

## New words for a new world!

As library folks, we live in a world of words. Whether reading, talking, writing board reports, teaching, advocating, or keeping up with our friends and families, we are surrounded by words and phrases. I am sure it will come as no surprise that, during the last few months, I secretly have been building a list of new, interesting, and /or useless new words and phrases that are creeping into our everyday dialogue.



For example:

- **Shovel-ready:** First coined by the Obama administration with regard to the \$787 billion dollar federal stimulus bill.
- **Transparency:** Used by government officials and politicians in a myriad of ways.
- **Tweet, tweetaholic, re-tweet, twitterhea, twittersphere:** Does anyone besides celebrities and jocks actually tweet?
- **Friend:** Used as a verb, i.e. "friending" someone on Facebook.
- **Sexting:** Sending sexually explicit images and/or text messages via cell phone.
- **App:** Application, as in the iPhone advertisement, "There is an app for that."
- **Teachable moment:** What every reference librarian lives for!!!
- **Staycation:** Coined last summer as families decided to stay home for their vacation and read a book, visit the library, or play in the local park.
- **Shoppportunity, shoppertunistic:** Taking advantage of a shopping opportunity; this simply used to be called a sale!
- **Wall Street/Main Street:** First coined in mid-2009 to describe the genesis of the financial crisis.
- **Toxic assets:** Whatever happened to simply bad stocks or delinquent loans?

Of course, the list would be incomplete without a few of my favorite new phrases:

- Practice makes permanent.
- Recession101: It's a test, not the final exam.

And my personal favorite:

- "If you're not at the table, you are on the menu."

Well, there you have it: my list of new words and phrases that we seem to be embracing, for better or worse! Have a great week! Spring is finally here in the heartland!

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