IMLS DCC: Improving the Visibility and Value of Our Digital Cultural Heritage

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Aims

• Add value without losing identity
  – Make collections more valuable as aggregated resources
    • Different sizes and kinds make contributions
    • “Critical mass” makes them more visible
    • Retaining collection & institutional contexts is important to understanding items
  – Offer a well-scoped alternative to:
    • Scattered institutional sites
    • Search engines
IMLS DCC (2003-2007)

• Outcomes
  – Created central repository of IMLS & LSTA funded digital collections
  – Integrated resources from Libraries, Archives and Museums using OAI-PMH
  – Increased awareness of metadata best practices, quality and shareability
    • Metadata for You & Me spin-off workshops
      http://images.library.uiuc.edu/projects/mym/
Lessons Learned

• User Questions
  – What is it?
  – Why this content?
  – Who is it for?

• Putting things into context
  – Aggregations need clear collection development policies
  – Need to foster “contextual mass”
  – Collection description puts items into context

• Metadata, metadata, metadata
IMLS DCC (2007-present)

• Goals for *Opening History*
  – Evaluate content and develop guidelines for a digital federation of national scope for use by historical researchers.
  – Identify and incorporate new collections
  – Organize content to promote visibility and complementarity of collections.
  – Improve interface and services
  – Promote resource and attract users
  – Ongoing metadata research

http://imlsdcc.grainger.uiuc.edu/history
State Collections added to Opening History*

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Emerging Strengths
Main Street south from Third Street, ca. 1890
Los Angeles

Sleigh Ride to Lake Tahoe

Main Ave., Durango, CO Oct. 1965

New trolley tracks, Needham Corner, Main Street, Hartford, October 2, 1902.

Tombrello Grocery Market  106 Main St.
Birmingham, Alabama
Emerging Strengths - Japanese Internment
Getting In the Flow

SOWING CULTURE
Selections from the IMLS Digital Collections & Content Project

About

The Sowing Culture blog includes selected images and content from the Opening History aggregation of digital collections created and maintained by the IMLS Digital Collections and Content project. This project is investigating and implementing a systematic approach to developing useful, meaningful, and usable digital collections. This collaboration with IMLS supports IMLS’ mission to create a nation of learners and sustain cultural heritage. Learn more about the project.

This project is a collaboration among the University of Illinois Library, the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (Center for Informatics Research in Science and Scholarship), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a Federal agency that fosters innovation, leadership, and a lifetime of learning.

Leave a Comment »

http://sowingculture.wordpress.com/
Getting In the Flow

- Connect with us - state collection blogs, twitter etc.
- Comment!
Birdseye View
Transportation Portal
How can you contribute?

• Participation is easy
  – Review Opening History Collection Policy
    http://imlsdccc.grainger.uiuc.edu/docs/CollectionDevelopmentPolicy.pdf
  – Suggest a Collection Form
    https://illinois.edu/fb/sec/4175335

• Talk to Arizona & Montana
• Handouts Contain More Information

Questions?
IMLS DCC Advisory Board

- Jim Scheppke  
  Oregon State Library

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  New York Public Library

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• Reports, Publications & Presentations
  http://imlsdcc.grainger.uiuc.edu/about.asp
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- Steamboat “America” on the Levee. Courtesy Historic New Orleans Collection
- Construction Workers. Courtesy Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania
- Troops in Fourth of July Armistice Parade. Courtesy Weber State University
- Flagging Down Dawson Courtesy Library of Congress.
- Main St. South from Third. Courtesy California Historical Society
- Tobrello Grocery. Courtesy Birmingham Public Library
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- Topaz Trek Courtesy Utah State University Library