Badges in Academic Libraries

Introduction

Whats and Whys of Badges

- Read Why Badges?
- "Digital Badges," SAGE Encyclopedia of Education Technology

There is very little published literature on badges in college and university libraries, though many libraries have launched or are designing a badge project. Portland State has published on their badging project.

Ideally, students can make their earned badges public, through Mozilla Backpack. Lots of potential for embedding earned badges into portfolios and LinkedIn profiles. May have implications for gaining an edge with future employers.

Read, Watch, and Join:

2012

- Future full of badges – Chronicle of Higher Ed
- Digital badges for library research? - ACRLog

2013

- Keeping Up With…Digital Badges for Instruction (by Nicole Pagowsky, U of Arizona)
- How Badges Really Work in Higher Education – Campus Technology
- Digital Badges: An Annotated Research Bibliography v1 - HASTAC

2014

- Badges and buy-in – Nicole P. discusses presenting badges program to faculty
  - "Focus less on gamification when introducing the concept and more on measuring skills and competency-based education"
- Can Digital 'Badges' and 'Nanodegrees' Protect Job Seekers From a First-Round Knockout? – Chronicle of Higher Ed
- Pathbrite Portfolios Now Featuring Credly Badges – Campus Technology

2015

- Badges – a new measure of professional development – Campus Technology
- If B.A.'s Can't Lead Graduates to Jobs, Can Badges Do the Trick? – Chronicle of Higher Ed
- Put a badge on it! webinar, March 2015, Digital Badges Interest Group

Other

- HASTAC – Digital Badges – lots of general resources about badges in education
- Digital Badges Interest Group – ACRL, newly convened

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Badge Infrastructure Options

Wordpress Site with Badges OS plugin

- Easy option. I know Wordpress and can make this work. I need a stable server and FTP access.

Titanium (Moodle)

- allows awarding badges, allows students to link to Mozilla Backpack
- Awarding Badges in Moodle – Campus Technology

Credly

- Sends badges by email
  - o I don't like that it's not seamless
- Built on Mozilla Open Badges system/API
- Plays nice with Mozilla Backpack
- Offers plugins for Moodle (Titanium)
  - o Provides a block that can display a user's earned badges.
  - o A simple management UI that can create and update badges hosted on credly.
  - o Provides ability to grant a badge to a user
- Can design badges with Credly
- Wordpress plugins (above)

Purdue Passport

- I requested and received access to Beta
- Plays nice with Mozilla Backpack, very Purdue-oriented otherwise, been in Beta for years
- Can design badges internally
- Closed system housed at Purdue, works well with Purdue resources, would work well for testing concepts but I'd be hesitant to use another university's proprietary system.

Mozilla Open Badges

- Open, well-used software for badges. Anything we use should be on this standard.

Academic Libraries that Offer Badges

Portland State University Libraries

- Badge it! – published article, 2015
- IL badges for Public Health students
- Piloted Fall 2014, a year+ in planning phase
- 11 faculty/staff on the project
- $20,000 in funding
- Based in D2L; Badges awarded through Credly
    - Badges Offered
        - Credly Crown – the onboarding badge
        - Web Ninja – certifies website evaluation
        - Source Sleuth – certifies understanding of information formats and audiences
        - Keyword Hacker – certifies search techniques
        - Recorder – certifies citation style
        - Silver Pen – certifies a peer review and writing exercise
        - Master Info Analyzer – culminating badge certifies completion of all badges and passing grade in the class.

University of Iowa Libraries

- Based on Purdue Passport
- Awards free print credits

- Click to view larger
- Not sure if still active – have to log in with institution ID

University of Central Florida Libraries

- Automated using quizzes; 80% score generates email link to Credly badge
- Badges awarded through Credly
- Three categories of tutorials: Gather, Evaluate, and Use

- Click to view larger
- List of tutorials – 20 to 30 minutes each!

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University of Michigan Libraries (not yet launched)

- Some badges issues in Engineering dept for co-curricular learning.
- Uses Mozilla Backpack and Credly
- Manual review of submitted evidence

Texas Wesleyan University – Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

- Awards badges for professional development for faculty/staff
- Earn badges for attending events, completing challenges
- Badges issued through Credly
- Pedagogy map
- '"Not everybody was really that excited about the leaderboard and competing with their peers to complete professional development." And the awarding of badges seemed to some people like it was juvenile," Pope said.' From this article.

University of Arizona (links to tech connect article, no public page)

- Purdue Passport
- Closed system due to FERPA
- Students could opt for Mozilla Backpack to make badges public
- VIDEO: Nicole Pagowsky on Digital Badges – 2015 (full presentation)
- Dive into Digital Badges Workshop (by Nicole)
- Test-driving Purdue's Passport gamification platform for library instruction (Nicole)

University of Maryland

- Title: TLC Learn
- Focused on technology
- Very little participation
  - 5 people enrolled, 2 finished (and iPad was the prize)
  - (Source for this info was *Put a badge on it!* webinar)

University at Albany, SUNY

- Based on metaliteracy
- Overall badges = Master Evaluator, Digital Citizen, Producer & Collaborator, Empowered Learner (complete all and you get a metaliteracy badge)
- WordPress site with the Badges OS plugin – works with Credly!
  - TwentyTwelve Theme (housed on LearningTimes site)
- Sends students on "quests"

Other Design Resources

- Moodlebadges.com
  - o Offers free set of digital badges, pre-designed
- Credly
  - o Allows you to design custom badges

Further Reading

Gamification Techniques: How to Apply Them to E-Learning – e-learning heroes blog

Create Badges and Badge Systems – Open badges for foreign language education at UTexas
- Overview of tools and LMS that support badges