**Cloud Computing**

Melanie Hedgespeth

Melanie stressed the benefits of cloud computing. They include: you can use any device to access the same information; you can access it via the web (so anywhere, anytime); there is no software to purchase or update; your data is still in the cloud if your device is lost; printers can be placed in the cloud.

Another benefit of using Google in the cloud is your ability to have multiple items available. For instance, you can own multiple calendars accessed by different people. You could have a calendar for work which your coworkers could access if they need to find you. You could have another calendar related to your personal life—Melanie has one set up which her children access so they know what’s for dinner and don’t have to ask her! You can create a community calendar which is also good for group/work scheduling. It is also possible to use the services provided by Google to hold video calls. It allows you to post information and share files with your coworkers.

Melanie is a fan of the Chrome box @$249. It is like a computer but it runs using Google Chrome. It is referred to as a ‘think client’. It allows for Chrome printing using cloud enabled printers. (Cloud Ready printers connect directly to the web and don’t require a PC to setup).

Planned follow up library activity: I will discuss/teach about Cloud Computing with the faculty during an Information Station (collaboration).