Instant Messaging @ Your Library Option 3: Gold

Gold: A useful aggregator/widget alternative that fits library needs!

- Step 1: Register an account at https://libraryh3lp.com/admin/
- Step 2: Add a queue for your widget and gateways to your accounts with AIM, Yahoo, MSN, GTalk, etc. If monitoring IM from more than one desk, add another user.
- Step 3: Add an XMPP "jabber" gateway through Pidgin to enable your webbased widget using the same username and password as your Libraryh3lp account. Or, you can opt for the webchat widget.

The upside

- Designed by a librarian
- Can monitor IM from two computers at once!
- Excellent tech support
- Greatly reduced widget issues
- New SMS gateway
- No need to juggle between two chat programs
- Does statistics, charts and easily accessible transcripts for you

The downside

Costs (a nominal) fee

- Works better in Mozilla Firefox than Internet Explorer
- Requires you to type http:// to enable internet hyperlinks
- Relatively new service, still working on the kinks
- Requires a significant knowledge of Web 2.0 technology and web design

To help you get started with Libraryh3lp:

- http://libraryh3lp.com/admin
- http://libraryh3lp.com/docs/h3lp
- http://groups.google.com/group/libraryh3lp
- http://code.google.com/p/libraryh3lp/wiki/ScreenCasts