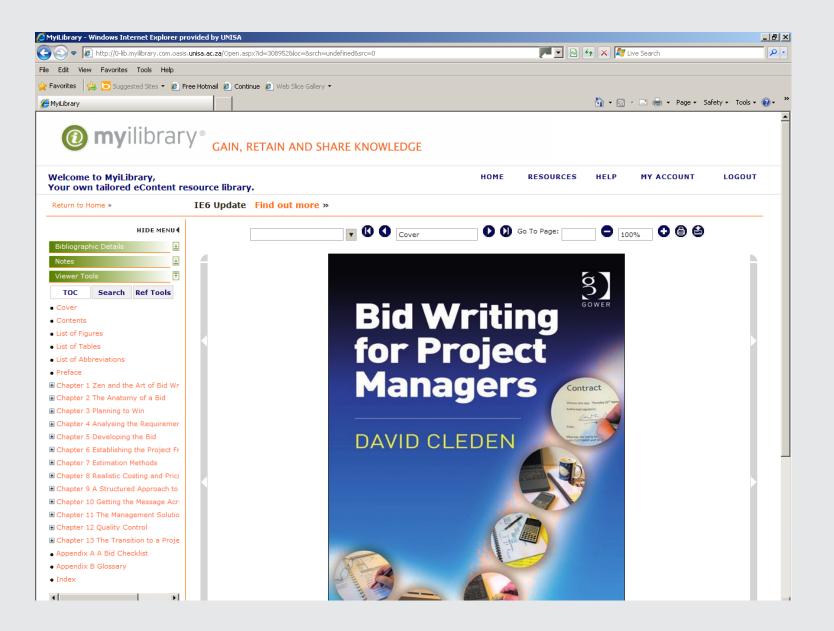


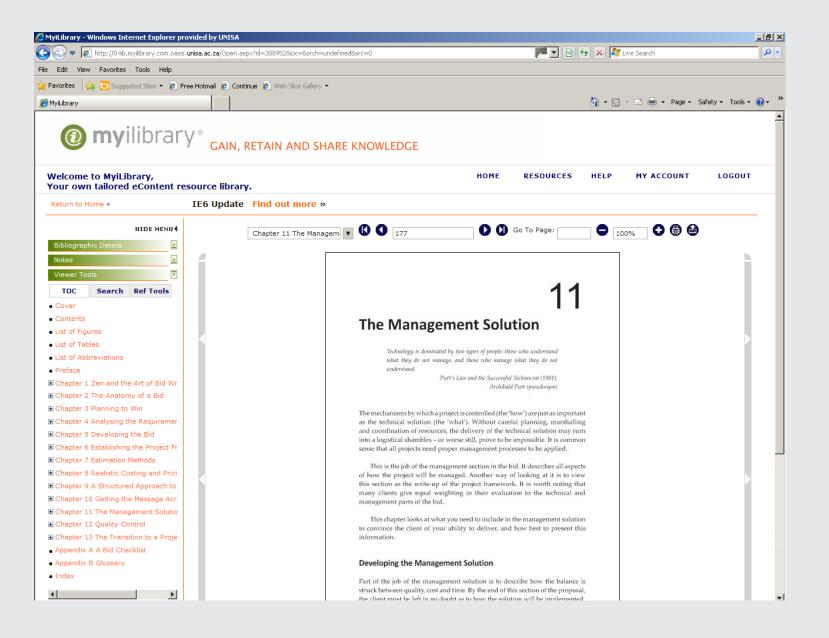
Clicking on the subject heading takes you to











Examples of Wiki Software

http://www.wikispaces.com

http://www.pbworks.com

http://www.wetpaint.com



Useful reading to get started on wikis

Bradley, P. 2007. How to use WEB 2.0 in your library.
 London: Facet Publishing.

 Kroski, E. 2008. Web 2.0 for librarians and information professionals. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers.

• Pressley, L. 2010. Wikis for libraries. London: Facet Publishing.

