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### Riding the Wave: Using Google for Library Committee Collaboration

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# Riding the Wave

## Using Google for Library Committee Collaboration

Teresa M. Keenan

The University of Montana, Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library

### Introduction

The task force on Bibliographic Standard Record for Visual Materials group was formed to assist the Standards Committee of the Program for Cooperative Cataloging (PCC SCS) in their efforts in extending the reach of the Bibliographic Standard Record (BSR) to formats other than books.

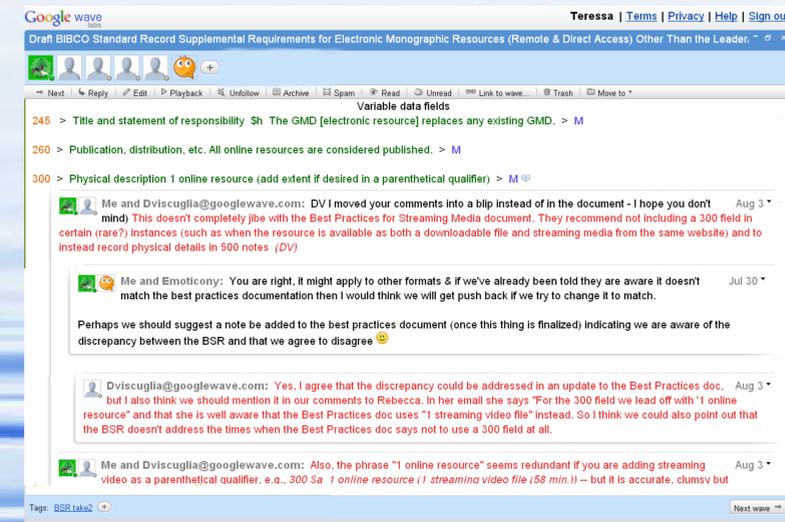
Members of the nationwide-task force had a short time frame to complete their charge, so an easy-to-learn, efficient, dependable, low cost collaborative software tool was needed. Task force members chose to use Google Wave and Google Docs.

### Why Google?

- Allows for communication & collaboration within a single tool
- Supports both real-time and asynchronous communication
- Customizable experience for each user through use of widgets & bots
- Operates in most major PC & mobile browsers
- Free

### A Wave is...

- A document that can be updated by multiple contributors simultaneously with:
  - Rich text
  - Embedded functionality (extensions, widgets, bots)
  - Files
  - Graphics
- Persistent
  - Information is created & stored on a Wave server and syncs to clients of people who are included in the wave
- Historical
  - Playback option recreates the state of any wave & its participants throughout its saved history
- Permission-based
  - Intuitive access control for editing, reading
  - Access for individuals, groups, or public



### What Works:

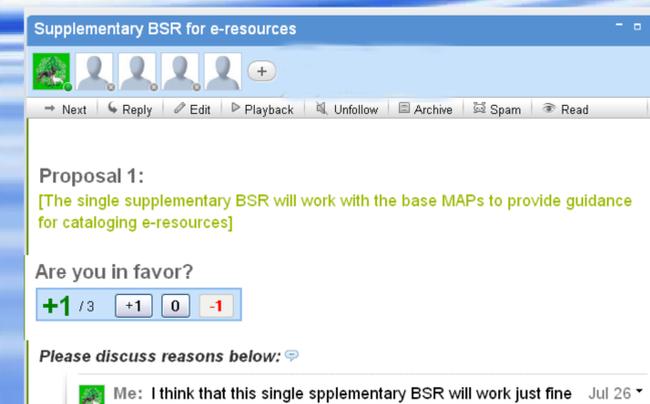
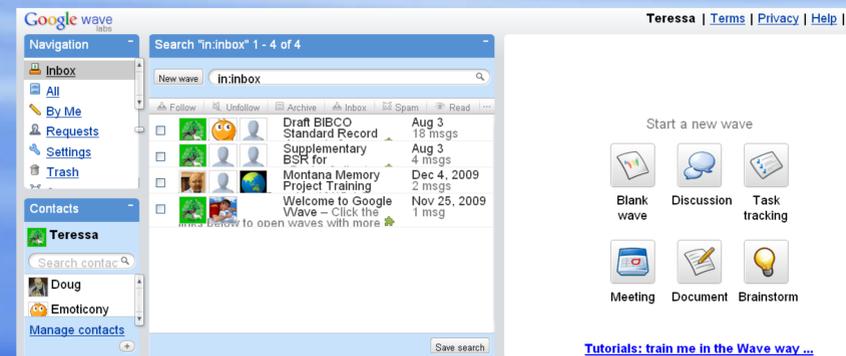
- ✓ Ability to eliminate emails & attachments
  - Everything in one place
  - Discussions are all threaded & easy to follow
- ✓ Easy to set up and maintain
  - Templates
  - Tags
  - Wiki-like editing standards with minimal knowledge
- ✓ Ability to mix multiple communication methods
  - Real-time messaging
  - Document creation
  - Commenting
  - Collaborative editing & data generation
  - Group discussions

### Challenges:

- Getting people logged in and using it was a barrier (Special invitation was necessary)
- Simple to use, but a mental leap for many.

### For more information:

Visit the author's webpage  
[<http://tinyurl.com/2ckghmy>]



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