Collaborations, Best Practices, & Collection Development

Born-Digital and Digitized Materials

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Digital Projects Unit

• Collections & Collaborations
  – CyberCemetery
    • GPO
    • NARA – Affiliated Archive
  – Texas Register
    • Secretary of State’s Office
  – The Portal to Texas History
    • 45 Libraries & Museums
  – Web-at-Risk Project
    • California Digital Library
    • New York University
Needs Assessment Activities

Project Curators
Survey: 22 Participants

Librarians & Archivists
National: 2 ALA - FDLC
17 Participants
Partners: 3 UNT - CDL - NYU
26 Participants

Content Producers & End Users
Content Producers: 3 Labor Unions
4 State Gov’t. Agencies
End Users: 7 Academic Researchers
## Web Collection Development

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<th>SELECTION</th>
<th>CURATION</th>
<th>PRESERVATION</th>
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Web Archives: Current Challenges
Transitional Times

• Stewardship unclear or non-existent
• Collection development models transfer at great expense in resources
  – Expensive to select
  – Expensive to capture
  – Expensive to create metadata
• Preservation practices are not readily available
• Consortial efforts are not yet established
• Existing policies & practices lack scope
External Partnerships

**Motivation**
Web materials are disappearing and universities have both a self-serving and an altruistic interest in preserving them.

**Benefits**
- Preserve historical record in areas of interest
- Fulfill mission to serve community
- Foster a sustainable business model

“A Community of Creators”
Collection Development: Selection

• Librarians: Discipline-Related Web Content
  – Relative newness of a discipline
  – Demand for current information

• Researchers: Key Content Genres
  – Journals, periodicals; databases
  – Government records or documents; Newspapers
Selection & Collaboration

**Question**
Is some organization already archiving these materials in a manner that meets the needs of my user groups?

**Benefits**
- Expand access to materials
- Eliminate redundancy of effort
- Control preservation costs
Selection: Content v. Context

• Depends on the discipline
  – Social Science v. History

• The website becomes ‘evidence’ for those who study it
  – Web site as “document” or “digital object”

• Depends on the research purpose
  – Comparison of images within ads over time v. Comparison of the role of images in publications over time

• Related curatorial decision
  – Unit of description needed for discovery
  – Metadata application
What Curators Need to Know

Web-published materials

• Importance of understanding the needs of the designated community
• Implications for metadata, presentation, preservation
• Policy issues & rights issues
• Acquisition considerations
  – Scope of capture
  – Deposit or capture
Digital Projects Unit

• Provides leadership & services to digital collection librarians
• Provides support for the Libraries’ digital library initiatives
• Champions access as well as preservation
Preparing the Groundwork

• Wide view of “what is digital library content”
• Focused on optimizing commonalities across digital initiatives

1. Designed common infrastructure for digital collections within the Libraries
2. Common metadata element set with input rules and examples
3. Positioned digital collection librarians external to the DPU & in close proximity to the users
Expansion of Digital Collections

- Infrastructure & practices promote increased digital collection development
- Hurdles to digital collection initiatives have been removed ➞ fostered growth

Infrastructure & success have resulted in a new environment that promotes digital collection development
Surprising Results

• Digital collections create new partnerships and avenues of scholarship within the institution

• Web-accessible digital collections attract users from everywhere
  – Focus remains on user communities we serve
  – Identified significant, underserved communities

• To meet the needs of targeted user communities, we need the ability to deliver services tailored to these communities
Future Directions
What Curators Need to Know

– Management Skills
  • Business case construction & marketing internally and externally
  • RFP creation for both service providers and systems
  • Adapting to change: technology, project itself, standards & practices

– Collaboration Skills
  • Internal: IT and curators
  • External: Partners

– Negotiation Skills
  • Submission agreements
  • Service agreements
  • Interpreting needs & requirements among stakeholders

  • Metadata
  • Infrastructure
  • Digital preservation
Thank You

Digital Projects Unit:
http://www.library.unt.edu/digitalprojects/

Web-at-Risk:
http://web3.unt.edu/webatrisk/
http://wiki.cdlib.org/WebAtRisk/

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