UOC Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Web 2.0 and the Digital Divide

Ismael Peña-López
School of Law and Political Science
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

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PART I: EXPERIENCES

GFIS

- **GFIS: information service that stores metadata on forestry “under the same roof”, providing accurate search results and reliable information.**

- **The system interacts with other databases all over the world using RSS format, and using the Open Search specification as a standard interface for search engines.**

- **Multilingual search aggregator, where content comes from RSS feeds generated through searches.**

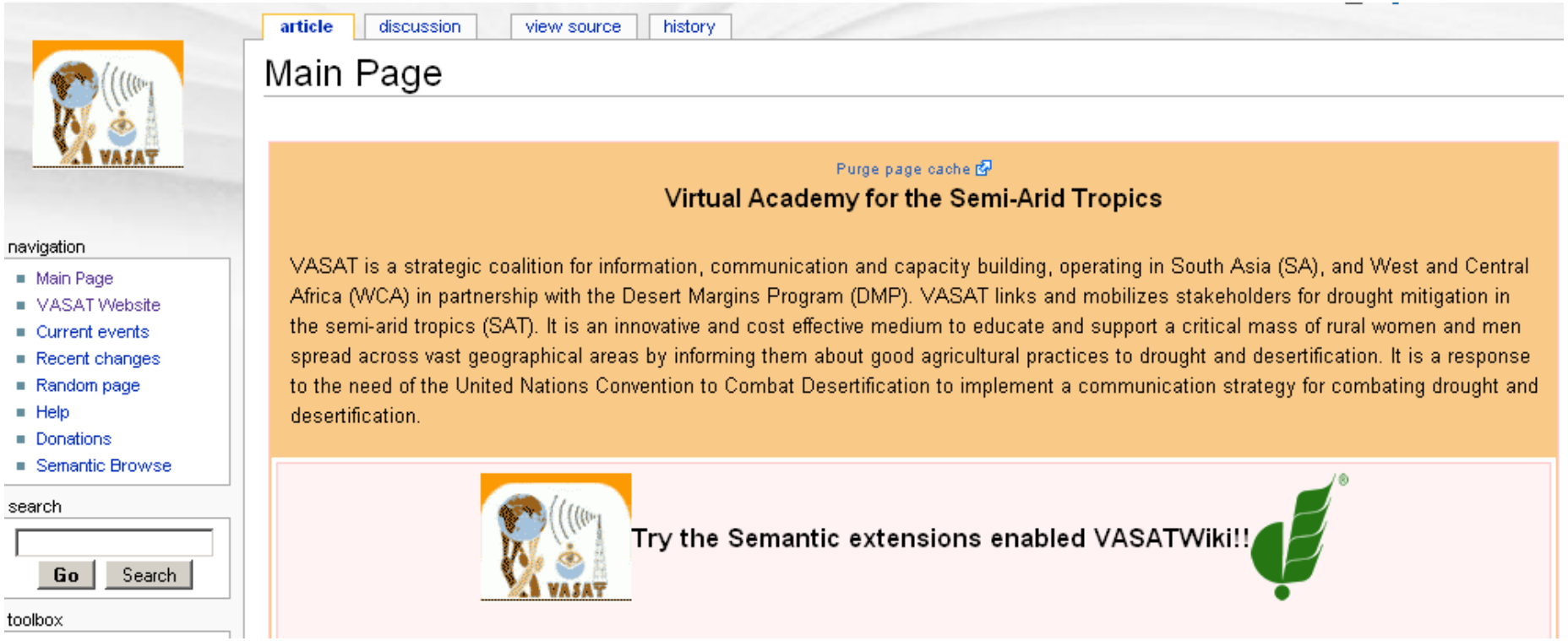
GFIS

GFIS.net
Global Forest Information Service
internet gateway to forest information resources
| Home | Providing information Sign in
About GFIS
Search for Global Forest Information
News
Events
Recent publications
Job vacancies
Datasets and databases
Library and document collections
Search
How to search
Show in: all en es fr
Latest news
Recently published events
Recent publications
Job vacancies

VASAT Wiki

- **Semantic Wiki Tool to Build a Repository of Re-usable Information objects in Agricultural Education and Extension**
- **Being able to connect knowledge not only by keywords/tags, but also through content itself, linking fragments of information and knowledge through meanings, concepts and interlinking of concepts.**
- **Medium to educate and support a critical mass of rural women and men spread across vast geographical areas by informing them about good agricultural practices to drought and desertification**

VASAT Wiki



http://vasatwiki.icrisat.org

IFPRI 2.0

- **Goal: extend web presence beyond institutional website**
- **Goalk: establish dialogue on food policy issues: Blog World Hunger**
- **Goal: help dispersed teams work more effectively: CGVlibrary**
- **Goal: Quickly and collaboratively crate a list of best resources, e.g. by using del.icio.us**

IFPRI 2.0

- **Goal: increase participation, open communication, and create community: Let's blog IFPRI, a blog on IFPRI's intranet**
- **Goal: to simplify the entry of content into IFPRI's Intranet: using wikis as a content management system, avoiding bottlenecks, fostering initiative on the content creator/responsible**
- **Goal: IFPRI staff participate in external research-related dialogues, to increase participation**

IFPRI 2.0

IFPRI blog world hunger

International Food Policy Research Institute

sustainable solutions for ending hunger and poverty

Blog world hunger is an open global food and nutrition security diary that aims to help the effort to identify and analyze alternative national and international strategies and policies for meeting world food needs in ways that conserve the natural resource base. It is facilitated by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

"If concentrated in a single nation, the world's poorest people--the ultra poor--would comprise the world's seventh most populous country."

New Study Examines Plight of Poor Living on Less than 50 Cents a Day, November 6, 2007

"Despite much progress reducing poverty worldwide, a substantial number of the world's poorest people are being left behind, according to a new report by IFPRI. The report, *The World's Most Deprived: Characteristics and Causes of Extreme Poverty and Hunger*, is the the first to use household poverty data from 1990 to 2004 to look below the dollar-a-day poverty line and examine who the poorest people are, where they live, and how they have fared over time."

MORE >>

Back to Main Page

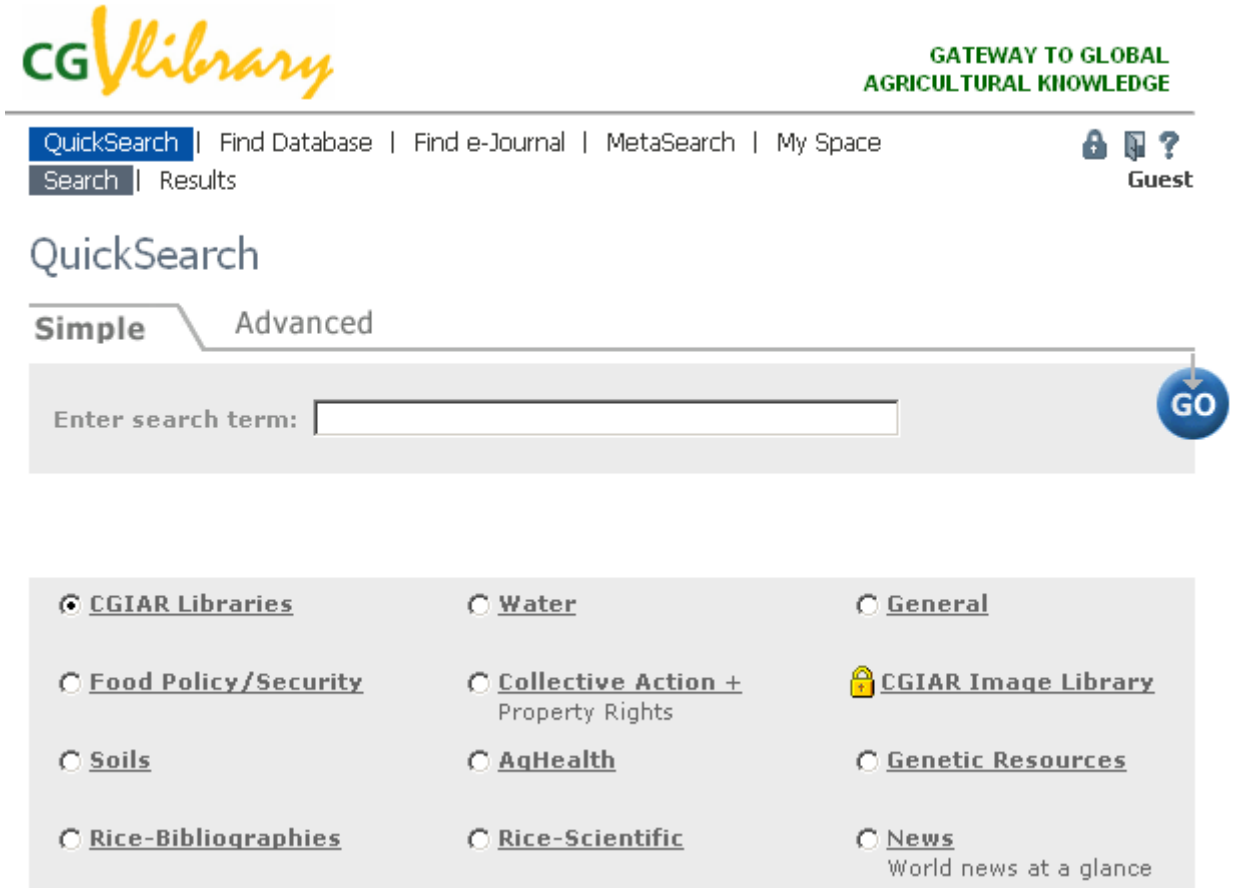
Quicksearch

Include comments

Search

http://www.ifpriblog.org/

IFPRI 2.0



http://vlibrary.cgiar.org/

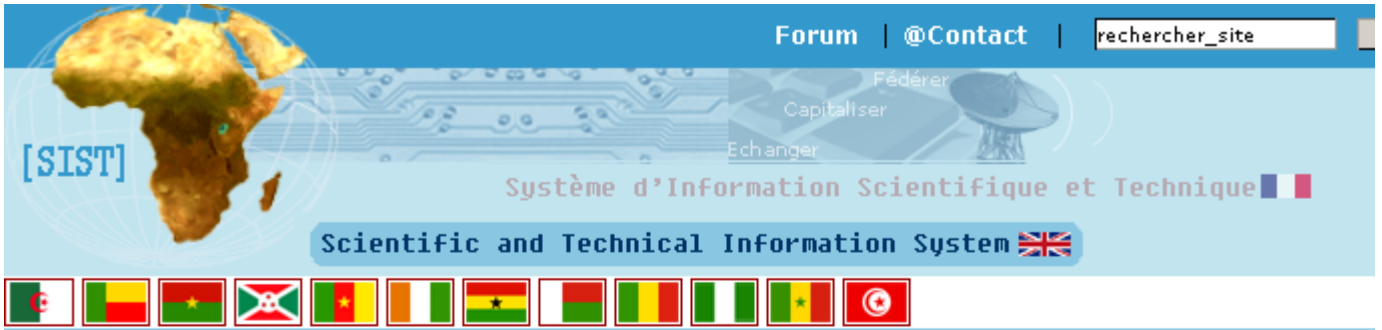
SIST

- Meta search engines for syndicated search

- A single question to ask several databases, open access archives, websites, RSS feeds, etc.
- A single RSS format for results representation.
- Systematic access to the original source of data.

- SIST also serves not only as a search engine, but also as a way of monitoring news and everything that's happening on the Internet.

SIST



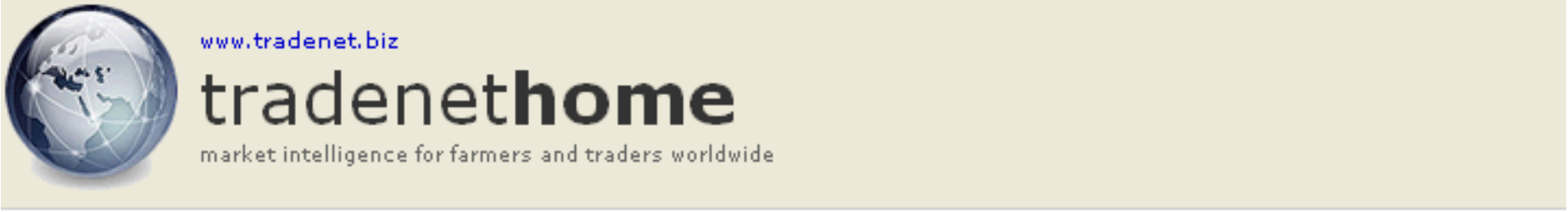
http://www.sist-sciencesdev.net

TRADENET

- **Tradenet is open source software product to manage information: realtime SMS uploads from markets, database customized for agricultural data, multi-currency, etc. Specifically designed to get market data for farmers.**

- **The system is not only passive — you get data updates — but active: you can query the system through the mobile phone by means of SMS messages with specific codes.**

TRADENET



http://www.tradenet.biz/

CELAC

- Agricultural information in Uganda.
- Some Web 2.0 tools used:

- Information websites
- Blogs
- Google Maps, to geolocalize resources
- Wiki [login/password protected wiki], as a training materials repository
- SMS, sent through a website
- Podcasts
- FlickR, discussion groups, Skype, e-Learning tools
- etc.

CELAC

celac Collecting and Exchange of Local Agricultural Content

RSS

NAVIGATION

- HOMEPAGE
- ABOUT CELAC
- HOW TO GUIDES
- SMS NEWS
- REPORTS
- WEB 2 SMS
- PROJECT ADMIN

DISTRICT FARMERS NETWORK

Apac	Lira
Bushenyi	Kabale
Luweero	Kabarole
Kamuli	Kasese
Kayunga	Masaka

WHAT IS NEW? Website Updates and New Features

- MASAKA DISTRICT CELAC FARMERS NETWORK PAGE
- CELAC Market Prices 28th May 2007
- Knowledge Fair Report
- Knowledge Fair AAR
- Listen to Farmers Interviews
- CELAC Farmer to Farmer Advice - CELAC Blog

CELAC NOTICEBOARD

- Traditional Cheese Making & Aging Seminar- CoRFiLaC 2007
- Cheese Making & Aging Picasa Web Album
- CELAC Traditional Cheese Making Try out (PDF)
- Map showing districts with CELAC activities
- CELAC Website Dictionary

CELAC

A project Implemented by

BROSDI

CELAC SUCESS STORIES

"many times while I am going about my farming activities, I find challenges; but these have been made easier because.."

- English
- Luganda

http://www.celac.or.ug/

MOBILE MONITORS

- **To make elections more transparent thanks to mobile enhanced monitoring**

MOBILE MONITORS

mobilemonitors.org

Home Contact Join Us

Welcome to the official website of The Network of Mobile Election Monitors of Nigeria (NMEM). This a non-partisan non-profit project coordinated by Human Emancipation Lead Project. The project goal is to involve Nigerians with mobile phones to monitor the forth coming Nigerian presidential election through SMS to ensure impartial elections.

Background

"Mobile phone serves communication. Communication serves humanity. Humanity serves change". This assertion by Mobile Active-global network of people, tools, projects and resources focused on the use of mobile phones for activism, campaigns and civic engagement, forms the basis of this project. GSM access has so far reach virtually

every nooks and crannies of Nigeria from Sahara regions of the north to the mangroves of the Niger Delta. With over 30 million active subscribers on the tree major networks , mobile phones have prove to be the most pervasive communication technology so far in Nigeria, much more than internet and electronic media.

In addition, mobile phones are a highly personal means of communication that reaches the target constituent directly and immediately .Mobile phones are therefore, tools to engage, organize, mobilize and inform people. This project is offering Nigerians a platform to ensure impartial elections. This shall provide a true mix of data on the election activities from the ruling party, opposition parties, INEC officials, other monitoring group and the general public. Result from this project shall be sent to the central coordinating committee at the Transition Monitoring Group and other INEC accredited international monitoring groups.

Key facts for Mobile phone Election Monitoring

http://mobilemonitors.org/

GLOBAL VOICES

- **Selection, translation, context**

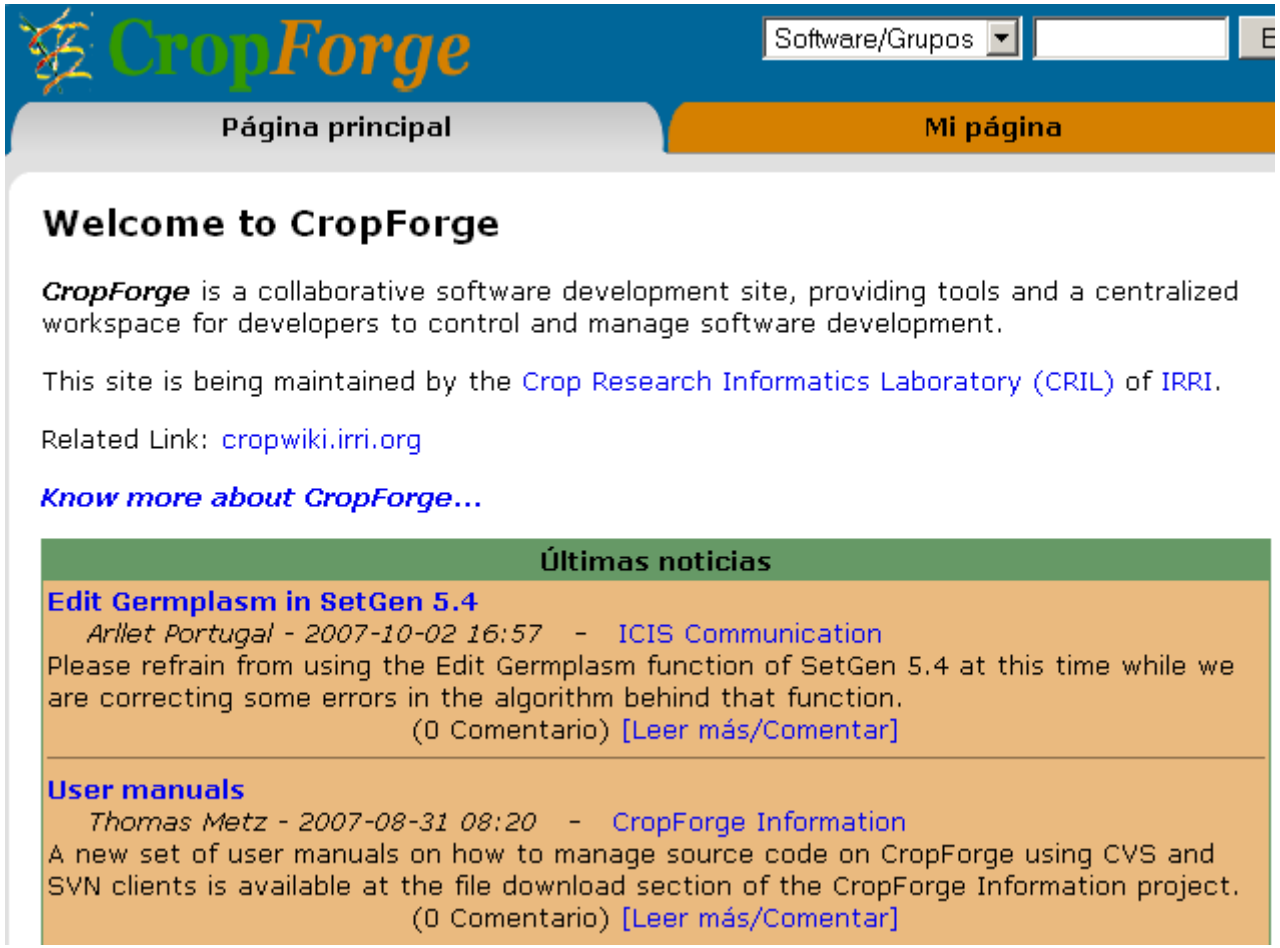
GLOBAL VOICES

http://www.globalvoicesonline.org/

CROPFORGE

- **Is a collaborative software development site, providing tools and a centralized workspace for developers to control and manage software development.**
- **The difference being with SourceForge is that it hosts all kind of information about projects and software related to development, food and food security, hunger, etc., including fora and communication spaces where collaboration, support takes place**

CROPFORGE



https://cropforge.org/

PART II: RANDOM THOUGHTS

Random Thoughts

- **The importance of ICTs in leapfrogging**
- **Proliferation of online content, along with language/translation tools**
- **Web 2.0 removes the barriers on the consumers, creators of content**

Random Thoughts

- **Engagement**
- **Empowerment**
- **Availability of ICT infrastructures and tools ensures people's empowerment and social inclusion**
- **Web 2.0 applications ensure participatory development communication**
- **Participation, decision making, human rights… are new dimensions on development that the Web 2.0 can include on the development debate**

Random Thoughts

- **Improve quality of information by linking information from multiple data sources**
- **Reduce cost of content creating and deployment**
- **Better access through multiple devices**
- **Richer content using collective intelligence**
- **Effective information exchange and knowledge management across geography through collaborative platforms**

Random Thoughts

- **Integration of data from multiple sources will be required to provide meaningful information and content**
- **Computers is just not enough: connectivity, content, services, B2C, B2B, G2B, etc**

Random Thoughts

- New costs to working
- Need for training and awareness
- Capacity building a need to be approached
- Capacity development should be tied to information strategies

Random Thoughts

- **Find the appropriate communications (system) for the appropriate content. And the contrary: if e.g. mobile phone is the platform, think of the appropriate content (and not only the format, but the content itself) to be delivered through it**
- **To contribute: policy at the local level, resources and founding, technical expertise, infrastructure, access to relevant data / data sources, etc.**

Random Thoughts

- **Relevancy, quality control, suitability are difficult or just impossible to design ex ante, so give the practitioner, the user the ability to comment on resources, so you can help in the evaluation of this resource**

Random Thoughts

- **Government-led public information portals are also adopting Web 2.0 applications for more actions and interactions**
- **Organizational challenges: open web, open content requires open institutions, open organizations. Knowledge transfer, knowledge sharing needs connected people, transparency**

Random Thoughts

Advantages of Web 2.0

- Knowledge gets documented
- Enhanced community sharing, which sometimes does not happen offline but does online, and then they cannot stop!
- Improved livelihoods

Random Thoughts

Challenges of Web 2.0

- Requires Internet: Internet's expensive; electricity is bad scheduled in the whole country; differing peoples' susceptibility to change
- Information hoarding

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To contact the author:
http://ismael.ictlogy.net

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