Finding Common Ground

Approaches to building Digital Libraries from Strategic to Tech Cool

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- State-funded institution
- Carnegie Research I (Doctoral Extensive)
- 85 academic departments
- 90 research centers, laboratories, and units
- 29,272 students
- 2,200 faculty

Today’s Presentation Goals

1. What are digital libraries and digital collections?

2. What are some approaches to building digital collections as part of a digital library program?

3. What are some of the innovative and interactive features models and methods in which digital collections are built and what questions do these “tech-cool” developments raise?

4. What should one consider regarding digital library and digital collection sustainability?
What is a digital library?

A context or framework within which digital information is acquired, organized, and made available.

Just as a physical library sustains and makes accessible traditional collections and accompanying services, a digital library makes available materials that are either created or have been transformed into digital formats along with services for searching and perhaps for creating and contributing information to the library.
What is a digital library?

- Institutional repository of the scholarly papers and publications?
- Digitized special collections and archival material?
- Digital projects created by researchers?
- Materials used for teaching?
- Works by students?
- Commercially-licensed content?
- Content from blogs and wikis? Archived Web sites?
- Electronic records?
- Datasets?

Yes?
What services does a digital library provide?

- Searching and using digital materials?
- Creating and disseminating digital scholarship?
- Resources & tools for individual researchers (wiki’s, blogs. Etc.)
- Resources & tools for students?
- Creation services? (digitization, metadata, consultation on digital creation and rights?)
- Policy development?
- Grants and financial support?
- IT resources such as server space, funding?
- Standards for content creation?

Yes?
What is a digital library?

As you create your institution’s digital library, to consider:

- The relationship of a digital library program to teaching and research mission(s) of the institution. **Who will be partners?**
- The relationship with traditional library collections and collection development, and preservation. **What are library priorities?**
- The financial, technical, and institutional support you will need to create and sustain the kind of digital library and level of innovation you envision. **What can you reasonably achieve?**
KU Digital Library Program

Origins of KU’s Digital Library:

“What we hope to do is provide tools to faculty and students to distribute their research throughout the world through the most used information tool ever—the Internet.”

- 2001 Inception–focus on Context for Digital information.
- Strong ties to the research and teaching community.
- Campus grants to spur the creation of content for the digital library.
- Emphasis on federated searching of commercial content along with locally-created content.
- Initial emphasis on a vendor platform, Endeavor ENCompass (Federated search and collections)

1 Goodyear, Marilu. March 30, 2001 http://www.oread.ku.edu/Oread01/Mar30/library.html
KU Digital Library Program

Benefits accrued from this approach:

- Community investment in the digital library from other research and cultural heritage members.
- Unique and varied content.
- Potential to tailor services and support for a campus audience.
KU Digital Library Program

Challenges to this approach:

- Casting a broad net may create a group of interesting projects, but not necessarily a broad user-base for the projects.
- Unique and varied content may mean unique and varied approaches … a challenge for resources and perhaps for long term sustainability.
- Digital Library staff will need to have strong consulting skills and outstanding technical support.
- The library is one more “partner” and as such competes with other campus entities in considering their digitization priorities.
What are basic models for building digital collections?

- Digitizing institution’s own archival/special collections (Model A)
- Building digital collections around one subject, or across subjects from multiple resources within a library, or, in cooperation with other institutions (Model B)
- Building born digital collections (Model C)
Requirements for All Models

- Involvement of and respect for staff in different areas, i.e. subject specialists, archives, IT, reference and instruction
- A common understanding of what you want to accomplish by digitizing materials
- An understanding of who your audience is
- The support of the library/parent organization
Requirements for All Models

- An adequate planning process
- Sufficient resources, and IT infrastructure
- A timeline for completion
- Flexibility
- Acceptance that the project may evolve into something different than what you first envisioned
- A willingness to try new things
- A need to address the long term preservation of digitized or born digital materials.
Model A - Digitizing your own collections

- You work with collections/subject matter familiar to you.
- You readily know your collection’s strengths.
- This type of project may be easier to complete (or not)
- You are limited to the resources available within your own institution.
You may feel more in control.

Offers a good starting place for a digital program.

May help to reduce wear and tear on originals in collection.

You are providing access to your collections in an alternative way, but not developing a separate collection that ignores the originals.
Model B - Building digital collections across the library or across institutions

- Strength in numbers – you have partners.
- Capitalize on expanded expertise and access to institutional strengths.
- More issues to work out such as how to work together, who does what, differences in institutional cultures.
Model B - Building digital collections across the library or across institutions

➢ You may be creating something that is greater than its parts.

➢ Requires much energy and right people with necessary skill sets to bring everyone together.

➢ May be more attractive as a project to funding agencies
Creating a totally new resource.

May be creating new archival/special collection holdings that require same issues of stewardship that traditional paper based collections have (i.e. still have donors – access issues – rights issues, etc.).

Staffing needs to insure that these traditional issues are addressed.
Model C - Building born digital collections

- May have donors that want their materials available digitally because it will reach the widest audience.

- May have donors that need to be persuaded that it makes sense to place materials such as research here.
What should be digitized/created?

- Relates to goals of institution, needs of researchers, and needs of institution.

- Need to provide for competing interests within institution or amongst partners.

- Do not digitize “just because you can.” Identify the purpose of a project in writing.

- Be aware of other projects of a similar nature and consider how your project will add to the body of materials already available.
Some questions to ask before digitizing

- Are the materials in question owned by your institution?
- Do you own publication rights, or, have you obtained publication rights from the owner?
- Are there any donor-related issues that need to be resolved?
- Do you have the right equipment/infrastructure available to do the project?
- Do the materials need preservation work before being handled?
- What metadata exists for the material?
Use of Web 2.0 to allow the user more interactivity with the collection to extend its reach or to add to its value:

- The ability of an individual to attach details known about an artifact for others to see.
- The ability to connect with others in a social network of individuals with shared interest in the collection.
- The ability to create and contribute materials to a collection.

EXAMPLE: Library of Congress on FLIKR. “We want people to tag, comment and make notes on the images, just like any other Flickr photo, which will benefit not only the community but also the collections themselves.”
These vivid color photos from the Great Depression and World War II capture an era generally seen only in black-and-white. Photographers working for the United States Farm Security Administration (FSA) and later the Office of War Information (OWI) created the images between 1939 and 1944.

We invite your tags and comments! Also, more identification information. (The current titles come from the agency's original documentation, which was sometimes inaccurate.)
Southeastern Georgia? (LOC)
Southeastern Georgia? (LOC)

**Comments**

**fotos-de-alejandra** says:
Hi, I'm an admin for a group called Social Documentary Photography & events, and we'd love to have your photo added to the group.
Posted 6 months ago. (permalink)

**Miss Hazel** says:
a shot from a time when real men did real work.
Posted 6 months ago. (permalink)

**jdaivis17** says:
Hey, isn't this the inside cover of the Ozark Mountain Daredevils first album? Also, pretty sure it's the mules doing the "real work", Miss Hazel. It's an eternal curse that God put on man (and the Earth)... so farmers today still toil, no question. The fertilizer appears to be lime and the value of that Springfield wagon today, would probably buy "the family farm". On an un-related note you are very photogenic and my photo makes me look better than in real life. But if you're into "real men" without all their own teeth (i.e. hillbillies) then please reply!!!
Posted 5 months ago. (permalink)

**Add your comment**
The ability to personally “collect” or “tag” digital materials - My stuff may get mixed in with your stuff.

- del.icio.us
- Twine (organizer with a kick ... browser plug in to “Twine” some content.)
Great Music Near Kansas City

This is a discussion of great music (musicians, groups, events, etc) in and around Kansas City. For easy browsing, sort items A-Z (hey, I'm a librarian...what would you expect?)

58 Items | 9 Members

Tags
music, Kansas City, Deb Ludwig, Deborah Ludwig

Recommended Twines
There are no recommended twines available at the moment. Learn more about Twine recommendations.
Tech Trends in Digital Collections

- Personal Notifications … not necessarily a new idea.
- Ties to teaching and learning technologies
- Ability to get feedback and comments or to see how your digital materials are being used.
# Tech Trends in Digital Collections

**KU ScholarWorks**

**Level: Item**

**Access Statistics: Views/Downloads - Summary**

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**Views and downloads**

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Tech Trends in Digital Collections

- Personal Notifications … not necessarily a new idea.
- Incorporation of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) information and features.
- Ties to teaching and learning technologies
- Ability to see how your digital materials, as a creator, are being used.
Tech Trends in Digital Collections

Questions raised:

- Do the users interactions and contributions become a permanent part of the collection?

- Privacy and suitability?

- Digital rights management
Tech Trends in Digital Collections

- Other options for innovation – the “digital tease.” Use technology to attract users to either digital or traditional technology.

- Sarah Goodwin Thiel’s project working with students to interpret collections.
Sustainable Digital Content

- As you build, you will need to consider whether the resources and collections that result are expected to be permanent.

- The standards you adopt for content creation may affect your ability to sustain access to content over time.

- Digitization is not a preservation strategy.

- How will you capture and preserve those materials that are either born or recreated digitally?
Sustainable Digital Content

- Too large a topic for today, but will need to be part of the planning.
  - **Level of risk** … what are the consequences of losing a collection of digital objects?
  - **Potential failures** … non-standard content, obsolescence, degradation of bits over time, undocumented materials (no metadata), lack of IT security appropriate to value of the data, human error
  - **Partnerships** … are there other entities, institutional or regional, that share the same need to manage information and to keep it alive for long periods of time?
The parent organization’s mission should drive the mission of the digital library program.

There are many models for developing digital collections as part of a digital library program and these may be tied to more general collection development goals.

Tech cool comes in many flavors and may reshape the nature of the collection itself.
University of Kansas