

Connecting Library Technology to Specific Information Needs and Behaviors

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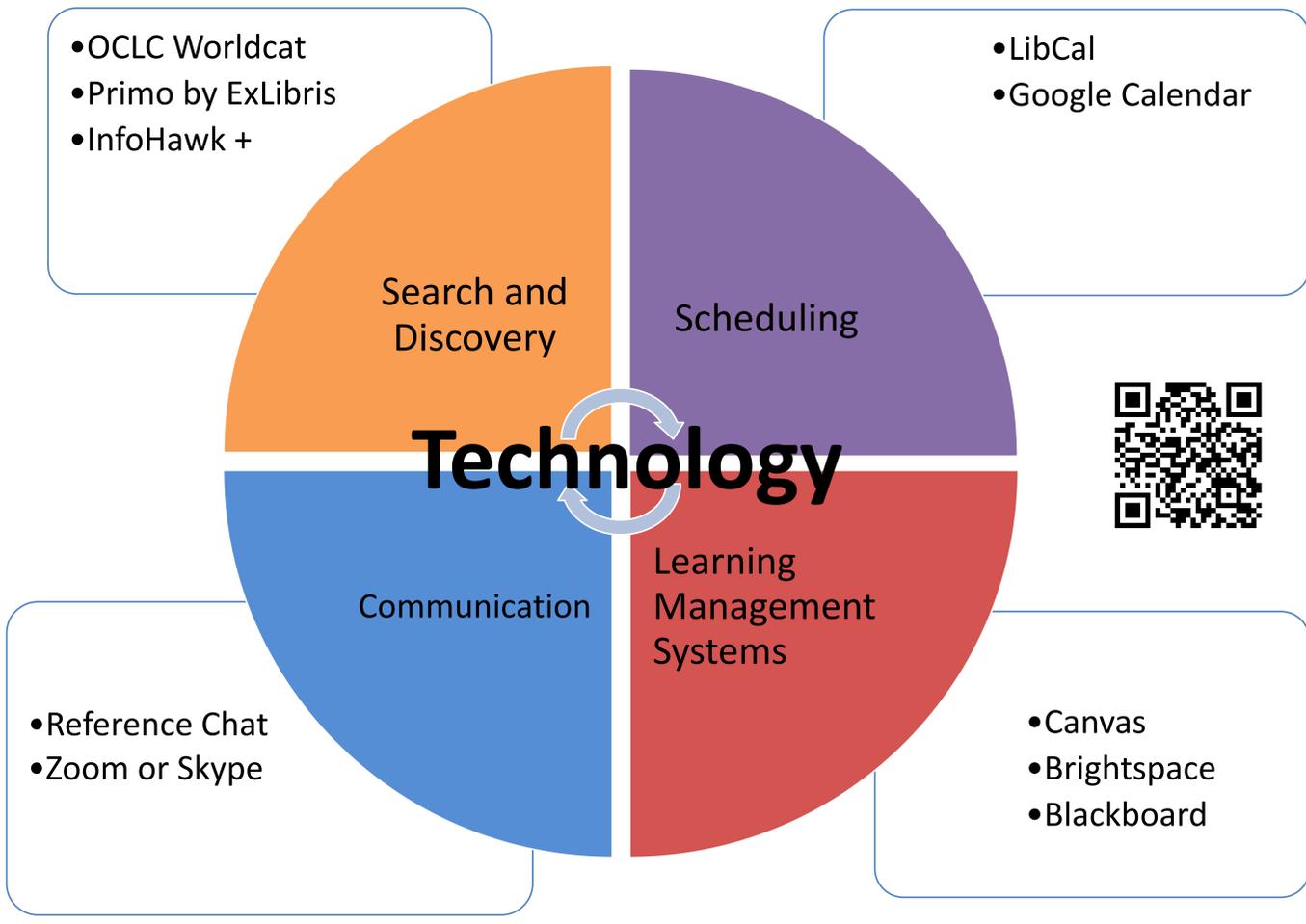
Background:

How do students' and professors' information needs and behaviors connect to library technology?

- Connecting library technology to information needs and behaviors of undergraduate and LIS students and professors is essential, because academic libraries utilize technology all the time but aren't tailoring what they use to their patrons.
- Within the existing literature, there is an undeveloped area of connecting the technology to information needs and behaviors.
- Since there is no discussion about the connection between library technology and information behavior, there is a problem of demonstrating the need for libraries to consider patron needs and behaviors when they choose technology.
- This study will address the main information needs and behaviors of students and professors and recommend how the library technology can be connected.

Methods:

- Thematic analysis of existing literature from information behavior studies
- Hands-on exploration of library technology



What the literature demonstrated:

Student and Professor Needs & Behaviors

<p>Need to be able to find relevant research online and in print that is easy to access</p> <p>Rely heavily on Google, Wikipedia, and other sources not of the library</p>	<p>Need calendars or planners to schedule their lives</p> <p>Use a variety of print and digital tools</p>	<p>Need quick responses regardless of their locations</p> <p>Avoid face-to-face interactions</p>	<p>Need one place to locate or make class materials available</p> <p>Don't understand/know how to use it</p>
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Connecting the technology to the need:

- Brightspace allows professors to post their lecture slides or class readings online and for students to use them for studying.
- LibCal enables users to digitally schedule reference consultations.

What's next?

- Study of specific user groups to determine whether matching the technology to the information needs is useful
- Exploration of how library technology could be improved to match to the needs better