Integrating Resources for Information Discovery

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Scenario:
Teacher putting together a lesson plan on immigrant experiences in the first half of the twentieth century
IMLS funded National Leadership Grant projects with relevant content

Connecticut History Online

The American Missionary Association and the Promise of a Multi-cultural America: 1839-1954

Feeding America: The Historic American Cookbook Project

Heritage Colorado, Digital Treasures of the West

Rochester Images, Central Library of Rochester and Monroe County, NY
Why Integrate?

Basic assumption:
- Reuse/repurpose is a good thing

Building a digital library out of digital collections
- One stop shopping for the ‘hidden web’
- Services – Curriculum support, exhibits
- Enabling collaborations among resource developers
How do we integrate?

► Share metadata
  ▪ Union Catalogs
  ▪ Z39.50
  ▪ Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH)

► Collection Description and Registries
Collection description and registry for National Leadership grant projects with digital content
(Framework: Collections should be described)

Item level metadata repository via OAI-PMH
(Framework: Metadata should support interoperability)

Research question
How can resource developers best represent collections and items to meet the needs of service providers and end users?
NSDL
Digital library of resource collections and services, organized in support of science education at all levels. Collaboration Finder.

NOF-Digitize → EnrichUK
Description and aggregation of digitized collections funded by the New Opportunities Fund (lottery)

Minerva Project
Creating an agreed European common platform, recommendations and guidelines about digitization, metadata, long-term accessibility and preservation
Challenges: Community Differences

- Knowledge structures – ontologies different
- Vocabularies and metadata schemas different
- Perspectives on use and presentation of digital resources different

Opportunities?
Current Environment for IMLS DCC

- 95 National Leadership Grant Projects
  - 51 collaborations
- 237 Institutions

Breakdown of Institutions (237 total):
- Academic Libraries: 83
- Museums: 52
- Historical Societies: 21
- Public Libraries: 17
- State Libraries: 14
- School Districts: 8
- Botanical Gardens/Herbaria: 8
- Archives: 8
- Library Consortia: 5
- Academic Dept / Institute: 5
- Non-Profit Organizations: 5
- Botanical Gardens/Herbaria: 11
- Other: 0

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Challenges: Metadata

- Integration of like metadata
  - Standards (and interpretation of) varies
  - Authored for interoperability?

- Integration of different metadata schemas
  - Simplify for interoperability or retain complexity?

Opportunities?
Current Environment for IMLS DCC

► MARC and Dublin Core most common schemas in use

► 24 projects - multiple schemas
  ▪ 14 of these using Dublin Core in combination with another schema
Challenges: Infrastructure Barriers

Barriers to establishing OAI
- Lack of technical resources
- Concerns over sharing metadata

Still building interoperability tools
- Harmonization of ontologies, vocabularies, metadata schemas

Opportunities?
Current Environment – IMLS

DCC

NLG Projects (95 total) and OAI

56%

14%

11%

19%

- OAI data provider
- Aware / In Development
- Unknown
- Likely no item level metadata
Why integrate?

► Better visibility/access → content used in different ways → facilitates proving benefits → funding

► Keeping pace with efforts in the international and scientific communities

► Incremental step towards building true digital libraries
Contact Information

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