

Disclaimer

FUMSI Report: Folio on Emerging Research Tools (ISBN 978-1-907594-25-0) is a FUMSI Report published by Free Pint Limited.

The opinions, advice, products, images and graphics offered herein are the sole responsibility of the contributors. Whilst all reasonable care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the publication, the publishers cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Except as covered by subscriber or purchaser license agreement, this publication MAY NOT be copied and/or distributed without the prior written agreement of the publishers. Product names used in FUMSI Reports are for identification purposes only, and may be trademarks of their respective owners.

Free Pint Limited disclaims any and all rights in those marks. All rights reserved. FUMSI Reports are published monthly in one of the four practice areas of Find, Use, Manage and Share. The online [FUMSI article database](#) is updated regularly. Database articles are free to browse and read and may be forwarded to colleagues, saved or printed.

For information about subscription options, please visit <http://www.fumsi.com/how/join/>

For information about sponsorship opportunities, please visit <http://web.freepint.com/go/family/sponsor/> or contact:

Robin Neidorf
General Manager, Free Pint Limited
robin.neidorf@freepint.com

About FUMSI Reports

FUMSI Reports provide practical tips and guidance on business information topics and projects. FUMSI Folios, a regular series of FUMSI Reports, collect a series of articles relating to a skill set or information-related topic, along with additional resources and editorial comment. FUMSI subscribers receive all reports (a minimum of one per month) as part of their subscription, and non-subscribers can purchase individual reports.

For subscription information, please visit <http://www.fumsi.com/how/join/>

Contact

Free Pint Limited
4-6 Station Approach, Ashford,
Middlesex, TW15 2QN, United Kingdom
t: 01784 605000
i: +44 1784 605000
e: support@fumsi.com
w: www.fumsi.com/

Free Pint Limited.
Registered Office:
Delaport Coach House,
Lamer Lane, Wheathampstead,
Herts, AL4 8RQ

Registered Number: 3754481



Publisher's Note

To improve the usability of FUMSI, we have shortened many long URLs with DigBig, a free utility that creates persistent links (<http://www.digbig.com>). When you click a DigBig URL, or paste it into your browser, you will be directed to the original URL.

Everybody FUMSI!

www.fumsi.com



Helping information practitioners
Find, Use, Manage and **Share** Information at work

What is FUMSI?

FUMSI offers an online database of articles in the four practice areas, reports for sale, a monthly PDF magazine featuring the latest content and more in development.

FUMSI fills a critical void in professional training and resources. We focus on the information function on a practical, experience-driven level, like no other resource currently available.

"FUMSI is nothing less than a vital resource for me - thank you so much!"

Sarah Hinton, manage5nines.com

Who is behind FUMSI?

FUMSI is part of the [FreePint Family](#) of products to support information workers. FUMSI is directly supported by the efforts of four contributing editors, one in each practice area, who solicit contributions, insight and recommendations from experts worldwide.

Read more about the team at

<http://web.freepint.com/go/about/people/>

"FUMSI is a favorite resource. Love the modern layout, color choices, gadgets, and of course, the content makes it a must-read."

Strategic Analyst, Hawaii

How can you use FUMSI?

With a FUMSI subscription, you can share all FUMSI publications at a single location (FUMSI Professional), at 5 locations (FUMSI Multisite) or all locations worldwide (FUMSI Enterprise).

These include:

- FUMSI Magazine
- FUMSI Reports and Tool Kits
- FUMSI Articles

Reuse these materials on site, on your intranet, in your internal newsletters and in training and resource materials.

Ask about:

- **Custom Publishing:** Bespoke reports or resource packets developed from FUMSI content – with our introduction or that of your experts
- **Integration:** Enterprise customers can benefit from integration of FUMSI resources directly into their intranets or knowledge management platforms

Contact support@fumsi.com for a personal tour of FUMSI resources or to request help with your account.





"...recognises that skills in knowing where to uncover data and turning it into something meaningful are at a premium."

"The ways that people use and share information are constantly changing - and the tools for finding information are always evolving."

In this Folio

By Marcy Phelps,
Contributing Editor: Find
marcy.phelps@freepint.com

Marketing guru Seth Godin recently posted something on his blog that should give researchers around the world reasons to feel optimistic. I regularly read Seth Godin and find he's fairly insightful and visionary - and he has a huge following. So, you take notice when someone of his calibre states on his blog, 'Knowing where something was or how it performed or how it interacted with you can be worth more than the item itself'. In this age of information overload, Godin recognises that skills in knowing where to uncover data and turning it into something meaningful are at a premium. (<http://digbig.com/5bcfqw>)

While this might illustrate that there's some job security in information work, there's nothing secure about this job. Just think how quickly the tools of our trade keep changing. Wasn't it just the other day that Google Wave was considered cutting-edge? Also, if our value is so high, why do our budgets seem so low? We're expected to do a lot more for far less, so we need tools that add to our productivity and - more importantly - to our value. If you're doing the same things you've always done with the same tools you've always used, then you're probably not doing enough to stay relevant in this profession. To help readers keep up-to-date, we've compiled this Folio of FUMSI articles about some of the latest tools for research and what you can do with them.

The first article, by Africa S. Hands, is 'Wolfram|Alpha: Simple and Not So Simple Computations in One Click.' It's about a new breed of search tool, those that deliver more than simple results. In Wolfram you'll get answers in tables, timelines and charts that add meaning to your results. In the article, you'll read about this tool's scope, search capabilities and output.

New kinds of information require new kinds of tools. In 'Real-Time Monitoring: Tools and Trends to Watch,' Heather Negley describes Health Map, Topsy and other resources for tracking rapidly changing information. Whether you're in health care, finance, or you just need up-to-the-minute flight

About the Editor

Marcy Phelps is the founder and president of Phelps Research, a provider of business and market research services for info pros, entrepreneurs and marketing professionals. She started the company in 2000 after obtaining a master's degree in library and information services from the University of Denver. Marcy is President of the Association of Independent Information Professionals (AIIP).

Marcy blogs at www.MarcyPhelps.com, and she publishes ResearchNOTES, a monthly e-mail bulletin with tips and sites for Internet research (<http://www.digbig.com/4yeps>).

She is the author of the forthcoming book, "Research on Main Street: Using the Web to Find Local Business and Market Research".

information, you'll find this a useful read.

Scott Brown's 'Yahoo! Pipes: Relevant Information on Tap' explains that you don't need programming skills to monitor the latest news on almost any given topic. By 'cloning' existing pipes and adapting them for your needs, Scott explains, you can find relevant RSS feeds and have them sent to your desktop. I was surprised at how easy it really is.

In 'Evolution in Source Evaluation: Using Social Media Data,' Emily Wheeler and Samara Omundson use new tools to perform an old task. The article outlines their framework for using social media to evaluate the importance and influence of all types of media sources.

Finally, as smartphones become even smarter, research will become more mobile. Patrice Curtis' article, 'iPhone Apps for Researchers,' was recently published in the FUMSI Manage practice area, and it covers apps for news searching, reputation monitoring, productivity tools, and reference from a researcher's perspective.

The ways that people use and share information are constantly changing - and the tools for finding information are always evolving. We can show our value by staying informed. As Seth Godin so eloquently sums it up in his blog post, 'The race to deliver this essential scalable asset isn't over, it's just beginning'.

Marcy Phelps
Contributing Editor: Find
marcy.phelps@freepint.com

**Pages have been removed
from this sample**

The FreePint Family

FreePint[®]

Sites, resources and community to support business information professionals worldwide. The free twice-monthly FreePint Newsletter keeps you informed about everything relating to the FreePint Family.

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

VIP Magazine

VIP publishes in-depth unbiased product reviews on premium products, plus analysis of what's happening in the information industry, to support senior information professionals. Increase the value of even the tightest budget with VIP resources and guidance.

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

 **fumsi**
magazine

Practical articles, reports and resources to help everyone in your organisation Find, Use, Manage and Share Information at work.

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

jinfo
www.jinfo.com

Jinfo offers searchable databases of current information-related vacancies and upcoming events - conferences, workshops, webinars, etc. Free to search; cost-effective to advertise vacancies and events.

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

docuticker

Our editors help you find high quality, free PDF reports on the web, published by government agencies, universities, think tanks and other public interest groups.

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

**resource
shelf**

For high quality free web-based resources to help you find information, turn to the editorial team at ResourceShelf. Updated daily - it's free!

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