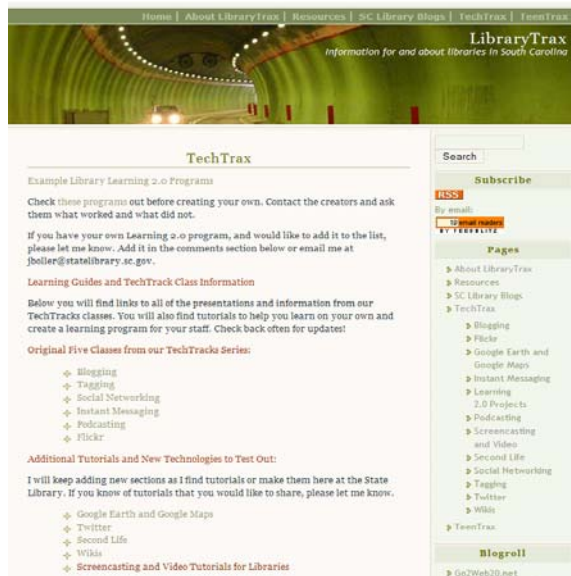The Library Development Services department of the South Carolina State Library has conducted two surveys on Emerging Technologies in South Carolina's public libraries. The original survey was conducted prior to the *TechExpress* public library technology institute in the Fall of 2006. The first survey had 146 responses. Most responses came from public library staff who work in library administration (33.6%) and most people who responded were over the age of 50 (58.9%).

Attendees at the TechExpress technology institute for public libraries.

The follow up survey was conducted in the spring of 2007, after the completion of a series of technology training sessions held in various locations throughout the state titled, *TechTracks*. The follow up survey had a total of 67 responses with most of the responses coming from people in library administration (46.3%) and also, most people who responded were over the age of 50 (52.2%).

*As a result of the **TechExpress** Technology Institute and the follow up **TechTracks** training, a significant shift in the use of emerging technologies to provide new/expanded services to library patrons has emerged. 60.4% of libraries have changed or plan to change their Internet policies to encompass emerging technologies.*

Library Development Services LibraryTrax Blog
http://librarytrax.wordpress.com/

Selected survey questions and responses:

Does your library use, or plan to use, Instant Messaging as a reference service for the public? Before: 5.6% said Yes and After: 29.5%.

Does your library have a photo-sharing account? Before: 8.6% said Yes and After: 23.3%.

Does your library have a blog? Before: 14% said Yes and After: 39.7%.

Does your library maintain a wiki? Before: 7.4% said yes and After: 10.3%.

There also appears to be a significant shift in the behaviors of individual librarians:

Do you have a personal IM (Instant Messaging) account? Before: 34.5% said Yes and After: 52.5%.

Do you have a personal blog? Before: 11.8% said Yes and After: 37.9%.

Have you ever participated in or added content to a wiki? Before: 18.4% said Yes and After: 32.8%.

Library 2.0

Comments that speak for themselves:

Before

"Emerging technologies are scary. I am concerned by the cost, the speed of the changes, and the difficulty of keeping up."

"I'm amazed at how much emerging technology is out there that I don't have a clue about."

Carver's Bay Branch Library
http://www.gclibrary.org/branches/carvers.asp

"I consider it best to take a 'wait and see' approach."

After

"Some technologies, such as IM and blogging, can serve patrons in a way that has been impossible before."

"Libraries need to get involved with emerging technologies described here [in the survey] to stay relevant, especially to younger patrons."

"I think it's great!"