IMLS DCC Advisory Board Meeting

Introduction
&
Update on Opening History

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Chicago
May 14, 2010
# Team members - CIRSS & University Library

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allen Renear, Sarah Shreeves, Mike Twidale, Bill Mischo</td>
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<td>Co-PIs</td>
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<tr>
<th>Katrina Fenlon</th>
<th>Project Coordinator</th>
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<tr>
<th>Jacob Jett, Sunah Suh, Richard Urban, Karen Wickett, Oksana Zavalina</th>
<th>Research Assistants</th>
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<tr>
<th>Martin Doerr - Centre for Cultural Informatics, Greece</th>
<th>Advisory Committee</th>
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<td>Jeremy Frumkin - Arizona</td>
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<td>Jonathan Furner - UCLA</td>
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<td>Josh Greenberg - NYPL</td>
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<td>Pete Johnston - Eduserve</td>
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<td>Bill Landis - Yale</td>
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<td>Jenn Riley - Indiana Un</td>
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<td>Jim Scheppke - Oregon State Library</td>
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<td>Guenter Waibel - OCLC</td>
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<th>Jean Godby</th>
<th>OCLC consultant</th>
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• **Collection registry** of digital collections funded by IMLS NLG
  Expanded in 2005 to include LSTA funded collections.

• **Item-level metadata repository** using OAI-PMH
  Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting

• Tracked metadata and **interoperability issues and trends** over time

• Investigated representation and integration
  **Conceptualizations of collections**: exhibits, displays, tours …
  **Cultures of description** in libraries, museums, archives
Produced a diverse collection of collections
Important gains

• Collection description schema based on Dublin Core and RSLP

• Increased awareness of metadata best practices, quality and sharing issues
  
  • “Findings Pertaining to the Framework of Guidance for Building Good Digital Collections” (Cole, et al. 2006.)

• Metadata for You & Me workshops
  http://images.library.illinois.edu/projects/mym/

As resource grew and we studied developers & users, questions arose:

What’s in it? Why this content? Who’s it for?
New directions in 2007

• Evaluate and build resource
  - based on strengths and audience – history researchers, broadly
    around principle of “contextual mass” complementarity, density more important than size (Palmer 2004)
    - incorporate non-IMLS history collections
    - guided by collection policy

• Investigate collection-level / item-level metadata relationships
  preserving context and enhancing functionality.

• Test metasearch capabilities, primarily for secondary sources

• Improve interface representation of content and context.

• Promote resource and attract users to the site.
Since 2007, DCC grown from 167 to 341 collections

(http://imlsdcc.grainger.illinois.edu)
## Opening History (OH) - 848 collections

### Opening History:
U.S. History Resources from Libraries, Museums, and Archives

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### Search For Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>image (573)</td>
<td>Southwest U.S. (general region) (189)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(735)</td>
<td>text (428)</td>
<td>Midwest U.S. (general region) (188)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts (190)</td>
<td>physical object (109)</td>
<td>Southern U.S. (general region) (155)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science (59)</td>
<td>sound (68)</td>
<td>Pacific Coast U.S. (general region) (119)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion (34)</td>
<td>moving image (22)</td>
<td>Mountain Region U.S. (general region) (71)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>Interactive Resource (17)</td>
<td>Northeastern U.S. (general region) (43)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(22)</td>
<td>View all objects...</td>
<td>View all places...</td>
</tr>
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also browse by: Title | Hosting Institution

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Suggest a collection


Collection Development Policy (pdf)

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(http://imlsdcc.grainger.illinois.edu/history)
Growth in IMLS DCC and Opening History
Shift in types of institutions contributing
Rise in history museum contributions

Museum contributions to DCC and Opening History

Collections contributed or hosted

Art museum | General museum | History museum | Museum library | Museum organization | Natural history museum | Science/Technology museum | Specialized museum | State museum agency

DCC | OH
Multi-collection contributors vs. collaborators

How institutions of various types contribute to aggregation

- Public library
- Academic library
- Historical society
- Other
- Institution of higher education
- History museum
- Library consortium
- Research library/archives
- Specialized museum
- School / School district (K-12)
- State library agency
- General museum
- Art museum
- Special library
- Historic house/site

Legend:
- Green: Number of Institutions
- Purple: Number of Collections
Differences in geographic coverage

Opening History

- 100 ... 120+
- 80 ... 100
- 60 ... 80
- 40 ... 60
- 20 ... 40
- ≤ 0 ... 20

DCC

- 50 ... 60+
- 40 ... 50
- 30 ... 40
- 20 ... 30
- 10 ... 20
- ≤ 0 ... 10
Diversification of item types

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Opening History (+LSTA)</th>
<th>DCC NLG Only</th>
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<td>229 distinct item type values</td>
<td>160 distinct item type values</td>
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<tr>
<td>65% unique values in OH</td>
<td>69% unique values in DCC</td>
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- Images still prominent - 60% of OH contain photos, slides or negatives

- But, more than 50% of collections in Opening History have more than one type
Potential targets for development of premier “special” collections of collections. Experimentation with functionality in Transportation Portal.
Emergent thematic strengths

Local history

Japanese internment
Towards contextual mass

• Within emergent subject strengths,

  Small and large collection complementarity
  Diverse item types and geographic coverage

• Transportation history subject strength brings together:
  – 1500 blueprints in Newberry’s Pullman Car Co. Collection
  – Scattered photos of Pullman porters on regional lines from large Connecticut, Washington, Pittsburgh aggregations
  – 40,000 glass negatives and prints, relevant to Pullman and the era from LOC’s Bain collection
  – 1 rare book satirizing the Pullman Co from very small Illinois Art and Literature digitized books collection of only 17 items
Sharing thematic collections with the wider public

Flickr Feasibility Study

- Developing metadata, workflows, policy, technical routines
- Differences in content and representation based on type of collection and institution
- Weekly batch uploads of 100-200 (distributed across collections)
- Assessing public interaction with content
- Evaluating value of service and participation
Charles Weever Cushman, amateur photographer and Indiana University alumnus, bequeathed a large collection of Kodachrome color slides to his alma mater. The photographs in this collection bridge a thirty-two year span from 1938 to 1969, during which time Mr. Cushman extensively documented the United States as well as other countries. This collection was digitized by Indiana University’s Digital Library Program with the cooperation of the Indiana University Archives.

The Ringling Brothers Circus set of images on Flickr depicts several trips Mr. Cushman made to Ringling Brothers’ Circus in 1940’s and 1950’s.

Mr. Cushman and his works are a niche subject area within the greater Flickr space.
Learning about and extending the user base

Survey of library and museum professionals (pending OMB clearance) impressions of value for their users

Testing with historians

Log analysis – DCC – 616 views per day / OH – 1060 views per day

Extending to public through Flickr

Interest in attracting, accommodating more museum participation
Photograph Attributions

- Durango, Colo., C.R. Savage Photo  Courtesy, L.Tom Perry Special Collections, Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT 84602.
- Topaz Trek  Courtesy Utah State University Library.
- Heidelberg, Germany by Charles Overstreet. Charles Overstreet Collection, Flora Public Library.