# Herding Cats & Deflecting Energies

moderating internet people
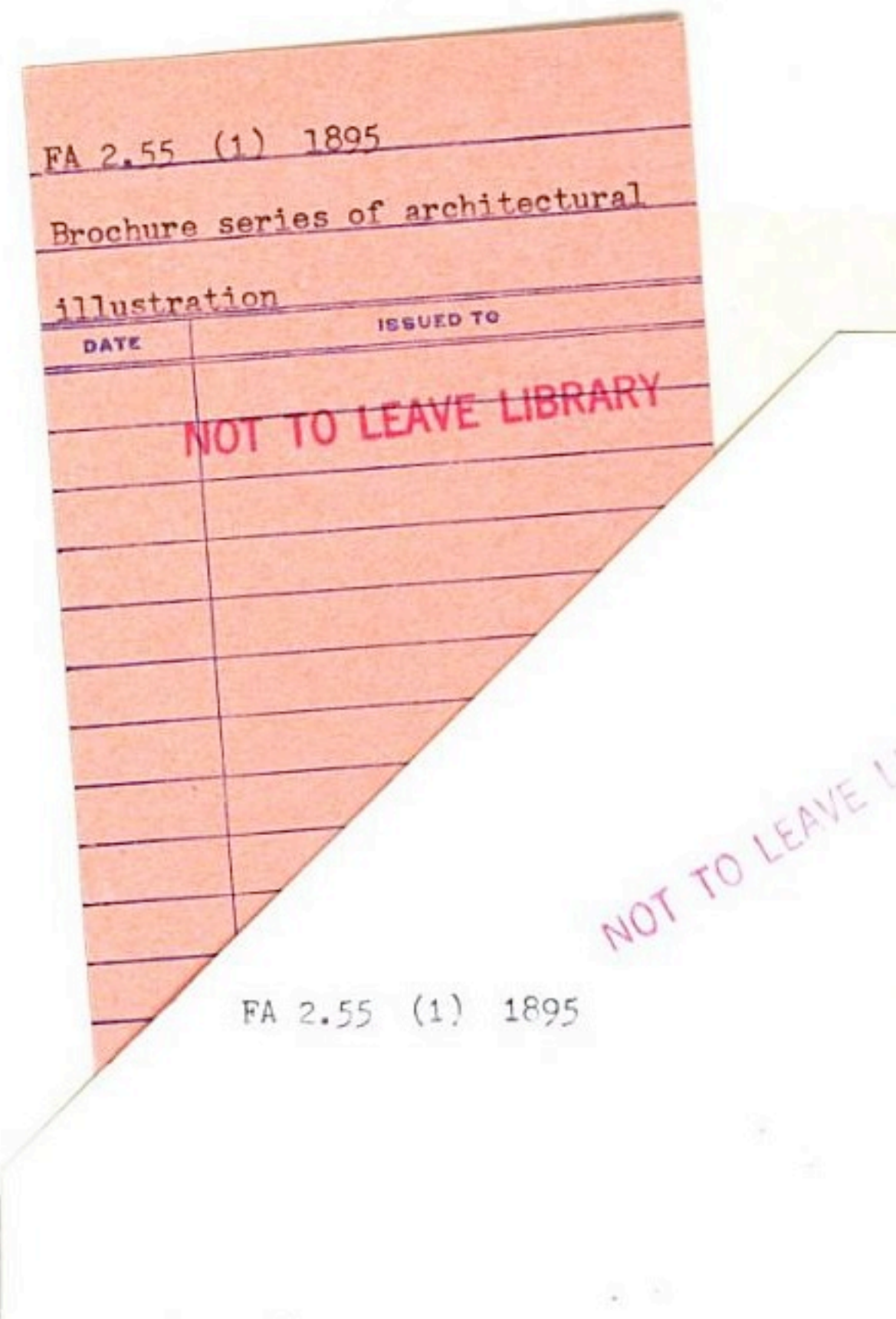
*<librarian.net/talks/aadl>*
10oct11



I'm one of those people who gets asked "Do you work here" a lot. I used to think it was because I had what I like to call "the open face of reference" but lately I think it's because people can TELL that I like to help, and am passably good at it. The question asking/answering thing is in my blood for good or bad and I have a job where I get to do a lot of it and manage still more of it. This talk is about that job.
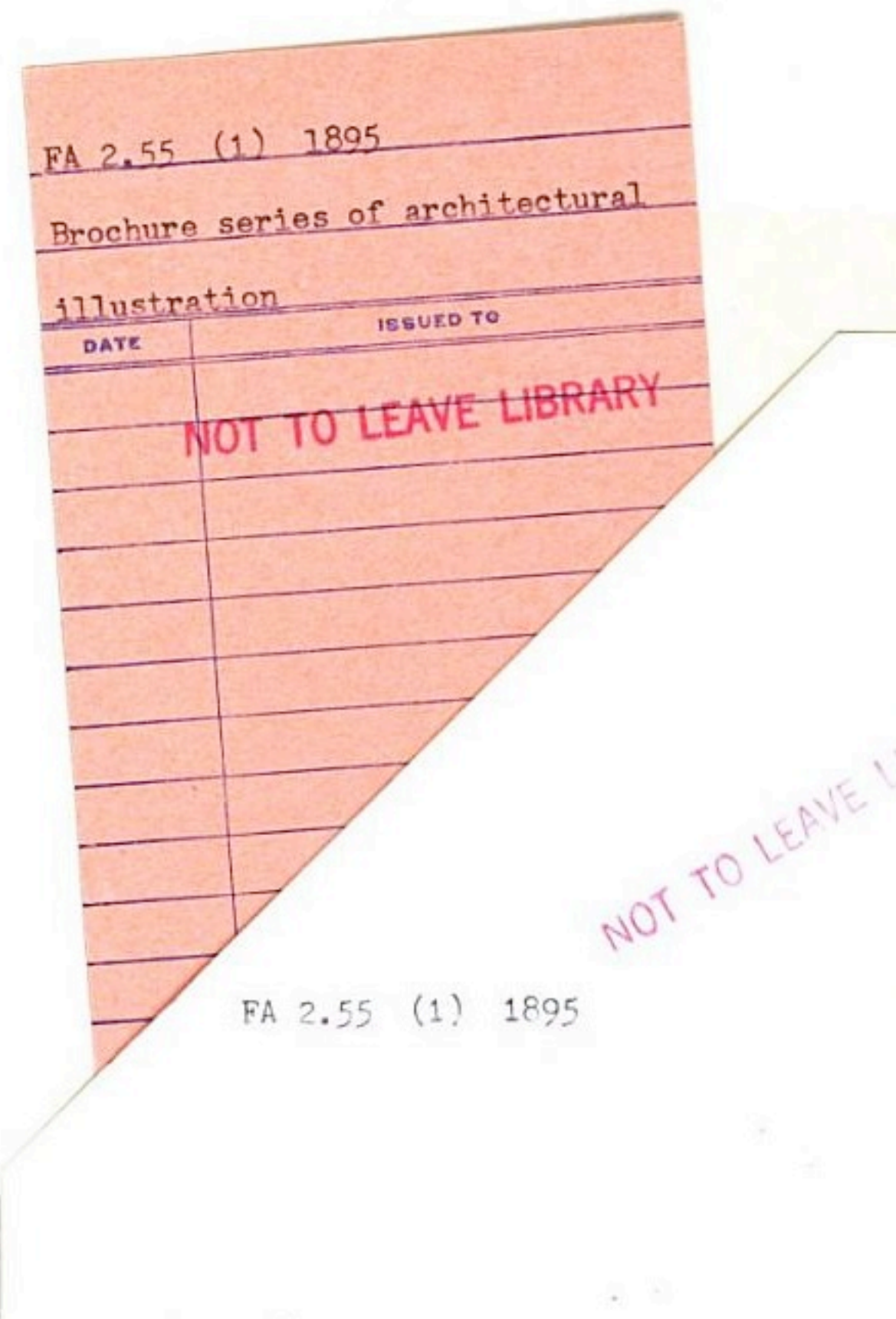
# I am not really a librarian

FA 2.55 (1) 1895

Brochure series of architectural

illustration

| DATE | ISSUED TO |
|------|-----------|

NOT TO LEAVE LIBRARY

NOT TO LEAVE L

FA 2.55 (1) 1895

First off, I have an MLib from UW and I've done various library jobs, but really my main love is working with computers and this is not enough for a library job in Northern New England, so I do a lot of technology instruction. I live in Randolph VT, I mostly work at the vocational high school staffing a drop-in time and teaching adult ed classes at night. I teach someone to use a mouse once or twice a month. It's a balance, if I lived someplace more urban, I'd have lots of computer/library work.

# I am not really a librarian

## or am I?

FA 2.55 (1) 1895

Brochure series of architectural illustration

| DATE | ISSUED TO |
|------|-----------|

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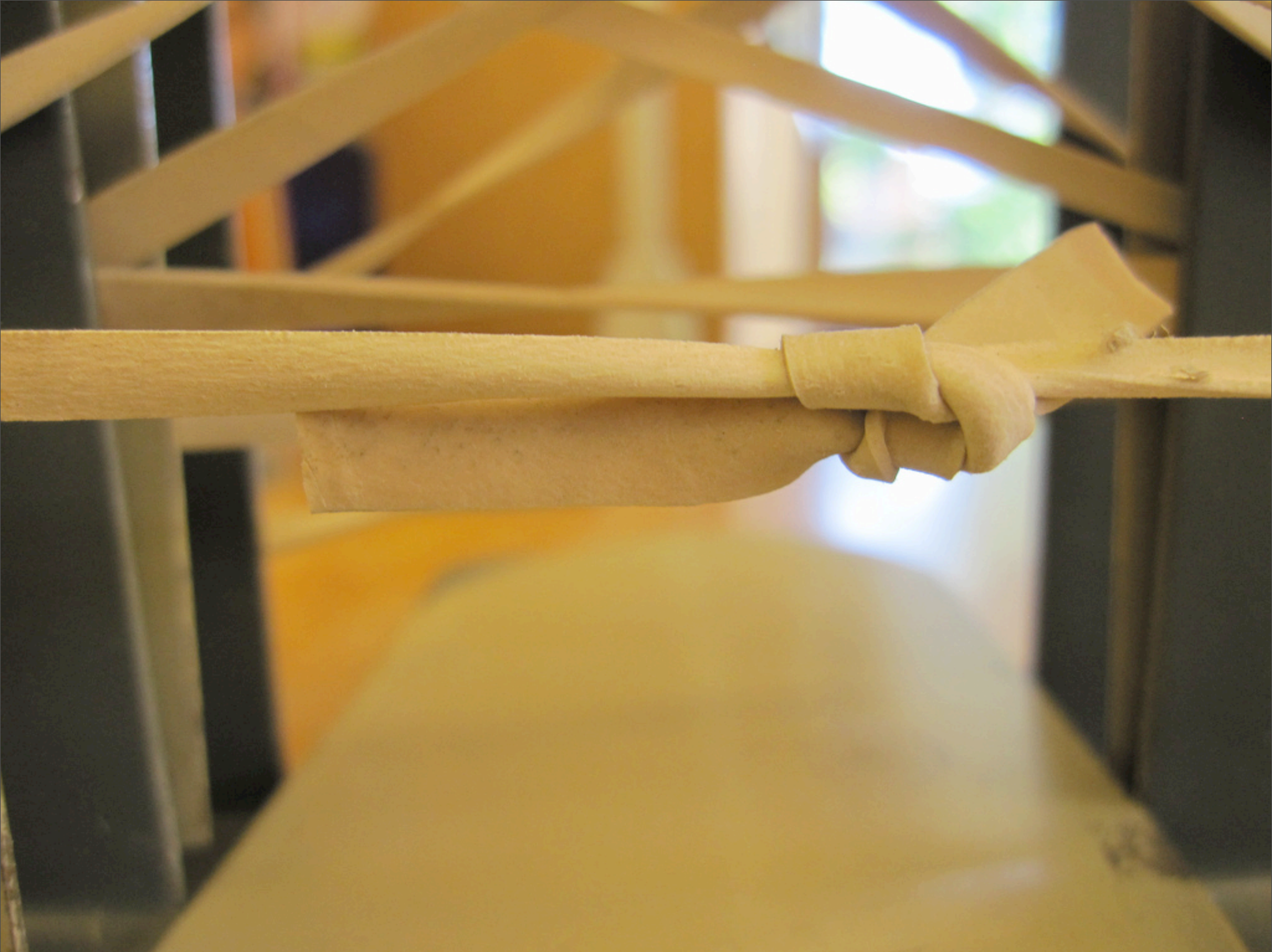
I fill in at the Kimball Public Library in Randolph where I make $10/hour. They try to keep me busy. One of the last times I was there, they gave me the job of wrapping rubber bands around bookends to hold signs for the booksale. No big deal, we all pitch in. I noticed this rubber band...

# Where I spend my time

**Ask MetaFilter**

MetaFilter    AskMeFi    Projects    Music    Jobs    Podcast    IRL    MetaTalk    Admin

Sunday, June 5, 2011 11:59

Home    FAQ    Archives    Tags    Search    Random
New Question    My Profile    Preferences    Recent Activity    Favorites

Recent Posts    My Favorites    Popular Favorites    Answered    Unanswered    My Ask

28 questions and 360 answers posted since your last visit

June 5

# 182,350

Are there any good, clear English language [...] about and follow [...] questions? [more inside]
posted by dinopaponton to [...]

Ads via The DECK (hide)

DSLR 101 filter: thinking of [...] a cla [...] people [...] have [...] ted in a DSLR camera, but a [...] ted to point-a [...] boo [...] hat d [...]
you wish you knew when you [...] bought [...] ed [...] y [...] so you [...] nt [...] ow to [...] work [...] with [...] [more inside]
posted by chrisinseoul to technology at 11:44 - 0 answers +

20 most popular **tags** in the past month:

resolved (282) music (83) travel (75) work (39) health (35) computer (34) food (34) relationships (31) job (28) nyc (28) mac (27) moving (27) books (26) car (26) art (25) career (25) education (25) depression (23) video (23) anxiety (21)

How can I mass forward Hotmail emails to either Yahoo or GMail? [more inside]
posted by mrfuga0 to technology at 11:16 - 1 answer (1 new) +
— flagged 1 time

Can somebody explain the current conservative talking point "China Has Divested 97% of Its Holdings In U.S. Treasury Bills" to me? Is this simply false, or is it creative statistics, or what? [more inside]
posted by mindsound to society & culture at 11:15 - 4 answers (4 new) +
— flagged 1 time

Posts by category in the past month:

clothing, beauty, & fashion (76)
computers & internet (334)
education (75)
food & drink (98)
grab bag (93)
health & fitness (230)
home & garden (175)
human relations (199)
law & government (48)
media & arts (250)
pets & animals (53)
religion & philosophy (15)
science & nature (60)
shopping (32)
society & culture (77)
sports, hobbies, & recreation (91)
technology (131)
travel & transportation (211)

Any resources for finding a weekend cottage for a large group on a budget in Kent, UK? [more inside]
posted by Mnky197 to travel & transportation at 11:01 - 2 answers (2 new) +

Vegan Chili Filter: Help me to make my chili taste like more than boiled beans with an overlay of spices! I've been trying to make a good vegan chili for a long time now, and will certainly try some of the great general suggestions I see here and here. However, I don't think they'll help my basic problem, which is that every recipe I try seems to taste like boiled beans with spices/flavourings added--**even after I let it sit overnight**, which is of course the magic technique for soups and some other dishes. [more inside]
posted by purplesludge to food & drink at 10:41 - 21 answers (21 new) +

Fly-killing window stickers: potentially allergenic? [more inside]
posted by emmtee to health & fitness at 9:50 - 2 answers (2 new) +

Suffice to say I don't make ends meet with library work. Since 2004 I've also had one of those online jobs people covet so much. I am the COO or community manager for a group blog called MetaFilter.com It's a big group blog where people share neat stuff they found on the web. Think something like LISNews or maybe BoingBoing that anyone can post to. We have more registered users than live in any one city in Vermont, 52,983. About 55K.  Ask MetaFilter is the part of the site where I spend the most times. It's a "Q&A site" like ones you may have heard of: Yahoo Answers, Quora, Askville. 182,350 questions asked since the site opened in December 2003. About 2K questions a month.

Visits
28 ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ 6,635,838
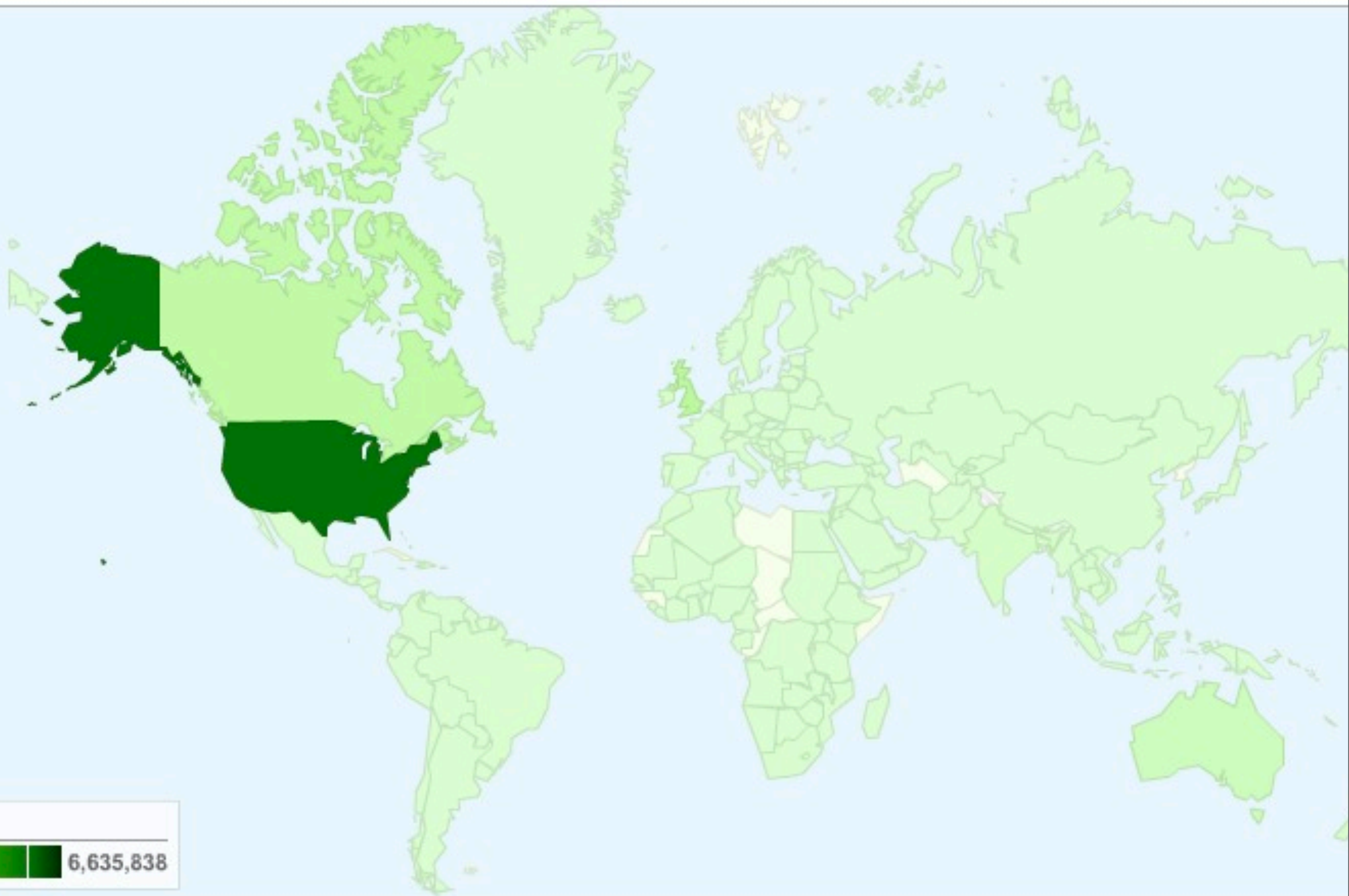
## 10,288,782 visits came from 196 countries/territories in the "Ask" segment

Detail Level: City | Country/Territory | Sub Continent Region | Continent    Dimension: None ⌄

We have a lot of "viewers" too, or lurkers. That is, unlogged in users who find us through Google. Here's a month's worth of visits. 461,000 pageviews/day or 320,000 visits/day. And in case you were wondering Google's ad sense provides almost all of our income. Enough to support five full-timers and a part timer.

# AskMe by the numbers

have not
asked a
question

**71%**
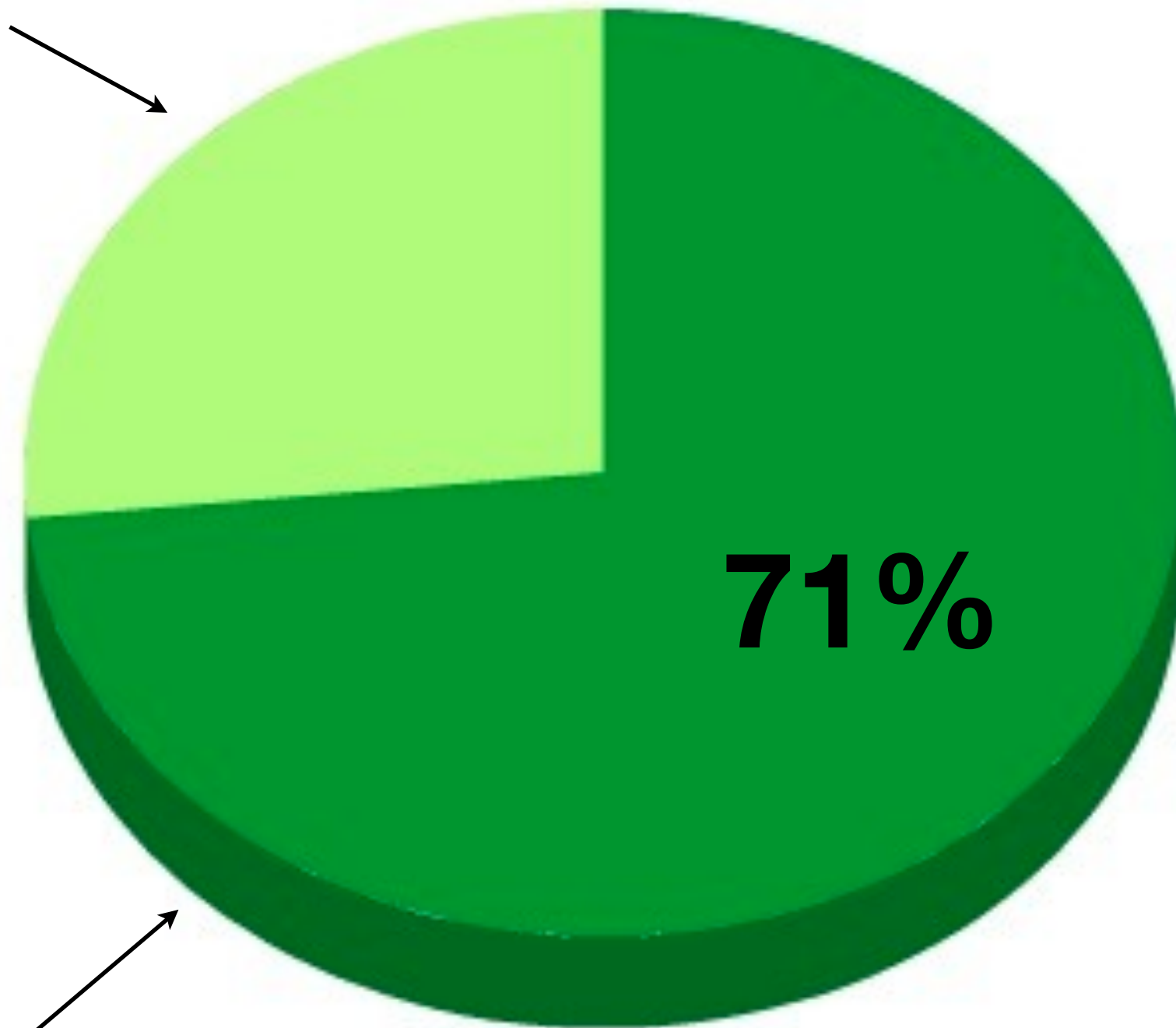
have
asked a
question

We have data. Numbers galore. We make all of our non-personal data available via a tool called the InfoDumpster, sort of an API but not really. We have also extracted the text from the site into a nearly 500 million word corpus. Want to do research? We'll help you out. 200 million words of Q&A. Here's a few numbers to start: of the 24,788 people who have used the AskMe part of the site, 17,681 have asked a question.

# Sample question

Movie ID Filter: Colored Bodies?
June 4, 2011 23:06  🔊 Subscribe

Asking for a friend: vaguely remembered movie filter. Something about bodies and colors...

- Futuristic setting, although friend (in her early 20s) thinks that the technology in the film looked "really old"
- Bodies were tagged with colors and depending on their color something happened to them
- Very serious female doctor or nurse
- Strong medical/anatomical themes/visuals
- Perhaps a kid (or someone/something) causes a mix up with the body labels and something bad happens
Thanks!
posted by **bug138** to **media & arts** (5 answers total) [edit] [IP:whois|search] [add to favorites] 1 user marked this as a favorite [!]

**Tags:**
movieid [x]
scifi [x]
moviefilter [x]
movie [x]
film [x]

Add tag

**Share:**
🔳 Twitter
🔳 Facebook

A reach, but could it be **Logan's Run**?
posted by ▪ **bluedaisy** at **23:09** on June 4 [edit] [x] [IP:whois|search] [user info] [1 favorite +] [!]

The **made-for-TV version** of Brave New World?
posted by **Nomyte** at **23:16** on June 4 [edit] [x] [IP:whois|search] [user info] [+] [!]

In *Overdrawn at the Memory Bank*, a 1983 public television adaptation of a John Varley story, a child on a field trip mischievously switches a routing tag for someone's body and sends them off for sexual reassignment. The switch occurs at 22:04 to 22:07 in **this video**.

The film was rightly later torn to shreds on Mystery Science Theater 3000.
posted by ▪ **adipocere** at **23:26** on June 4 [edit] [x] [IP:whois|search] [user info] [+] [!]

Amazing, adipocere, we would have never gotten it in a million years!

Watching now, it is amazingly bad.
posted by **bug138** at **0:22** on June 5 [edit] [x] [IP:whois|search] [user info] [+] [!]

Here's what "asking a question" entails. I know what people say a lot "But yeah look at Yahoo answers, those answers are terrible" and I agree it's hit or miss. But here's a good example. Note this question was asked at 11:06 on a Saturday night and answered correctly at 11:26. Here are some of the features we've built over the years: tags, rss feeds, best answers, comment by the "OP", favorites. Take a look at that little blue dot next to the username, I'll talk about that later.

# Sample question

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Tags:
movieid [x]
scifi [x]
moviefilter [x]
movie [x]
film [x]

Add tag

Share:
t Twitter
f Facebook

Here's what "asking a question" entails. I know what people say a lot "But yeah look at Yahoo answers, those answers are terrible" and I agree it's hit or miss. But here's a good example. Note this question was asked at 11:06 on a Saturday night and answered correctly at 11:26. Here are some of the features we've built over the years: tags, rss feeds, best answers, comment by the "OP", favorites. Take a look at that little blue dot next to the username, I'll talk about that later.

# AskMe by the numbers



**97%**

have answered a question
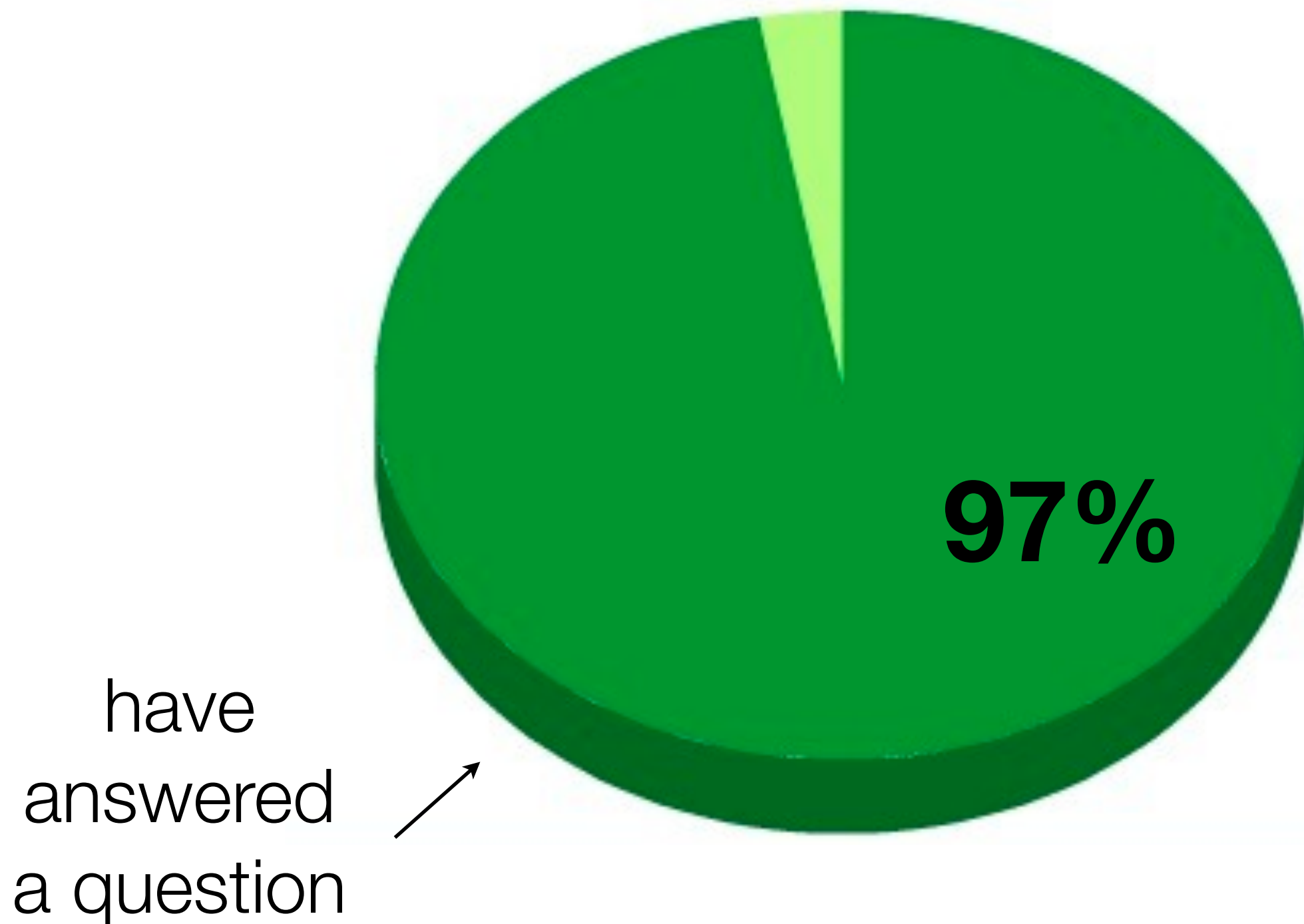
Here's one that's even more interesting, to me. Out of these same people, 24077 have answered a question. 97%

# Asking/answering is iterative

**Pilot Filter**

June 3, 2011 22:42    📶 Subscribe

How long will it take to fly from southwestern Michigan to Rochester, Minnesota in a Cessna Skylane (piston-single)? As a passenger should I observe the same security measures I do when flying commercial airlines? (Cosmetics in a single bag, no pen knife, etc.)

And since we use a blog format, the q&a aspect is iterative. Questioners can take the answers they get an add more information. We try to keep this from getting too chatty.

# Asking/answering is iterative

Yeah, you'll feel turbulence much more strongly in a plane that small. If you like roller coasters and things (as I do!), you'll find it fun; if you get motion sick, as advised above, definitely take some Dramamine.
posted by **bassjump** at **12:45** on June 4 [**edit**] [**x**] [IP:**whois|search**] [**user info**] [**+**] [**!**]

I do get motion sick, even on big planes, so I'll have my Dramamine ready and avoid the Double-Stuffs for sure!
posted by **tangram1** at **15:22** on June 4 [**edit**] [**x**] [IP:**whois|search**] [**user info**] [**+**] [**!**]

If you do experience an onset of motion sickness, try to sit straight/comfortably, breath deeper/normally and keep your eyes up at the horizon. Also, you can ask for more fresh air, which is easy for the pilot to accommodate). Still, eyes on the horizon is the most important thing.
posted by **meinvt** at **16:39** on June 4 [**edit**] [**x**] [IP:**whois|search**] [**user info**] [**+**] [**!**]

And since we use a blog format, the q&a aspect is iterative. Questioners can take the answers they get an add more information. We try to keep this from getting too chatty.

# Find questions *you* want

## My Ask MeFi Preferences

Choose your favorite categories:

☐ clothing, beauty, & fashion
☑ computers & internet
☐ education
☐ food & drink
☑ grab bag
☑ health & fitness
☐ home & garden
☑ human relations
☐ law & government
☐ media & arts
☐ pets & animals
☐ religion & philosophy
☐ science & nature
☐ shopping
☑ society & culture
☐ sports, hobbies, & recreation
☐ technology
☑ travel & transportation
☑ work & money
☐ writing & language

Enter a list of your favorite tags separated by spaces:

library rural vermont family anarchist technology internet jokes

Suggestions: relationships sex travel dating relationship books health marriage music work love food family internet etiquette money law

1. categories

2. tags

3. suggestions

MyAsk is a feature where people can enter a few categories and it will deliver a custom view of the questions so you can see what interests you, and get an RSS feed if you want. Discovery layer stuff.

# Find questions that need answering

Recent Posts | My Favorites | Popular Favorites | Answered | Unanswered | My Ask

7 questions and 86 answers posted since your last visit

We also have a few "special" tags like the stumped tag and the resolved tag if you're someone that just likes answering toughies, or if you want the feed of things that all turned out okay. 24 questions were marked "stumped" in 2010.

# Find questions that need answering



**May 16**

The online database tool **DabbleDB** is closing up shop this Wednesday. It's a great tool - excellent ui, cloud availability for data entry and access, easy RSS feeds. Any recommendations on another tool that offers the same? I've looked at Zoho and found it inferior in every way.
posted by **boombot** to **computers & internet** at 11:51 - **0 answers**

| Recent Posts | My Favorites | Popular Favorites | Answered | Unanswered | My Ask |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

7 questions and 86 answers posted since your last visit

**May 11**

Nolo is a great source for books when one is looking to deal with the legal aspects of running a small or medium business. Is there a publisher that specializes in accounting / bookkeeping / finances books?
posted by **mmdei** to **work & money** at 19:05 - **0 answers**

**May 6**

Is there a way to read **Microsoft Tag barcodes** with a computer program? I don't own a smartphone but I'd still like to be able to use them when I come across them.
posted by **flatluigi** to **technology** at 14:43 - **0 answers**

We also have a few "special" tags like the stumped tag and the resolved tag if you're someone that just likes answering toughies, or if you want the feed of things that all turned out okay. 24 questions were marked "stumped" in 2010.

# My social work
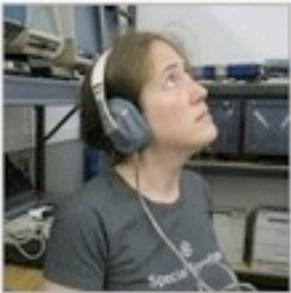
MetaFilter    AskMeFi    Projects    Music    Jobs    Podcast    IRL    MetaTalk    Admin

**MetaFilter**

Sunday, June 5, 2011 11:37

Home    FAQ    About    Archives    Tags    Popular    Search    Random
New Post    My Profile    Preferences    Recent Activity    Favorites

jessamyn's profile (website) ☑ edit profile [edit account]

[                    ]    search activity

## Info

Name: jessamyn charity west
Email: jessamyn@gmail.com
Birthday: September 5
Location: vermont
Occupation: librarian superhero
Gender: thundersweater
Status: box turtle is my co-pilot
IM: 
Also On: 
Joined: January 28, 2000

## Contributions

MeFi: **90** posts, **3027** comments
MetaTalk: **66** posts, **12335** comments
Ask MeFi: **43** questions, **8855** answers
Music: **2** posts, **120** comments, **2** playlists
Music Talk: **0** posts, **0** comments
Projects: **3** posts, **60** comments, **97** votes
Jobs: **1** post
IRL: **1** post, **33** comments

**View all activity**

Favorites: **1664**
Favorited by others: **40082**

## Social

Links to: **696** users
Linked by: **711** users

MeFi tags: **obit** (5) **obituary** (5) **history** (4) **poetry** (4) **vermont** (4)
**art** (3) **libraries** (3) **music** (3) **youtube** (3) **canada** (2)

Ask MeFi tags: **software** (4) **travel** (4) **email** (3) **australia** (2) **blog** (2)
**excel** (2) **gmail** (2) **laptop** (2) **mac** (2) **vacation** (2)

Nearby users: **FauxScot** (2 miles) **Mblue** (2 miles) **terrapin** (10 miles)
**turtlegirl** (10 miles) **deCadmus** (21 miles) **SirStan** (22 miles)
**meinvt** (23 miles) **GodricVT** (23 miles) **rossmeissl** (24 miles)
**VTscapes** (25 miles) and **55 others**

## About

What's the deal with your nickname? How did you get it? If your nickname is self-explanatory, then tell everyone when you first started using the internet, and what was the first thing that made you say "wow, this isn't just a place for freaks after all?" Was it a website? Was it an email from a long-lost friend? Go on, spill it.

* Hey, I wrote a book
* about the chicken fucking
* Cooter Clock is done.

I like the new interface, but I also like the old interface: AskMe, MeFi, MeTa

My username is just my name. I have always been painfully literal. My other website with less personal junk is librarian.net. I made a new portal of sorts at jessamyn.info, or you can check the Wikipedia entry for more

As an aside: We're sort of a social network in that people can "friend" each other and there's a heavy meetup component to what we do, so much so that we launched a part of the site called IRL helping people plan over 100 meetups per month. This is my profile page, it links to my profiles on other social networks, shows who I am linked to. I've met 490 users of the site. Not much as a percentage, but not bad. My feeling about social technology is that if it's not helping you do something in your "real life" [if you'll excuse my slang: "get laid or get paid" as the kids today say] it's maybe not solving a problem for you. It's easy to hide from the offline world in the online world. I think about this a lot.

### Examples of art censorship?

I saw a great talk at a recent library conference called America's War on Sex. One of the examples the speaker gave was how, when there had been a recent art defacement, the painting of two women when shown on the nightly news, had the breasts of the women covered up. So while this isn't censorship per se, this is definitely one of those weird "Hey it's okay to show it in an art museum, but when it's on the nightly news it's suddenly porn" situations. What we often see in the library... [more]

posted to Ask Metafilter by jessamyn at **14:18** on May 8, 2011 [IP:whois|search] [+]

### Ouch!

Sinusitis sounds likely. Think about what you do that makes it feel worse [bending over, touching it, &c] and if there's anything you do that makes it feel better [staying hydrated, steamy showers, &c]. Sinus problems are usually not that big a deal. Your doc will likely try to figure out if you have sinus pressure because of a cold or whether you have a sinus infection. If your snot is greenish or brownish later in the day [often morning snot is darker because you're dehydrated] you... [more]

posted to Ask Metafilter by jessamyn at **14:08** on May 8, 2011 [IP:whois|search] [+]

### help me make technology empowering

Hi, I sort of do this for a job and I recently wrote a book about how to do sort of specifically this. Basically technology instruction in libraries is a really complicated thing since you've got patron expectations, institutional expectations and often don't have too much control over either. People who aren't using computers in 2011 are usually this way for a reason. Often it's because they're from another country or don't have access to technology and broadband. However, other times it's... [more]

posted to Ask Metafilter by jessamyn at **13:58** on May 7, 2011 [IP:whois|search] [4 favorites +]

### Looking for sleep-inducing podcasts

My SO really really likes falling asleep to the **BBC World Service**, though he just tunes it in on the radio. Newsy, measured, very rarely excitable. It is sort of current affairs, but if you listen to the current affairs of countries you don't know much about, it's sort of interesting [to me] in a non-urgent way.

posted to Ask Metafilter by jessamyn at **12:50** on May 7, 2011 [IP:whois|search] [3 favorites +]

## Ask MeFi: **43** questions, **8855** answers

All this Q&A is categorized, tagged and archived. I've answered about 8800 questions (actually fewer because I'm also the mod so some of those numbers are "stop hollering at each other" comments) and you can click through and see all of my answers. I'd love it if my library could do that. Here's a quick look at the categories. A lot of what keeps people coming to the site is the reputation they've established.

# Gamification

Please tell me what you know about maintaining septic systems.
comment posted at **11:13 AM on Jun-6-11** ✅

Favorites: **5017**
Favorited by others: **6670**

And we have a gamification aspect. Favorites and best answers. We try to downplay these, but they're like the food pellets that keep the site going, keep interest high and allow positive feedback in a limited way. 1,840,421 favorites given in AskMe. The thing that amazes me the most is how all these people do all this work for free. 66,871 questions have at least one best answer. 161,736 best answers have been given.

# Gamification

Can you use those **oil blotters** throughout the day to help keep your forehead (and therefore your bangs) dry?
posted by **litnerd** at **10:25** on June 9 [**edit**] [**x**] [IP:**whois|search**] [**user info**] [**+**] [**!**]

i live in a non-humid non-sweaty area (northern california), so this may not be as effective for you, but i keep my bangs from clumping by dusting a liberal amount of translucent powder on my forehead before going out for the day.
posted by **apostrophe** at **10:30** on June 9 [**edit**] [**x**] [IP:**whois|search**] [**user info**] [**+**] [**!**]

These are my three tricks, and sometimes they're defeated by the triple-digit days of Texas summer:
1) Bangs as short as possible
2) Wash every day, and blow them dry with a round brush, they seem to remember that :]
3) Carry a comb

I wear a bike helmet, and they still aren't too bad as long as I have a comb with me.
posted by **fiercecupcake** at **10:36** on June 9 [**edit**] [**x**] [IP:**whois|search**] [**user info**] [**+**] [**!**]

And we have a gamification aspect. Favorites and best answers. We try to downplay these, but they're like the food pellets that keep the site going, keep interest high and allow positive feedback in a limited way. 1,840,421 favorites given in AskMe. The thing that amazes me the most is how all these people do all this work for free. 66,871 questions have at least one best answer. 161,736 best answers have been given.

**Legend:**
- computers & internet
- technology
- home & garden
- work & money
- sports, hobbies & rec
- society & culture
- travel & transportation
- science& nature
- education
- health & fitness
- shopping
- food & drink
- writing & language
- human relations
- media & arts
- pets & animals
- religion & philosophy
- clothing, beauty & fashion
- law & government
- grab bag
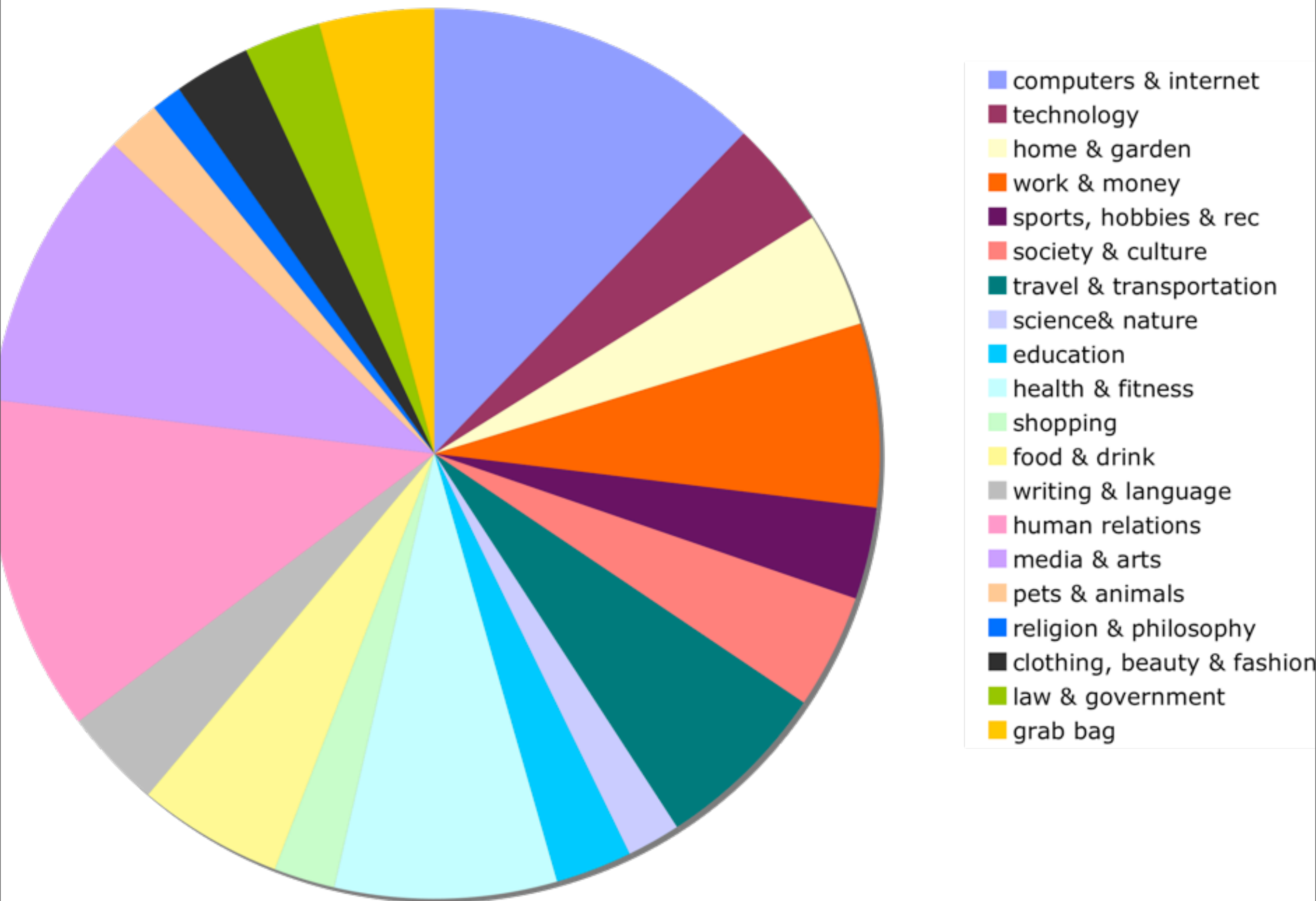
We set up our categories when we set up the site in 2004 [with the help of an information architect you might have heard of: Jesse James Garrett] and they've stayed more or less the same the whole time. I think we added fitness to the health category. You can tell you're doing categories okay if the "grab bag" one isn't overflowing.

# My toolbox

MetaFilter    AskMeFi    Projects    Music    Jobs    Podcast    MetaTalk

## MetaFilter Admin

### <3 you are the smiling buddha

- EDIT MALL | CHARTS
- last 100 flags
- charts
- admin: activity, notes, labs
- post to sideblog, music challenge
- MeMail search

**Pending:** anon askmefi, projects

**FAQ:** Add a question | View submissions

[                    ] userid search

[                    ] username search

[                    ] user email search

[                    ] ipsearch

Search [threads only ▾] for: [                    ] [since day one ▾] [Search MetaFilter]

cf uptime: 1 day, 8 hours, 42 minutes.
main free: C: 23%, D: 84% | db free: C: 44%, D: 88%

### flag hotspots (last 100)

| 2 | mefi | 97274 | [x] | other |
| 1 | mefi | 97254 | [x] | breaks guidelines, other |
| 1 | mefi | 97273 | [x] | other |
| 1 | mefi | 97264 | [x] | other |
| 1 | mefi | 97271 | [x] | fantastic post, other |
| 1 | mefi_comment | 3357530 | [x] | offensive/sexism/racism |
| 1 | mefi_comment | 3357508 | [x] | noise |
| 1 | mefi_comment | 3357500 | [x] | noise |
| 1 | mefi_comment | 3357438 | [x] | offensive/sexism/racism |
| 1 | askmefi | 169517 | [x] | display error |

THINK SAFETY

**0 days**

since a bannin'

### good spots

| 3 | mefi_comment | 3356727 | [x] | fantastic comment |
| 3 | mefi_comment | 3356320 | [x] | fantastic comment |
| 2 | mefi_comment | 3355605 | [x] | fantastic comment |

So that's great, a big question archive. But that's not really what I *do*. I check in via a web interface and answer emails, fix people's comments, chime in on policy issues with my co-moderators and occasionally time people out or ban them. The place is really part Craigslist and part Yahoo answers. Our main admin page has a lot of searching tools and a few other things. We call the place "self-policing" and there are a few ways that works. People can flag things that break the guidelines and there's a whole part of the site dedicated to policy issues.

# Short list of options

‣ **Deletion**

‣ **Time out**

‣ **Email**

‣ **"Public" discussion/comment**

‣ **The "short leash"**

We have a very short list of actual tools [metatalk]

# AskMe by the numbers

questions
deleted

98.6%
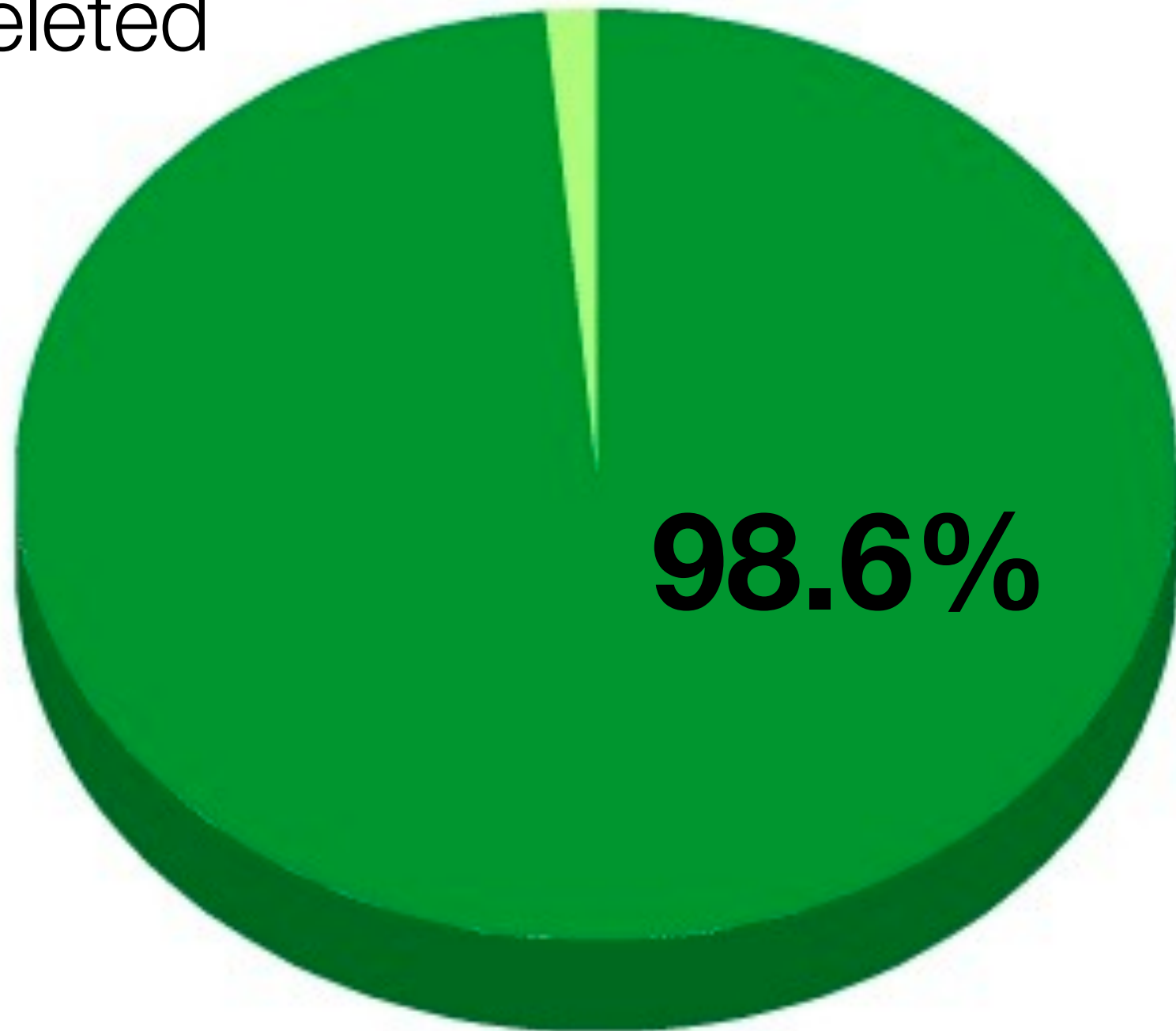
And we keep data on this sort of thing too. In MetaFilter proper we mostly just don't let people use racial slurs, make rape jokes or "out" each other. In AskMe the moderation is a little heavier. We occasionally delete questions for being chatty, hypotheticals, non–questions, rants disguised as questions, revenge questions, illegal questions and questions about suicide.

# AskMe by the numbers

comments deleted

98.2%
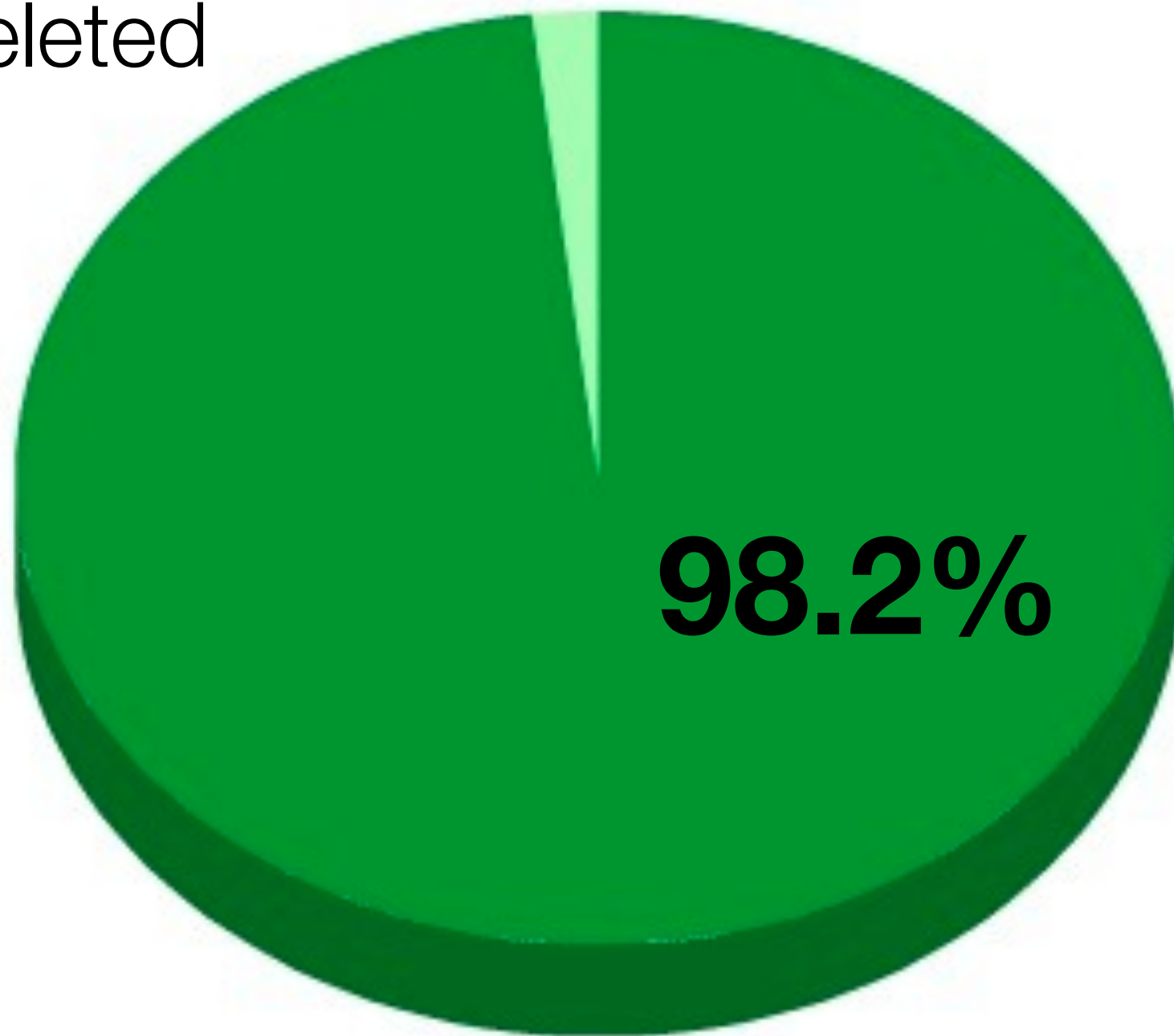
The number of comments deleted is similar, 47,008 out of 2,586,924.
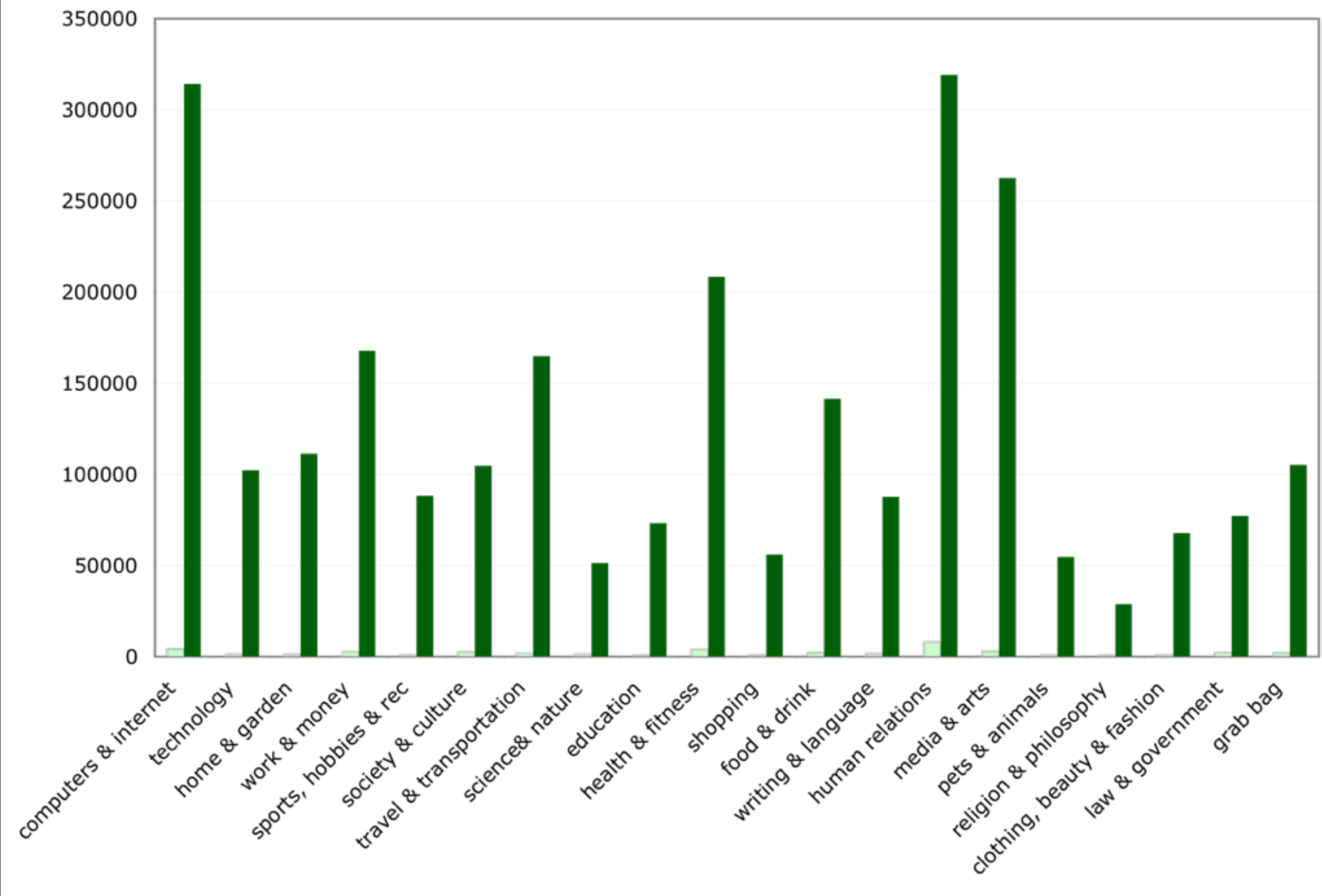
Here's a category view of the same data, the little green bars are deletions. You can get your answer deleted for not answering the question, for calling someone an asshole, for making a joke, for going after someone [you see this a lot in pet and parenting threads] lots of reasons. A little under 2%. We don't do much of it, but enough that people notice and enough that that part of the site is called "heavily moderated" You can sort of see how Human Relations seems to get a lot of those.

Here's a category view of the same data, the little green bars are deletions. You can get your answer deleted for not answering the question, for calling someone an asshole, for making a joke, for going after someone [you see this a lot in pet and parenting threads] lots of reasons. A little under 2%. We don't do much of it, but enough that people notice and enough that that part of the site is called "heavily moderated" You can sort of see how Human Relations seems to get a lot of those.

# What is the problem to be solved?

‣ **"Does someone feel like I do?"**

‣ **"Am I correct in this argument I am having?"**

‣ **"Is there a way out of this mess?"**

‣ **"Am I being unreasonable?"**

‣ **"Is this person acting crazy?"**

Human relations questions are often tricky because while they seem to be about something, they're often about something else. "How do I get my friends to split the bill evenly" when the question is "Are my friends jerks?" Astute listeners will often address the hidden questions which is good news or bad news depending. No one wants the answer to "Am I being unreasonable?" to be "yes" but sometimes... people are being unreasonable... in their relationships, at their jobs, with their bowling league. Often it's as simple as them saying something like "therapy is not an option" when maybe that's what they need. We try to keep people being concrete.

# questions are professional...

Tracking Down An Address In 1939 Vienna
October 18, 2005 10:22 🔊 Subscribe

How can I get my hands on a Vienna phonebook from circa 1938? I will be spending a weekend in Vienna next month, and I would love to see the apartment where my late grandfather lived before fleeing the Nazis. Unfortunately, nobody in the family knows the address, and there aren't any letters or other documents to provide it. Things are also complicated by the fact that I won't be visiting on a weekday, so any archives that might have this information will presumably be closed. Plus, I don't speak German. Am I out of luck, or is there any way to track this information down in the next few weeks?
posted by **yankeefog** to **human relations** (39 answers total) [**edit**] [IP:**whois|search**] [add to favorites] 87 users marked this as a favorite [!]

— flagged 1 time
— 4 comments with 5 flags

**Tags:**
vienna [x]
phonebooks [x]
history [x]
geneology [x]
resolved [x]
metafilterhisto... [x]

Add tag

**Share:**
🔵 Twitter
📘 Facebook

I just spke with a researcher here (I work at the Holocaust Museum in Washington) and I think we might be able to get the street address for you. Let me look into is a little bit...

Send me an e-mail with all the info you have (name, birthdate, occupation, etc): rcoleman (AT) ushmm.org.
posted by ⬛ **arco** at **10:54** on October 18, 2005 [**edit**] [**x**] [IP:**whois|search**] [**user info**] [**+**] [**!**]

(To more specifically answer your question, we have the Vienna telephone books from the 30s on microfilm, but we also have several other resources that might be useful.)
posted by ⬛ **arco** at **11:11** on October 18, 2005 [**edit**] [**x**] [IP:**whois|search**] [**user info**] [1 favorite **+**] [**!**]

Sometimes questions are more like reference questions. And sometimes they're answered by reference librarians. The guy who answered here, Ron Coleman, is the librarian at the Holocaust museum in Washington DC.

# and personal...

## So... I'm fat! Still wanna meet up?
December 6, 2008 9:38 📶 Subscribe

I need to gracefully let someone I've spoken with on the phone, and who I'm developing feelings for, know that I'm kind of fat before we meet in person. How can I do this? Please AskMe help me work out what to say and how to say it.

**Backstory**
I'm a girl, he's a guy. A mutual friend introduced us and we've been chatting on the phone. I definitely did not expect to develop feelings for him other than friendship. As far as I know, neither did he. So when we started talking appearance wasn't really an issue. But we unexpectedly hit it off and gradually, over a couple of weeks, feelings have developed.

It's only gradually dawned on me that he likes me as more than a friend. Long conversations and texts have escalated into jokes about what are you wearing and, uh, jokes about phone sex and how much he likes my voice and wants to meet me. In fact, he's said about four times now that he really wants to meet me. Now it's hit me, hard, that I do like him a lot 'like that' and would like to meet him too.

**Complications**
Despite the strong indications that he also likes me a lot, it's still at that awkward stage where everything has been implied and nothing has been said outright. Complicating things even further, we can't meet face to face for at least another three months. We live about 1800 miles apart and for a variety of reasons neither of us can travel for a while.

I know being overweight can be a deal breaker and I need to let him know that I'm, well, fat, before spending weeks talking with him on the phone, both of us getting attached and then him being (possibly) horrified when he meets me.

He's seen pics of me (Facebook) so he knows what my face looks like. You can tell I'm not, you know, Jessica Alba. You can't tell that I'm quite fat. I'm 5'3 and 163 pounds. None of it is muscle. Quite a bit of it is boobs. And bum. And belly and thighs. I don't need to be levered out of the house by crane and I shop in the normal sizes part of the store, but I am definitely hefty.

**Halp**
I just... can't think of a way to bring this up that's not hideous awkward. Everything I think of to say is just so cringe-y. And makes me sound like I'm really insecure about how I look. (Which, I kind of am, truthfully.) And now that I've realised I LIKE him, I feel very awkward too, which isn't helping.

Tags:
fat [x]
love [x]
conundrum [x]
resolved [x]

Add tag

Share:
🐦 Twitter
f Facebook

Sometimes questions are super personal. We have a capacity for asking "anonymous" questions. People can email the mods with follow-up responses. The questions are anonymous even in the database, though we can figure out who asked them if there is a real problem. This question is a classic anon question [explain story]

# AskMe's Soliciting book recommendations

## especially loved AskMes of the broadest sort

- universal books ⬀
- how did you find your favorite book? ⬀
- what single book is the best introduction to your field ⬀
- vacation reading, but not too light ⬀
- perfect non fiction books ⬀
- books every girl should read ⬀ (and the ultimate result of the question) ⬀
- books for boys ⬀
- great books ⬀ more great books ⬀
- a novel from every country ⬀
- fantastic books for 2007 ⬀ for 2006 ⬀
- all time favorites ⬀
- must reads ⬀
- a book everyone should read, and why ⬀

And there's a posse. As I said earlier I'm interested in the conversion factor. People make assemblages of our questions and put them on the wiki. We have a wiki where people create Frequently Asked of MetaFilter lists. Here's a page from the wiki that shows off questions about what to read. It has a thousand booklists. One thousand. Booklists. I am not one of those people like Library Thing or the Internet Archive who is all "Hey we're just as good as a library with no books!" but there are some aspects to what we do that are similar.

# My subset of the Library of Congress
October 1, 2010 10:32 PM  🔊 Subscribe

I'd like to put a personal library of around 200 books in order by **the Library of Congress Classification System**. I plan to take them off my shelves then scan all of their ISBNs for inclusion on **LibraryThing**... Then what? How do I get LCC numbers from ISBN numbers for ordering/labeling? How should I label them?

FWIW, I own an inkjet printer.
posted by **phrontist** to **computers & internet** (5 comments total) **[edit]** [IP:**whois**|**search**] [add to favorites] 9 users marked this as a favorite [!]

How old are your books, many include the Call Number on the verso page, the page after the title page with other cataloging information, and where you'd likely look for the ISBN in the first place.
posted by **dipolemoment** at **10:39 PM** on October 1 **[edit]** [x] [IP:**whois**|**search**] [+] [!]

LibraryThing will probably recognize all of your books if they have ISBNs, and the details pages for them will include the LC numbers. LibraryThing searches hundreds of libraries around the world to find details and grabs LC and Dewey numbers. The Cataloging-in-Publication data on the title page verso is the easiest place to find LC numbers, and most new North American books have that. You can always search **the Library of Congres catalogue** yourself, too.

As for labelling, I did it by hand with Avery 02207 labels. They look fine. You could always use a label template, though. If you get dust jacket protectors from Brodart or a similar library supplies company then your books will look all the nicer, and you can tape the labels on.
posted by **wdenton** at **10:49 PM** on October 1 **[edit]** [x] [IP:**whois**|**search**] [+] [!]

Oddly, the **export** option doesn't seem to return LCC numbers, but they can be seen in the **details view**.
posted by **phrontist** at **10:52 PM** on October 1 **[edit]** [x] [IP:**whois**|**search**] [+] [!]

LibraryThing puts books into your library by matching the provided info (like the ISBN) against a data source (amazon, libraries, the library of congress), grabbing all the fields from the record found in that data source (title, author, LCC, etc.) and then using those fields to make a LibraryThing record.

When you enter your books, use a reputable library (LoC, even!) as the data source (the *Search Where?* bit in the *Add Books* page). Amazon does not track LCC numbers, so if you use that as a source, your books will not have that info.

Once your books are in, complete with LCC, edit your view style to include LCC numbers, sort by LCC, and shelve accordingly.
posted by **zamboni** at **11:01 PM** on October 1 **[edit]** [x] [IP:**whois**|**search**] [+] [!]

You can also look at worldcat.org for the loc number, and I also have used openlibrary.org but they don't have the range of books that worldcat does.

In one of the school libraries I worked at I used a ptouch labeler for labeling my books. It was quick and easy.
posted by 📘 **momochan** at **6:45 AM** on October 2 **[edit]** [x] [IP:**whois**|**search**] [+] [!]

Not surprisingly, we have a lot of librarians that interact there. Thanks to a script that works in conjunction with Firefox and Greasemonkey, you can tell who they are when you browse the site. This is a real "outside the box" sort of thing and it makes me happy to see so many librarians, over 230 librarians, library workers and library students. If you're interested, drop me an email, I'm always trying to sneak more librarians in. Free accounts to librarians. You have to put up with a lot of internet people, they're usually not any worse than your standard patron, but they have their own quirks.

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LibraryThing will p...                                                                ...hing searches
hundreds of librar...                                                        ...erso is the
easiest place to fi...                                                              yourself, too.

As for labelling, I...                                                     ...protectors from
Brodart or a simil...
posted by **wdenton** a...

Oddly, the **expor**...
posted by **phrontist** a...



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# Some real statistics

‣ **60/40% women/men**

‣ **55% are 18-55 years old (avg = 31)**

‣ **90% visit once a day or more**

‣ **21% "bloggers"**

‣ **38% own cats**
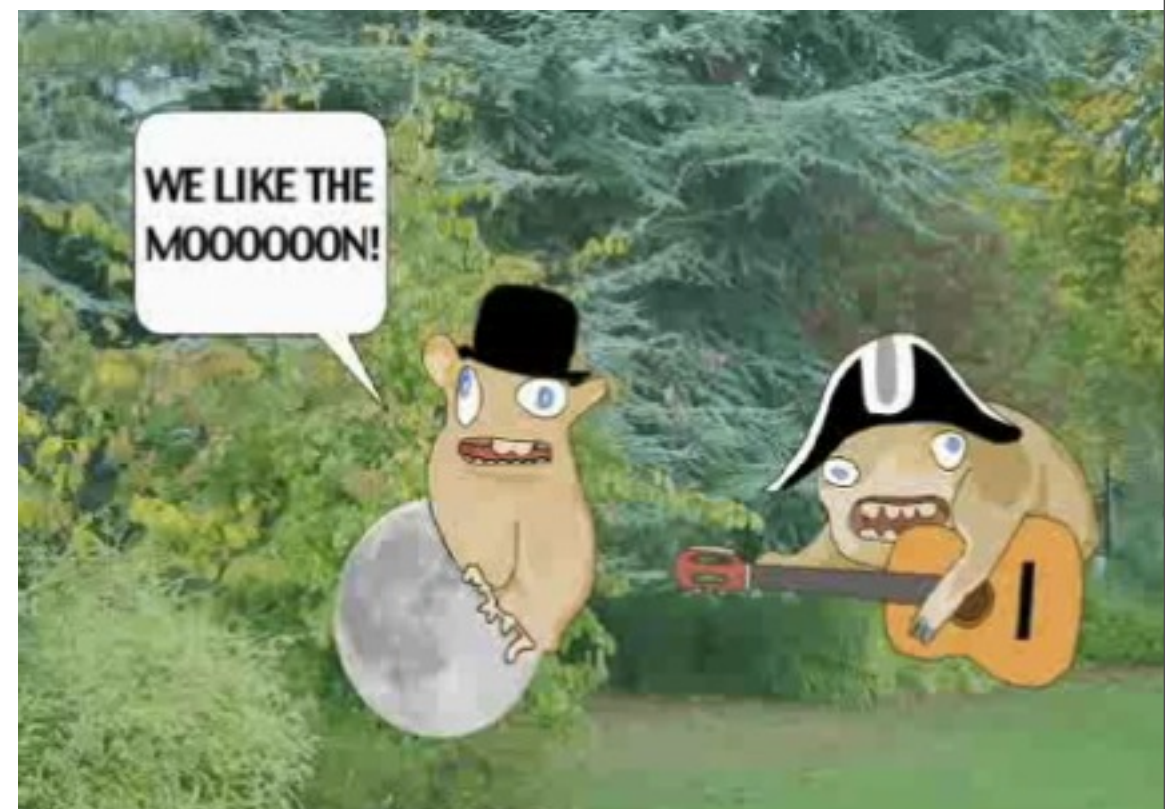
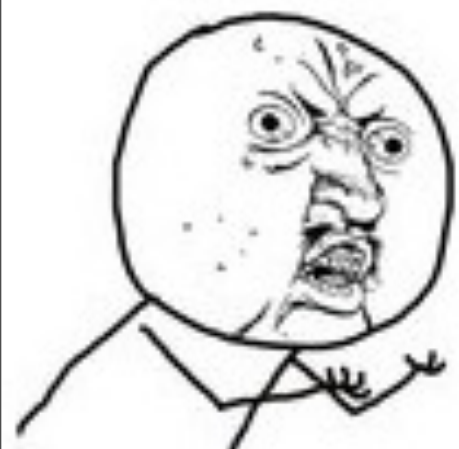[federated media and user survey data here]

# Internet People



# Y U NO Google It?

And I should talk a bit about "internet people." Just like people in Vermont are often "there for a reason" I think the same is true for people who spend a lot of time online. Not bad, to me, just different. I think we're shifting from a world where offline life is the only life that's seen as "real" but at the same time we fail to see that offline and online populations are different. One of my favorite classes in library school was services to special populations and I put "internet people" into a special population category. Here are a few differences that I've observed. REAL DATA AND ANECDATA AHEAD.

# Internet People



**About:** "Y U NO" Guy is a character using SMS shorthands and carefree grammar as a way to bring someone's attention on a particular subject or issue.

**Origin:** Comes from Gantz' Chapter 55: Naked King (裸の王様), a Japanese sci-fi manga originally released in February 2002.

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# Some overgeneralizations

‣ **Social anxiety**

‣ **Nerdy/High IQ**

‣ **Overthinkers**

‣ **Rule followers or benders**

‣ **Witty/Verbal**

Internet People!

KEYBOARD CAT

DANMETH.COM

These are some of the things we deal with doing online Q&A. Many of these attributes are real good news/bad news situations. If you have a question about Ativan, we're great. A question about opera, maybe. A question about owning a fast food franchise, maybe not so much, but you might be surprised,
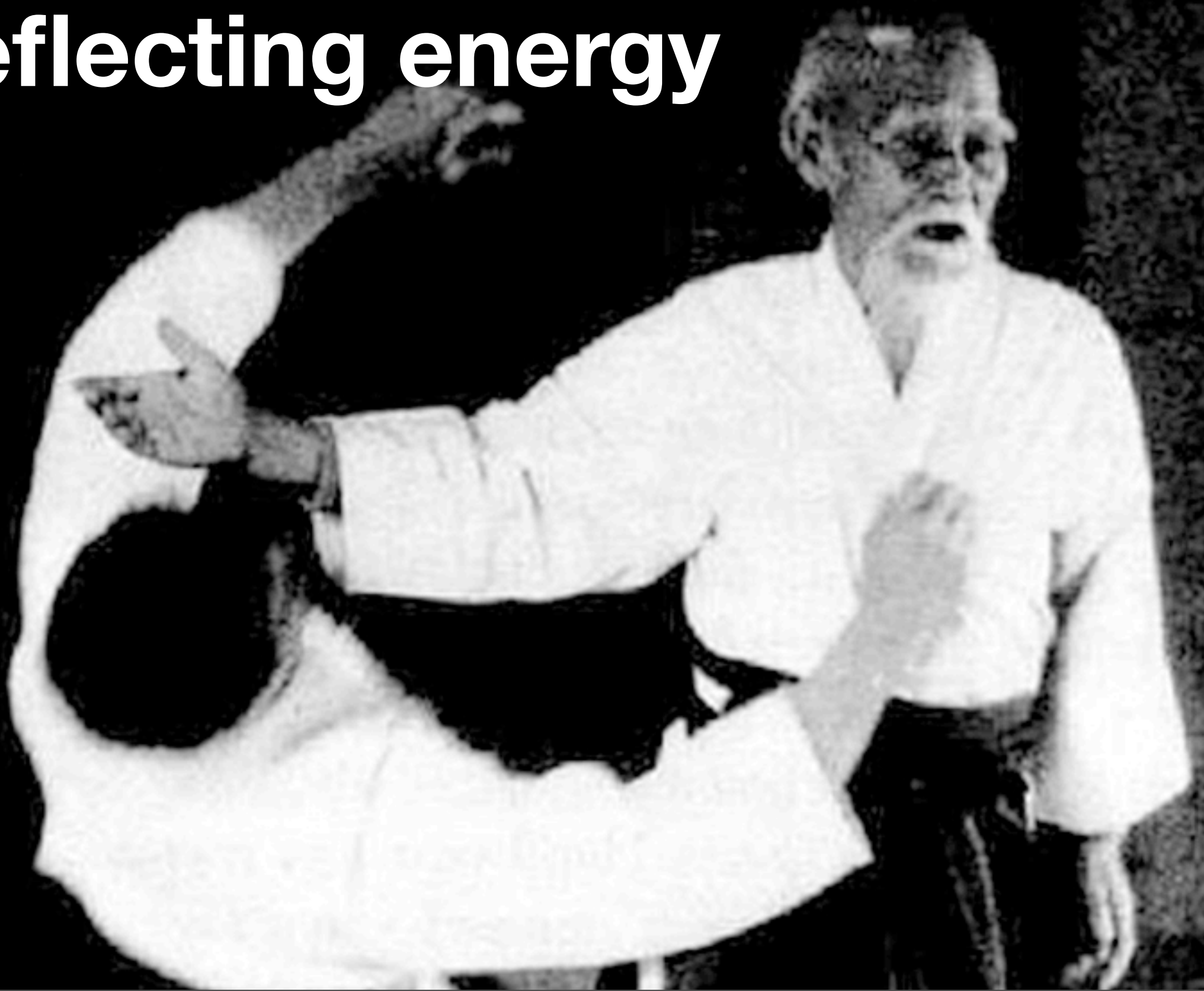
# Some archetypes

‣ **Spammers**

‣ **Troll/Concern troll**

‣ **Handwringers**



‣ **"Keeping it real" people**

‣ **You're not my mom/boss**

‣ **Rules lawyers/griefers**
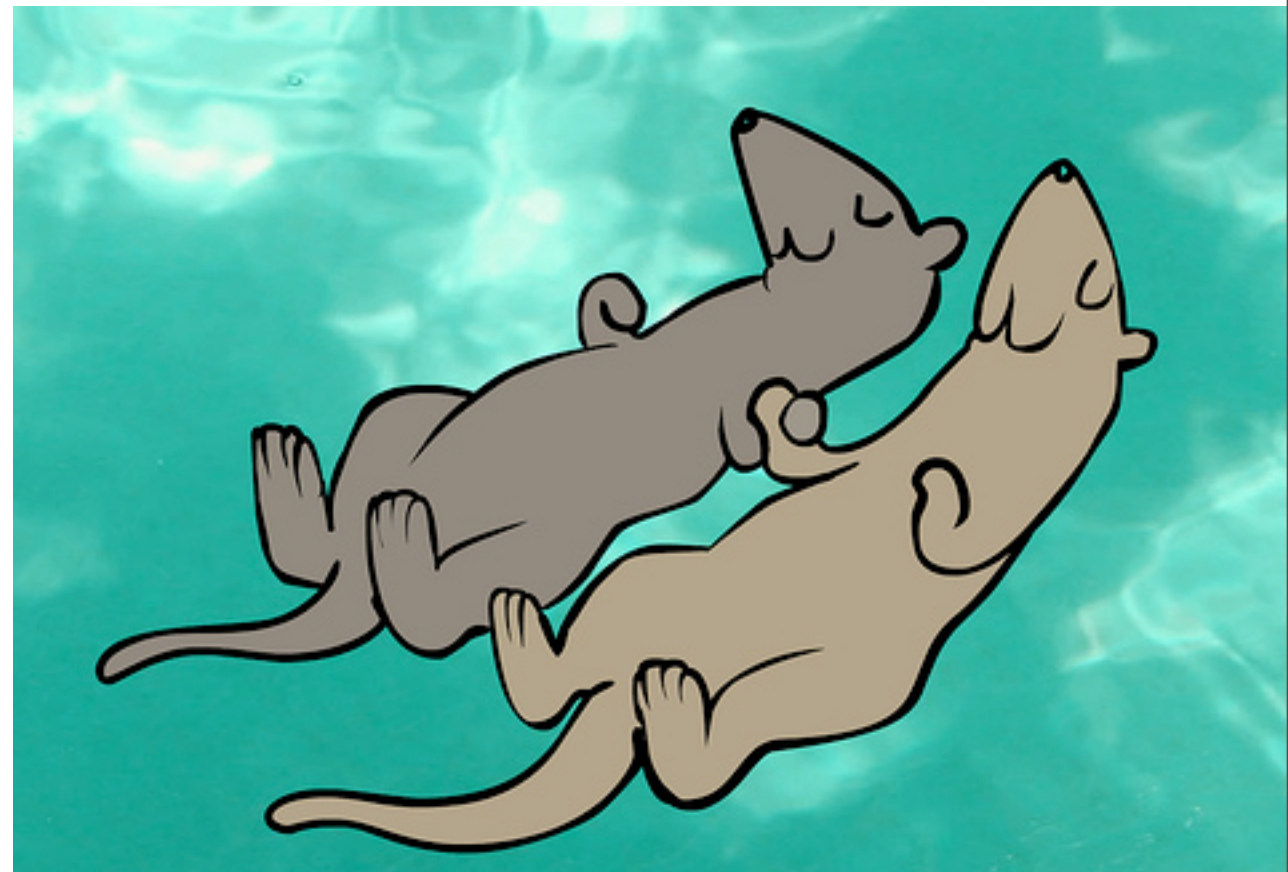
# Deflecting energy

One of the things that I find most important in my moderator toolbox is the idea of deflecting someone's energy. As we tell people, it's fine if something makes you angry [your feelings are valid, etc] but less fine if you then act out angrily. A topic will make people upset and then they channel that upsetness towards people on the site. This can turn into a conflagration. We try to divert small upsetnesses so they don't become big flame outs. H

# Some touchy points

‣ **NSFW & language?**

‣ **What is totally out of bounds?**

‣ **Spoilers?**

‣ **Identity & "outing"**

‣ **Stunty behavior**

‣ **OK & not ok jokes**

Other things in the "to think about" category. Some rules you can decide by talking to people. Some things it may make sense to have top-down policies about. We spend a lot of time talking about what people are *doing* and not what they *are*

I find that unlike the traditional reference desk, I spend a lot of time telling people not to be angry, or not to let their feelings get hurt. I spend a lot of time teaching people how to ask a good question, or talking to them about why their question maybe didn't go so well. I think a lot of us have a certain "What makes a good question" sense after years of doing reference, but it's rarer, I think, that we get to see that evolve, in people, over time. The AskMe environment is a good place to do that.

I am confident and comfortable that the world is not going to run out of questions and I'm tickled that there are so many ways to connect people and questions and answers and people. Thanks.

Ceiling Librarian is watching your metadata.

I think the confluence of librarians and internet people is great and only getting greater. Let me know if you have questions.