

LibraryCrunch

Bringing You A "Library 2.0" Perspective, by Michael Casey

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Writely, we need you!

Let me start by saying that I love [Writely](#). I've been using it for over two months now and it's the best online collaborative writing tool that exists. That being said, they need to add at least one feature to make it really useful to library customers – built-in emailing.

Writely is a wonderful tool for customers wanting to craft resumes and cover letters, but sending them to prospective employers is complicated by library OPAC security. Many library OPACs are strictly limited in their abilities and forbid saving files locally except on floppies or USB drives (though some libraries even limit this). For Writely to be really useful in these situations they need to introduce a file emailing function that allows the user to send his Writely document to an outside email address. When the customer creates a resume all they should need to do is click on "Email this as a Word Doc" and the Writely user's email address is appended to the outgoing attachment, allowing all replies to go to that user's personal email account. Writely already does this with their customer comment form by appending my personal email address to the comment.

Writely, are you listening?

(PS: [Writeboard](#) already does this but in a more limited way -- they don't append your personal email address.)

Posted by Michael on December 27, 2005 06:09 AM | [Permalink](#)

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Yes, we are listening & we hear you! :-))) I think you emailed this feedback to us, as well...was that you?

Posted by: [Jen Mazzon](#) | [December 28, 2005 01:11 AM](#)

Jen, thanks for responding so quickly. Many public libraries have some rather strict security policies in place on the computers that customers use. And, since many do not offer word processing, many customers would love to be able to use Writely to craft cover letters and basic resumes, and then send them to prospective employers. Unfortunately, security policies do not allow them to save locally, and unless they can afford to purchase a USB drive, they have no way of saving and then attaching a file to an outgoing email. My idea was for Writely to provide this "email out" capability, appending the Writely user's personal email address to the outgoing email, much as you currently attach our email address to the comments we send you.

Thanks for responding!

Michael

Posted by: [Michael Casey](#) | [December 28, 2005 08:03 AM](#)

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