Utilizing Digital Library Infrastructure to Build Modern Research Collections

Mark Phillips
Wisconsin Association of Academic Librarians
April 24, 2013
What is a digital library?
After 15+ years surely we've figured it out.
Right?
We have systems for some or all of the following
Digitized content of all types
Books
Photographs
Letters
Maps
Newspapers
Yearbooks
Audio
Video
Articles
Slidedecks
Grey literature
Electronic Theses and Dissertations
Datasets
We are harvesting the web
All of this content
I consider part of the digital library
We purchase resources from vendors
We subscribe to database
We provision access to closed access journals
We buy ebooks
But we don't really manage that content
We pay other people to do that
But this isn't what I want to talk about today
Instead I want to talk about the opportunities
And some of the challenges
When we think of building collections
Digitally
In many cases from the Web
Story #1

When we depend on pointing instead of collecting
Anyone can point to a web site or document, but we have a special name for those that select, acquire, organize, and preserve information and provide access to and services for that information: We call them Libraries.

James Jacobs (2013)
NASA Technical Reports Server (NTRS)
Hundreds of thousands of freely available technical reports created or contracted by NASA
On March 19th this is what the site looked like.
Until further notice, 
the NTRS system will be unavailable for public access. 
We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you and anticipate that this site will return to service in the near future.
We've built much of our infrastructure around linking to content that others maintain.
How many catalog records do we have that point to an open access resource hosted somewhere else?
worldcat.org has over 5,500 records pointing to NTRS
Instead of just pointing to resources we should be collecting these resources
Remember, lots of copies keeps stuff safe
But many of these resources we are trusting to one host. It is just a matter of time before something else disappears.
So if we should be collecting this stuff and it is everywhere on the Web, do you want us to just start harvesting the Web?
Yes!
Story #2

End of Term Web Harvests
End of Term 2008 Presidential Web Archive
Collaborative Web archiving project
5 Partners
Capture the transition of the executive branch and the changes in the federal Web during the process.
Before the election

After the election

After the inauguration
EOT-2008 Stats
16 TB of WARC and ARC file
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After seven weeks of machine time we had 4.5 million unique pdf samples
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How many pages per PDF
Shortest Document = 1 page

(1,477,612 PDFs)
Longest Document = 17,584 pages
(1 PDF)
60,874,402 pages in PDFs
Average PDF Length = 13.8 pages
Wait back up…. 17,584 pages?
Really?
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Encrypted PDFs

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- Red: Yes
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What domains have the most PDFs?
gpo.gov with 1,082,735 PDFs
Followed by:

usda.gov
house.gov
army.mil
bea.gov
census.gov
With PDFs over 1 page?
gpo.gov = 594,430
usda.gov
house.gov
uscis.gov
uscourts.gov
army.mil
tres.gov
noaa.gov
What about 20+ pages
The list starts to change
We indexed the “size” of the items.
Inches square of the first page
Area over 500 inches square finds us this stuff
Maps, Posters, Charts
There are 121,490 of these in the archive
The goal is to better understand the content “hidden” in the Web archive
Surface this content and establish it as “first order” content in a digital library
We wanted to build usable collections out of this content.
Find the needles in the haystack
Here is a concrete example
In the 2008 EOT Crawls
We captured brac.gov
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission
Welcome to the 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission's official website. Our goal is to assist the American public, including interested stakeholders, to fully understand the open and transparent process through which our work is conducted. The website will also serve as a means by which you may share your thoughts, concerns, or suggestions with the Commissioners. Your input is appreciated.

The Congress established the 2005 BRAC Commission to ensure the integrity of the base closure and realignment process. As directed by law, the Commission will provide an objective, non-partisan, and independent review and analysis of the list of military installation recommendations issued by the Department of Defense (DoD) on May 13, 2005. The recommendations provided by DoD are extremely complex and interrelated and will require in-depth analysis and careful attention to detail. The Commission will follow a fair, open, and equitable process, as set forth by statute. The Commission's mission is to assess whether the DoD recommendations substantially deviated from the Congressional criteria used to evaluate each military base. While giving priority to the criteria of military value, the Commission will also take into account the human impact of the base closures and will consider the possible economic, environmental, and other effects on the surrounding communities.

Click Here to Contact the BRAC Commission

Final Deliberations and Decisions

Click HERE to view material related to the commission's final deliberations and decisions.

Motion voting results are now available.

Major Steps After the Final 2005 BRAC Commission Report was Submitted to the President on September 8, 2005

September 16, 2005 letter from President Bush to Chairman Principi approving the Commission's recommendations

Final Vote Results of the House of Representatives
The site contained over 14,000 documents
Over a million pages of documentation
Only 260 results in google

site:brac.gov
Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

What's Inside this Collection.

About the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

The 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission was a 9-member independent commission appointed by President Bush with the advice and consent of the Senate. Its purpose was to provide "an objective, non-partisan, and independent review and analysis of the list of military installation recommendations issued by the Department of Defense." Recommendations were evaluated against a list of specific criteria which emphasized military value, but also considered costs and savings, economic impact on communities near military installations, community infrastructure, and environmental impact. The Commission undertook public hearings, site visits, and other information-gathering activities before presenting its findings in a report to the President on September 8, 2005.

Informally known as "BRAC" (Base Realignment and Closure) the process has been through five rounds. The 1988 Commission was authorized by Public Law 100-526.

April 24, 2013
2 Letters from concerned citizens in response to the recommendation regarding the Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals in Fort Meade

Date: July 30, 2005
Creator: unknown
Description: Community Correspondence - 2 Letters from concerned citizens in response to the recommendation regarding the Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals in Fort Meade
Contributing Partner: UNT Libraries Government Documents Department

2 Questions pertaining to DON-0133 and the non-BRAC Scenario (Portsmouth Naval Shipyard)

Date: August 12, 2005
Unique content that is now easily discoverable
Which means stuff gets found
Statistics for Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

171,073 Total Uses / 14,183 Total Items (1,231,138 files) / 14,170 Visible / 13 Hidden

Usage by Month/Year

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<th>January</th>
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<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
And people want to use it for research
Creating a unique dataset for research
How do you create subject based collections like this?
We gave it a shot

Environmental Policy Collection
We developed a collection policy
Defined the scope and the boundaries
We knew where we were going to put it
About the Digital Library

The UNT Digital Library is a centralized repository for the rich collections held by the libraries, colleges, schools, and departments at the University of North Texas.

Read More...

Statistics

Currently we have a total of 73,961 unique items, comprising 4.9 million files. Over the last 35 days, we've logged 269,875 uses of these items by people like you.

More Info...

Recent Additions

The Digital Library continues to grow as new partners contribute digital versions of their collections. See some of our latest materials here.

Recent Additions...

Search within the UNT Digital Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Everything</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Thesis or Dissertation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Submit

Featured Collections

Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (ACIR) was an independent, bipartisan intergovernmental agency established by Public Law 89-380 in 1959. The ACIR Collection is composed of the agency's publications that study the interactions between different levels of government.

Featured Partner

UNT Oral History Program

Affiliated with the UNT Department of History, the Oral History Program records, transcribes, and archives oral history interviews in order to preserve the history of the North Texas region. The program also trains UNT students in the theory and methods of oral history, conducts workshops for members of the larger community, and maintains partnerships with a variety of related institutions.
Explore by Collections

Environmental Policy Collection

The Environmental Policy Collection contains reports, policy documents, and media selected from local, statewide, national, and international organizations; government and private agencies; and scientific and research institutions. The collection also contains theses and dissertations relevant to environmental policy.
We knew how we were going to capture and process the content
Environmental Policy Collection

What's Inside this Collection.

About This Collection

The Environmental Policy Collection contains a variety of open access resources that provide a balanced view on environmental issues and their potential consequences. The current focus of the collection is climate change, and the documents come from such agencies and individuals as:

- United States Climate Change Science Program
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
- Climate Change and Agriculture and Food Security
- Earth System Science Partnership
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- United Nations Environment Programme
- World Meteorological Organization
- University of North Texas (UNT) graduate students

About This Project

The UNT Libraries are working to identify, collect, organize, and manage digital resources relevant to environmental policy. For this endeavor, the Libraries will provide digital infrastructure and stewardship to ensure continual access to the resources.
We just had to decide on what
100% Renewable Energy - and Beyond - for Cities

Date: March 2010
Creator: Droge, Peter

Description: This booklet sketches out the options and the processes that have started to transform urban energy systems. The document promotes carbon neutrality for communities and cities and argues that even the largest cities can make this transition, drawing on renewable energy supplies from within their boundaries, as well as from farther away. In addition to assuring urban energy security, these developments can also stimulate the growth of a very large new green economy sector.

Contributing Partner: UNT Libraries

1996 protocol to Convention on Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes : message from the President of the United States transmitting 1996 protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other...
Climate Change Legislation in the 109th Congress

**Date:** September 9, 2005

**Creator:** Yoobucou, Brent D

**Description:** Climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are a continuing issue in the 109th Congress. Bills directly addressing climate change issues range from those focused primarily on climate change research to comprehensive emissions cap-and-trade programs. Additional bills focus on GHG reporting and registries, or on power plant emissions of carbon dioxide, as part of wider controls on pollutant emissions. The bills vary in their approaches to climate change issues. This report briefly discusses the basic concepts on which these bills are based and compares major provisions of the bills in each of the following categories: climate change research, technology deployment, GHG reporting and registries, and emissions reduction programs.

**Contributing Partner:** UNT Libraries Government Documents Department

Climate Change Science Compendium 2009

**Date:** 2009

**Creator:** McMullen, Catherine P.

**Description:** This document was compiled as an annual snapshot of peer-reviewed research about climate change.

**Contributing Partner:** UNT Libraries

Climate Change Science Program Overview and Management

**Date:** December 11, 2003

**Creator:** U.S. Climate Change Science Program

**Description:** This program identifies the following criteria of interest: scientific or technical quality; relevance to reducing uncertainties and improving decision support tools; track record of consistently good past performance and identified metrics for evaluating future progress; and cost and value.

**Contributing Partner:** UNT Libraries

Climate Change Science Program Strategic Plan Executive Summary: Building a Course for Greater Climate Understanding
We gave each publication a proper home on the Web
Climate Change Science Compendium 2009

Description: This document was compiled as an annual snapshot of peer-reviewed research about climate change.

Creator(s):
- McMullen, Catherine P.
- Jacoby, Jason

Creation Date: 2009

Partner(s): UNT Libraries
About | Browse this Partner

Collection(s): Environmental Policy Collection
About | Browse this Collection

Usage: Total Uses: 88
Past 30 days: 1
Yesterday: 0
Made it easy to cite
Climate Change Science Compendium 2009

Citation


Note: Inconsistencies in capitalization and punctuation within the Digital Library may affect this citation. Before using this citation in formal writing, please consult your preferred style manual. More Information.
Made it easy to get the metadata for the item
Climate Change Science Compendium 2009

Metadata

Metadata describes a digital item, providing (if known) such information as creator, publisher, contents, size, relationship to other resources, and more. Metadata may also contain “preservation” components that help us to maintain the integrity of digital files over time.

Metadata for this item is available in various machine-readable formats:

Dublin Core

- XML Format
- JSON Format
- Text Format
- RDF/XML Format

UNTL

- XML Format

METS

- XML Format

Search Inside

Search

Return to Search Results

Citation

Metadata

Share

All Formats

More Options

All Pages

Feedback:

If you are having problems, need to report errors, or have questions or comments for the staff, please use our Feedback Form.
We surrounded it with similar content
Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Date: 1998
Creator: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Organization)
Description: The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the European community for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity, the Protocol places a heavier burden on developed nations under the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities."
Contributing Partner: UNT Libraries

Global Technology Project Report

Date: unknown
Creator: Great Britain. Office of Climate Change
Description: This report discusses the financial barriers to making reductions in carbon emissions, as well as policies for dealing with those barriers.
Contributing Partner: UNT Libraries
Regional Highlights from Global Climate Change Impacts in the United States

**Date:** 2009  
**Creator:** U.S. Global Change Research Program  
**Description:** This fact sheet describes climate change scenarios in Southwest region of the United States  
**Contributing Partner:** UNT Libraries

State of the Climate in 2009

**Date:** June 2010  
**Creator:** Andl, D. S.  
**Description:** This report describes observations of precipitation, temperature, and other climatology metrics from different global regions.  
**Contributing Partner:** UNT Libraries

Widespread climate-related impacts are occurring now and are expected to increase
Which allows for browsing and unexpected discovery of resources
Towards New Scenarios for Analysis of Emissions, Climate Change, Impacts, and Response Strategies

Date: 2008
Creator: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
Description: This report summarizes the findings and recommendations from the Expert Meeting on New Scenarios, which focuses on the policymaking perspective of climate change, and on climate modeling scenarios for near term and long term.
Contributing Partner: UNT Libraries

Margaret Dale, Adapting the Stage to the Screen: Aesthetic, Appropriation, and Intimacy in Ballet Programming for Post-War BBC Television

Date: December 2010
Creator: Escoe, Jessica Margaret
Description: This thesis examines the aesthetic of ballets adapted for BBC Television by producer Margaret Dale, beginning with her entrance to the BBC’s training program in 1955 and culminating with her commissioned work Houseparty, which aired in 1964. A historical and organizational framework is discussed regarding the BBC’s cultural mission and view of arts programming, as well as general developmental milestones in programming contextualizing Dale’s working conditions. Particular focus is placed upon the appropriation of Romantic narrative ballets and their significance...
We added a number of APIs to the collection
APIs for Environmental Policy Collection

Introduction

The UNT Digital Library provides public access to a number of application programming interfaces (APIs) to the collections within the system. Below are examples of APIs available for Environmental Policy Collection that can be used openly by those interested in programmatically accessing data from this system. You do not need to apply for a special key to use these APIs.

For additional information about these APIs or if you have general questions about machine interaction with the UNT Digital Library please contact Mark Phillips.

Note that all example URLs below use the same protocol and server name, http://digital.library.unt.edu/explore/collections/ESDC/. We only show the URL paths and parameters below to save space.

The API

OAI-PMH

The Open Archives Initiative's Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) allows programmatic access to this collection's metadata. Two metadata formats are currently supported, the standard oai_dc and the UNT Libraries native metadata format untl.

Below are example URLs which demonstrate some of the standard views of this OAI-PMH repository:

- oai:
  - base URL for OAI-PMH repository
- oai?verb=Identify
  - Display information about this repository
- oai?verb=ListMetadataFormats
  - List available metadata formats
- oai?verb=ListSets
  - List available sets
- oai?verb=ListRecords&metadataPrefix=oai_dc
  - Display records in the oai_dc metadata format
- oai?verb=ListRecords&metadataPrefix=untl
  - Display records in the untl metadata format
And people began to use it
Statistics for Environmental Policy Collection

95,675 Total Uses / 692 Total Items (46,602 files) / 691 Visible / 1 Hidden

Usage by Month/Year

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<td>2,722</td>
<td>2,636</td>
<td>2,287</td>
<td>24,485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We should hit 100,000 item uses next month
600 items with 100,000 uses in three years
Not bad.
This work has surfaced more questions than answers
Should we be doing this?
If a vendor offered this service we would probably subscribe to it.
To me it looks very similar to what libraries have always done.
How do we scale this activity?
How do we distribute the work and responsibility for building collections of born digital content?
How do we build the infrastructure that supports this kind of digital library work?
How do we empower collection libraries, subject experts, liaisons to make selection decisions and contribute to an actively growing collection of resources?
How do we make it efficient, scalable, and fun?
Anyone can **point** to a web site or document, but we have a special name for those that select, acquire, organize, and preserve information and provide access to and services for that information: We call them Libraries.