CREATING A CULTURE OF COLLABORATION:
COLLABORATIVE MODELS FOR DIGITAL LIBRARIES IN A HETEROGENEOUS INSTITUTIONAL LANDSCAPE

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Portal to Texas History

Developed as a multi-institutional digital repository for cultural heritage objects in Texas.

Started infrastructure development in 2002

Site launched summer 2005

70 + partner institutions

25,000+ digital objects

251,000+ “pages” of content
Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative

Started in 2004

Administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission

Comprised of museums, archives, historical societies and libraries of all sizes

Serves to foster collaboration between cultural heritage institutions in the State of Texas
Standards Models

THDI:
- Digitization Standards
- Metadata Standards
- Controlled Vocabulary Standards
- Interoperability Standards
- Preservation Standards

Portal to Texas History:
- Digitization Standards
- Metadata Standards
Collobarative Models

THDI:
Everyone has something to contribute
Distributed content hosting
Centralized search using federated search system

Portal to Texas History:
Everyone has something to contribute
Centrally hosted content and services
IMLS National Leadership Grant

Awarded 2005 to develop a multi-component federated search tool
Builds upon knowledge gained from the Library of Texas system
Would be hosted at the Texas State Library
12 partner institutions from THDI
Hybrid federated search / OAI-PMH approach
Federated Search

Built on the Keystone Digital Library System by IndexData

IndexData contracted for customization of software

Z39.50 and SRU capabilities
OAI-PMH Harvesting

Developed at UNT
Python based OAI-PMH Harvester
Python scripts for parsing, manipulating and preparing content for indexer
Solr used for Indexing
mod_python based SRU service
Custom SRU arguments for creating “collections”
1,000,000+ records in index
Collaboration Challenges

Communication
Shared vision
Schedules and priorities
Technology challenges