

## Program Objective

The library has always sought to introduce users to the best tools for the job. Traditional tools are changing, and new services (web apps) are being developed that empower the user to tap into these resources in new and powerful ways. New books are currently displayed on new bookshelves, and new databases are announced via news feeds, newsletters, and emails. The library needed a means of not just introducing new tools but also engaging our patrons in conversations regarding the merits and efficacy of them.

## Program

Towards accomplishing the stated objective, two reference librarians decided to start a blog, Ihlweblab (<http://www.lhl.uab.edu/Ihlweblab/>), as a means of showcasing, storing, and discussing the tools and widgets they wished to promote. In addition to being used to promote widgets they helped create, the blog is used to showcase outside tools that may benefit their patrons' work and lives.

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## Ihlweblab content



### [Twitter Clients](#)

Author: Jason Baker; Filed under: [2.0](#), [Twitter](#);

If you are amongst the folks already using twitter you may be familiar with the variety of Twitter Clients. Whether you are tweeting or not you may want to check out this list, [21 twitter Clients](#). 21 Twitter Clients covers several Twitter clients, some manage incoming and outgoing tweets, some manage pictures and display, while some connect your blog to your twitter account. Here we are going to look at tools for tweeting.



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### [Need to cite a book?](#)

Author: Paul Mussleman; Filed under: [2.0](#);

Need a quick way to generate a citation for a book in APA, Chicago, Harvard, MLA, or Turabian style? The *CiteMe* application (located under the "boxes" tab on the [LHL Facebook page](#)) will search for your book title and display it in one of the aforementioned styles.

## Popularity:

There have been 235 visits to the blog with a peak of 28 visits in week 9 (concurrent with Facebook development that week).

## Access:

It is a publicly accessible blog, mostly visited by those subscribing to LHL's Twitter account.

## Users:

Readership consists of patrons and staff.

## Main results:

Conclusions at this point are premature but they hope to suggest that well maintained blogs are an effective means of promoting, storing, and discussing the tools and widgets they develop and/or post.

## Moving forward/what's next:

Develop and/or use existing web pages to place links to the Ihlweblab blog. Continue to post on new and emerging tools. Engage in conversations with readers.

<http://www.lhl.uab.edu/Ihlweblab/>