

Online Scrapbooking: A Hands-On Tutorial for SCLS Librarians and Their Patrons

Note to users – instructions to the librarians are given in square brackets and [underlined] Links in the .pdf are blue but they are not really working links.

Nowadays, the term online scrapbooking covers two pretty different, but converging, broad areas:

- 1) Resources available online, to help you create paper and printed scrapbooks (offline)
- 2) Online photo albums, where you can store, arrange and share your digital pictures with friends and family. These sites are essentially photofinishers, so you can also order prints of your pictures, to include in your offline physical albums.

Information about both areas can be found in some of the same places on the web, so let's take a look at some of them now.

Directories

Both Yahoo and Google directories supply good starting points for online scrapbooking of both varieties, and of course, plenty of links to shopping.

Yahoo Directory Scrapbooking

<http://dir.yahoo.com/Arts/Crafts/Scrapbooking/>

Yahoo's directory on Scrapbooking starts off (after the link to Shopping) with a couple of categories: Magazines, Photo album hosting, and of course Shopping and Services. Next there is a short list of most popular sites, then finally an alphabetical list. Sometimes items appear in both the alphabetical list and the most popular list. A few categorizations are a bit confusing, such as scrapbooking.com, which is a magazine that only appears in the alphabetical list. However, since a search of Yahoo for "online scrapbooking" yields almost 75,000 hits, starting with the couple dozen listings in the directory area is a good bit easier.

Google

<http://directory.google.com/Top/Arts/Crafts/Scrapbooking/>

The Google directory displays a few more categories before its alphabetical list of sites, such as Chats and Forums, How-To Sites, Local Events, Magazines and E-zines, Personal Pages, and Supplies.

Scrapbooking Top50

<http://www.scrapbookingtop50.com/>

Both Google and Yahoo's directories include the Scrapbooking Top50, a commercial site that actually lists 412 scrapbook-related sites. This is yet another list that may help you get a handle on scrapbooking information on the Internet. Advertisers submit their sites to Scrapbooking Top50 and they are ranked by the amount of traffic they receive.

So what do the sites listed in these directories have to offer?

For scrapbookers who want to make paper scrapbooks, there are plenty of sources for supplies, online discussion forums and chat, examples of other scrapbook enthusiasts' work, clubs, conventions and trade shows, printable page layouts, and more. Offline scrapbooking is definitely a computer-assisted art, although a good number of the sites do warn visitors not to spend so much time on the computer that there's not time leftover to work on albums. There is even information on how to plan a vacation around scrapbooking, and scrapbookers' retreats, sometimes called crops. Let's take a look at one fairly comprehensive scrapbooking site.

Example site - Graceful Bee

<http://www.gracefulbee.com/>

A nicely designed Scrapbooking site referred to at both Google and Yahoo. Some features are: [this site makes excellent use of "breadcrumbs" links at the top of the page that show you where you are at the site, so you can go back to a particular section more easily; they look like this you are here : home : cropy this]

NewBees Guide to Scrapbooking

<http://www.gracefulbee.com/newbees/index.html>

with instructions for beginner scrapbookers on how to approach scrapbooking as a way to record important life events, how to layout scrapbook pages, and a safety review covering how to handle photographs and the use preservation products that will not deteriorate in the future. [show Layout Guide, Safety review, Books. You can also mention that there are other sites in Google and Yahoo directories on preservation – paper preservation is something that

libraries have been researching for awhile. Image Permanence Institute is one example http://www.rit.edu/~661www1/sub_pages/scrapbook.htm]

Round Tuit

<http://www.gracefulbee.com/gba/roundtuit/index.shtml>

short tutorials to help busy scrapbookers [show Easy Layouts

<http://www.gracefulbee.com/gba/roundtuit/articles/05-36.html>]

Cocoa with Cathy

http://www.gracefulbee.com/articles/cat_index_2.shtml

Interviews with noted scrapbookers conducted by Cathy Arnold, Graceful Bee Editor [show Meet Tricia Morris, she is co-owner of Club Scrap, a Wisconsin scrapbookers club we will talk about in a minute, and Miss Wisconsin in 1990]

Many departments, with layouts, borders, stickers, punch art

[show copy this http://www.gracefulbee.com/articles/cat_index_17.shtml the area for layouts for holidays and special events; each layout includes an example, patterns, lists of supplies; could also show stung on stickers,

<http://www.gracefulbee.com/gba/stickers/index.shtml>, an interesting section is The Birth Of A Sticker, that tells how a sticker is designed and produced]

Clubs

Club Scrap

<http://www.clubscrap.com/>

This Wisconsin-based organization is both a club for scrapbookers and a supplier of scrapbooking materials. As their primary membership benefit, members receive a monthly “pizza” box of supplies and project ideas, that includes (among other items) sheets of coordinated printed and specialty papers, rubber

stamps, stickers or stencils, a newsletter and “recipe cards” with design ideas, fonts, backgrounds, and techniques. [show What is CS™ ? there is also Club Scrap Jr, a reduced membership at What is CSIR™ ?] Club Scrap has a yahoo e-group that you can join to communicate with fellow scrapbookers via threaded email <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClubScrap/> [Back at Graceful Bee, there is a Club Scrap department, which includes sample projects that people have completed using Club Scrap pizza box kits.

http://www.gracefulbee.com/articles/cat_index_13.shtml]

Wisconsin Scrappers

<http://www.wisconsinscrappers.com/>

[This is another listing from Google local events; you may want to show quickly, because it is WI. An interesting thing about this club is that they host online chats, group chats every Wednesday and Sunday, that you can access via the Dates button, and there is also a Chat Now button. The Stores button takes you to a listing of retail stores, that are all in WI. There are also some Crops or scrapbooking retreats scheduled and these are also in WI.]

Conventions and Trade Shows

Online Scrapbooking is so big at the moment that there are Scrapbookers’ conventions and trade shows in many part of the US. [Back at ClubScrap, select the Convention Tour link http://www.clubscrap.com/conv_tour.cfm to get a list of upcoming events that Club Scrap will be at]

In both Google and Yahoo, conventions are listed under local events. We’ll just look at Google -

http://directory.google.com/Top/Arts/Crafts/Scrapbooking/Local_Events/

Trade shows provide attendees a chance to go see products and services offered by suppliers (like Club Scrap) and also network with other scrapbookers.

Retailers often place large orders at trade shows, or at least meet suppliers and decide which products to order. Most of these convention also have cropping parties, or events where scrapbookers can spend time working on their albums in an area equipped with computer equipment and printers, all kinds of paper and supplies, and other scrapbookers.

[show Memories Expos, one of the larger trade shows, on Club Scrap's list

<http://www.memoriesexpo.com/> Also the Midwest Scrapbooking Association

<http://www.scrapbookconvention.com/> show Retreats/Crops]

Magazines and E-Zines

Nowadays, it can be kind of hard to tell magazines apart from e-zines, since even print magazine have web sites, often with a lot more than simple subscription information. And some of the scrapbooking sites put out dated installments or issues, similar to a magazine. (Graceful Bee is listed under e-zines at Google)

Scrapbooking.com

<http://scrapbooking.com>

An example of an e-zine. Probably its strongest point is the many layouts that you can access from its table of contents. [enter scrapbooking.com, then select one of the links below features to see layouts; the magazine has this caveat::

Note: All of the images on scrapbooking.com can be clicked on and one of two things will happen. Either a detailed page about the layout will be displayed or a more detailed version of the picture will appear If you select

"Scrapbooking for adults", the first layout, a cruise to Mexico, shows both of

these successively; the first click give you a detailed page with supplies and instructions, and the 2nd click give a bigger image of the page.]

Memory Makers Magazine

<http://www.memorymakersmagazine.com/>

A print magazine that you can subscribe to (and there are copies in LinkCat) but the web site has many features that you may want to check out. The magazine publishes featured projects submitted by readers and there is a searchable project archive. [select Project archives from the bar on left; there is keyword searching, try baby, or use the category drop downs; try Seasonal-Winter] Entries in the project archive include a nice big picture of the scrapbook page, and a list of the supplies used to create it.

Online Photo Albums

Basically, the sites offering online photo album hosting began as photofinishers, companies that develop and print your pictures. Now that so many people use digital cameras, and even film pictures can be printed digitally, these former photofinishers became digital picture storing, sharing, and printing operations. Primarily these operations make their profit from selling prints, and the other services are free. Some of them do one thing better than another, for example, Ophoto provides quality printing services, but the sharing capabilities at its site are not as good as Yahoo.

Yahoo provides a list of online photo album services.

http://dir.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Shopping_and_Services/Communication_and_Information_Management/Internet_and_World_Wide_Web/Personal_Information_Management/Photo_Albums/

To select a photo hosting service, you need to think about what you want to do with your pictures. Maybe you just want to order prints (and paste them into your offline scrapbook!) Maybe you want to be able to view your pictures, rather than creating an album for your relatives to browse. Some other things to consider when selecting one of these photo services are:

- Is there a membership fee? (Many have free membership but you have to register at the site)
- Are there some perks for joining, like free shipping for your prints?
- Is there software to edit the pictures, and how easy is it to use?
- How much storage space do you get for your images, and what does that cost (if anything)? Some digital cameras create huge files so you either need to be able to edit them to a smaller size, or get a lot of storage space
- What kind of sharing ability is there? Do you get a URL where your pictures are located, to share with your family? Can you send email to let them know where the photos are?
- How do your pictures display? Thumbnails, with enlargements, gallery views, fancy backgrounds?

[The short descriptions at the Yahoo list can help you with some initial decisions – you will see that Yahoo Photos is described as a photo sharing service, while OPhoto is called a printer]

An example Yahoo album can be seen at

<http://photos.yahoo.com/debrasusan1955>

[To show the album, click “All albums” then test album under My Photos. You can click any image for a larger view, and hit next to proceed through a series of

larger views You can also click slideshow for an automatic display of larger views]

In contrast, what happens if I want to share my photo albums at OPhoto, I follow these steps:

- 1) Create an album
- 2) Indicate that I want to share the album, and fill out a web form with email addresses of the people I want to see the album
- 3) They get a message with saying "Take a look at my photos" with a URL like this
<http://www.ofoto.com/I.jsp?m=55557647205.35040747205&n=231321254>
- 4) But when they go there, they have to register with OPhoto to see the pictures.

The three commercial photofinishers listed - Ofoto, Snapfish and Shutterfly - offer some free photo editing capabilities, that allow you to enhance your pictures, such as red eye removal, cropping, tinting and converting pictures to black and white, and creating borders.