The Evolving Repository Landscape: Identifying Motivations for Library DAMS Migration

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Abstract

The presentation will highlight results from a survey that traces institutions' motivations for migrating from one DAMS to another. It will discuss themes and features desired in future DAMS, outlining specific topical areas that will inform future system and work flow development, as well as governing body/vendor relations. The presentation will also discuss preliminary reflections on the comparison between initial system selection and requirements for selecting and migrating to a new system. Researchers will conclude the presentation by reviewing lessons learned from the research methodology as well as discussing future areas of research related to this study.

Audience

This presentation appeals to a broad range of stakeholders involved in administering and supporting digital asset management systems, including librarians, developers, library leadership, curators, archivists, and third-party vendors.

Background

The presentation will focus on the theme of "Building the Perfect Repository," by highlighting results from a survey that traces institutions' motivations for migrating from one DAMS to another. It will discuss themes and features desired in future DAMS, outlining specific topical areas that will inform future system and work flow development, as well as governing body/vendor relations. The presentation will also discuss preliminary reflections on the comparison between initial system selection and requirements for selecting and migrating to a new system.

Presentation content

In the last two decades, digital asset management systems (DAMS) have become important tools for collecting, preserving, and disseminating digitized and born digital content to library users. Over time libraries have begun re-assessing DAMS based on the changing needs of users, the expanding skill sets of librarians and staff, and the increase and proliferation of web-based tools. As libraries engage in this process, some choose to migrate from one DAMS to another. This presentation will outline the methodology of "Identifying Motivations for DAMS Migration: A

Survey," review the survey's results, and discuss their implications for the future of DAMS in cultural heritage institutions.

In the methodology section, the researchers will provide an overview of how they designed the survey and generated Qualtrics reports to analyze the results. Because existing data and case studies regarding DAMS migration were often ad hoc and narrowly focused, the researchers conducted a survey to understand motivations for migration in a comprehensive study. To generate the content for the survey, researchers studied existing methods for initially selecting DAMS and identified key themes. Drawing upon DeRidder[i], Hoe-Lian Goh, et. al.,[ii], Marill and Luczak[iii], and Mathieu Andro, et al[iv], the researchers distinguished thirteen topics used to evaluate and select DAMS: Implementation & Day-to-Day Costs, User Administration, Organizational Viability, Technical Support, System Administration, Extensibility, Information Retrieval & Access, Content Management, Preservation, User Interface Customization, Interoperability, Reputation, and Metadata Standards. The researchers crafted specific questions for each of these thirteen topics. These questions were designed to empower the researchers to understand the specific issues institutions face as they were selecting and/or migrating from the "Old DAMS" to the "New DAMS." The survey asked respondents to choose the top five motivations from one of the thirteen topics and then prioritize those five selections in order from most important to least important. Respondents would then answer questions in the survey that focused on the five topics they identified. After the survey closed, the researchers used the survey reports tool in Qualtrics to generate descriptive statistics for all questions.

In the next section of the presentation, the researchers will highlight the survey results. They will reveal the topics that were most often selected as one of the top five motivations for respondents as well as review the diverse priorities they ranked. Researchers will then highlight responses from specific questions related to each of the top five topics.

Researchers will conclude the presentation with the implications of this survey. They will review lessons learned from the research methodology as well as discuss future areas of research related to this study.

Conclusion

There is no single solution that will fit the needs of every institution. The results from this study suggest that the diverse and sometimes conflicting priorities among institutions indicate that repositories need to be tailored to meet specific and unique needs.

References

[i] DeRidder, J. 2007. Choosing software for a digital library. *Library Hi Tech News*. 9/10, 19-21, doi: 10.1108/07419050710874223

[ii] Hoe-Lian Goh, D. et al. 2006. A checklist for evaluating open source digital library software. *Online Information Review*. 30, 4 (Jul. 2006), 360–379.

[iii] Marill, J.L. and Luczak, E. 2009. Evaluation of digital repository software at the National Library of Medicine. *D-Lib Magazine* 15, 5/6 (May/June 2009), doi:10.1045/may2009-marill

[iv] Andro, M. et al. 2012. Digital libraries: comparison of 10 software. *Library Collections, Acquisitions, & Technical Services*. 36, 79-83, doi: 10.1016/j.lcats.2012.05.002