Electronic Archives and Partnerships – Preserving Government Information for Tomorrow

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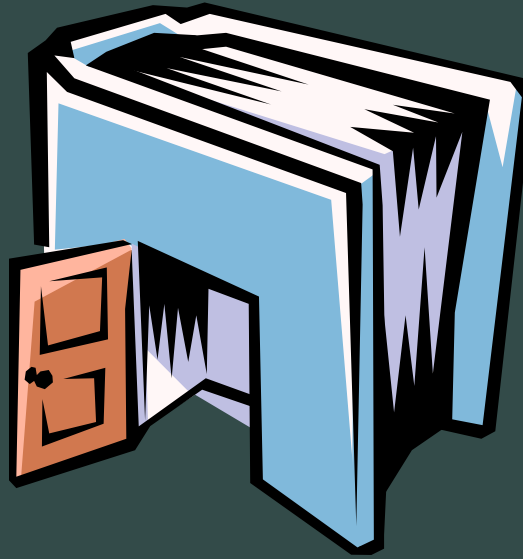# What is a Digital Library?

- Collections,

      supported by organizational structures,

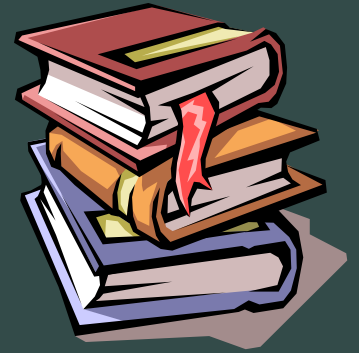   that serve specific needs

We identify them as "libraries" because…

- …they strive to provide collections and the supporting organizations to deliver information to people

One of the great accomplishments of traditional libraries is that they are organized along similar lines. The individual who knows how to use a library in this country is likely to be able to use any other…
(Donald Waters)

A Digital Library must

- ***Provide intellectual access, infrastructure, and organization***
- *Preserve integrity and assure persistence*

■ The shift in the digital library comes at two points:

  □ The delivery mechanism may radically alter the users ability to receive the information, or the circumstances under which that user works

  □ The trained intermediary may or may not interact directly with the user

- Rapid changes in the means of recording information, in formats for storage, in operating systems, and in application technologies threaten to make the life of information in the digital age 'nasty, brutish, and short.' *(Waters)*

The Federal Depository Library Program Electronic Collection

- is built on the existing core values of the FDLP, and is composed of

    - representations of primary data
    - secondary sources such as finding aids

Core Values of the FDLP:

- No-fee access to government information is a right of the people
- Build informational content in the program
- Assure permanence of access
- Build on cooperative strengths

Are We Building a True Digital Library?

- We are amassing a collection
- We are building infrastructure
- Our service model is highly decentralized, and is based primarily on cooperation as well as technology

The FDLP Electronic Collection...

- …will be managed as a library-like collection of resources, employing a collection management plan which defines
  - mission and goals
  - user community and its needs
  - a framework for establishing procedures

The FDLP Electronic Collection

- We are now building (and in some cases rebuilding) the infrastructure that will identify, acquire, register, describe, and serve the collection

Scope of the FDLP Electronic Collection

- The collection includes electronic Federal Government publications, created at taxpayer expense, which have public interest or educational value, and which are not strictly administrative in nature nor classified for reasons of national security (44 U.S.C. Sec. 1902)

Elements of the FDLP Electronic Collection

- Core legislative and regulatory GPO Access products

- Other remotely accessible products maintained by GPO or other institutions with which GPO has agreements

Elements of the FDLP Electronic Collection

- Tangible electronic Government information products distributed to Depository libraries
- Remotely accessible products which GPO identifies, describes,and links to, but which remain under the control of the originating agency

The FDLP Electronic Collection

- GPO is responsible for providing locator services that include:
    - Standard library descriptive and subject cataloging
    - GILS records
    - Metadata records including persistent naming
    - Indexers and robots

The FDLP/EC Archive

- Life cycle
  - An electronic publication is identified as a candidate for archiving
  - The content is captured and documented (and regularly updated or refreshed over time)
  - When the persistent name is assigned, users are directed to the official agency site

The FDLP/EC Archive

- Life cycle
  - If the official site is found to be no longer available (either by our discovery or notification by the agency), and there are no security concerns, the persistent locator is modified to point to the archived copy
  - The redirect is seamless, but the user will be informed that they are about to view an archival copy rather than the active site

An Archive for the Electronic Collection

- GPO has been archiving on our own server for about 3 years
  - First level of security
  - Simple, no-frills approach, built on open source platform
  - Ca. 7000 publications currently

An Archive for the Electronic Collection

- New tools and archive server from OCLC
  - Web based tools
  - Creation and use of preservation metadata
  - Storage in an off-site server
  - Shared development and responsibility for preservation

The Future

- Further development of archiving capabilities
- Creation of a comprehensive "national collection" in multiple formats
- Cooperative agreements with agencies & partners for access & preservation
- Development of a preservation plan to compliment the collection development plan
- Upgrade and scaling of systems

Building the Electronic Collection of Federal Government Information:

"Other institutions with which GPO has agreements"

FDLP Partnership

- Partners:
  - ☐ US Government Printing Office
  - ☐ University of North Texas
- Purpose:
  - ☐ Provide permanent public access to the electronic Web sites and publications of defunct U.S. government agencies and commissions.

Presentation Overview

- Background
  - Beginning the Partnership
  - Developing the Memorandum of Understanding
  - The brand – CyberCemetery
- Current Status - Resources required for maintenance and development
- Preserving for the future

Beginning the Partnership

- 1997 – ACIR Web site
- Created MOU to clarify the partner's roles and responsibilities for the ACIR site
- Added second agency site 1998 - *National Civil Aviation Review Commission*
- Changed the MOU – include ALL dead agency sites

Memorandum of Understanding

- Recognized the FDLP values
  - Open access
  - No fee
- Outlined partner responsibilities

Memorandum of Understanding

- UNT Responsibilities:
  - Provide adequate bandwidth for multiple users
  - Secure the authenticity of files
  - Assure appropriate backup of files
  - Maintain persistent URLs
  - Consult with GPO on plans for migration or any alteration to the structure of the Web sites

Memorandum of Understanding

- GPO Responsibilities:
    - Coordinate the Partnership program
    - Recognize the UNT Libraries as an official FDLP site
    - Provide pointers to Publications on the UNT site – cataloging records, lists on Web site, etc.
    - Recommend additions to the site

Memorandum of Understanding

- General Provisions:
  - ☐ Process for ending the Partnership
  - ☐ Fiscal responsibilities defined

CyberCemetery

- Brand created by documents community
- Added to the visibility of the site by attracting attention of journalists

CyberCemetery – Current Status

- 22 Dead agency sites and growing
- Usage includes between 20,000 and 30,000 unique users per month
- Cost estimates since partnership began:
  - $50,000 in staff time – librarians, tech staff, graduate students
  - $10,000 in hardware/software

CyberCemetery - Preservation

- Creating a preservation plan for all UNT digital collections, including CyberCemetery

- Collecting preservation metadata to assist with preserving for the future

- Migrating files as necessary for functionality and browser compatibility

- Planning for geographically separate storage

Why is UNT is a FDLP Digital Partner?

- Libraries collect information, preserve it, and offer it to users – regardless of format.
- Costs – electronic format no costlier than tangible formats.
- Digital world our future – embrace it and contribute to its development.

Questions?

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