

# Toward a User-Centered Digital Library

## Virtual Collections at UCLA

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“Simply displaying  
collection objects,  
considered useful for  
informal learning in some  
way or another online,  
will no longer do.”

Digicult 4: October 2003

< 1 > Introduction: Digital Library interactivity concepts  
(5 minutes, HB).

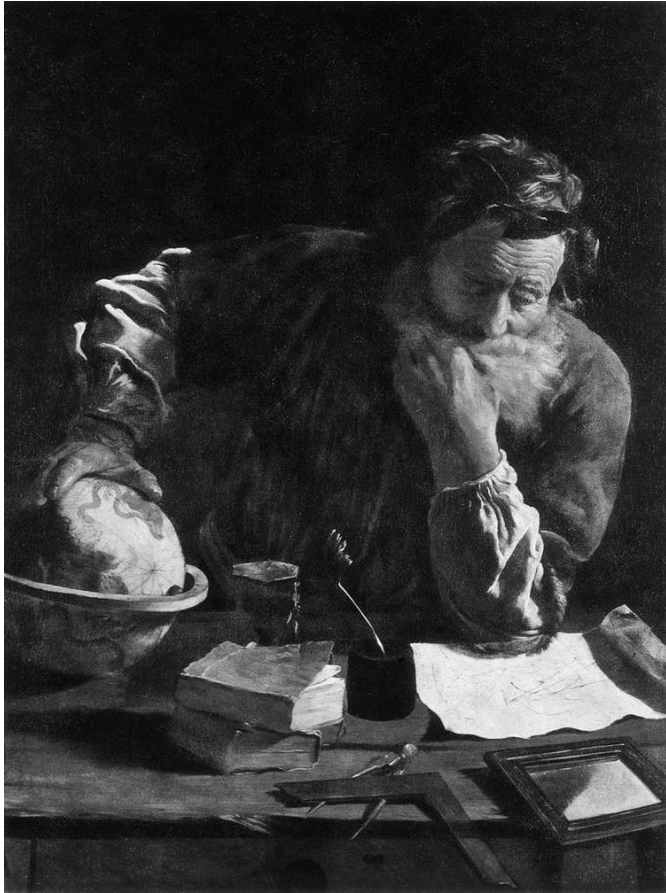
< 2 > Technical concepts and demonstration  
of Virtual Collections. A bridge to  
learning systems: (15 mins, CAF)

Save  
Share  
Transfer

< 3 > Production and design implications for teaching  
collections and virtual communities. (10 mins, HB)

# Digital Libraries In a Time of Transition





The web has changed the relationship between learning and libraries.

How can digital libraries use the Web to add value to the experience of using library resources?

# Ensuring the Survival of New Scholarship

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## Expectations for digital libraries

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Experimental

< new, evolving, untested with users >

Open-ended

< objects have life-cycles >

Interactive

< user experience is enriched >

Software-intensive

< cost of tools and back-end support >

*Executive Summary* of New-Model  
Scholarship: How Will It Survive?

Abby Smith, CLIR publication,  
March 2003

# Beyond the Shopping Cart: The Experience of Ownership

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Virtual Collections Resemble Commercial Web Services

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<http://www.expedia.com/>

<http://eat.epicurious.com>

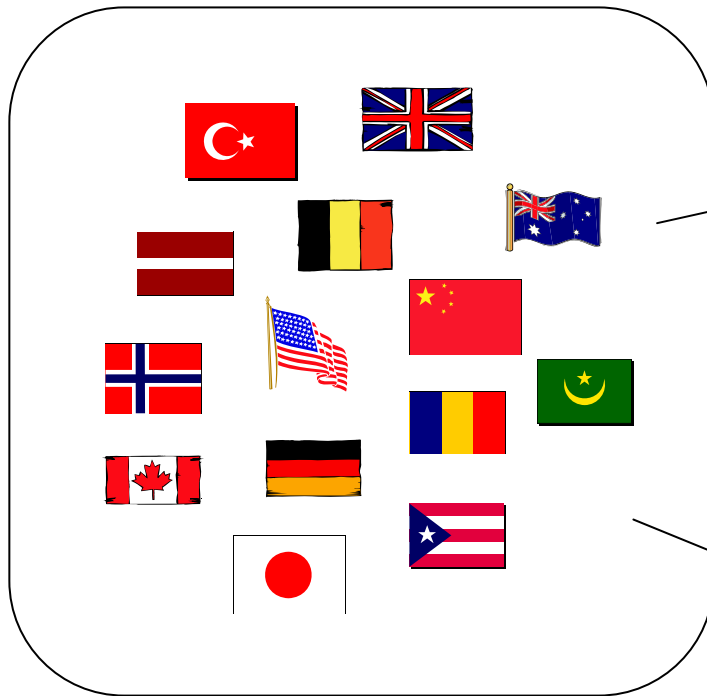
<http://www.ebay.com>



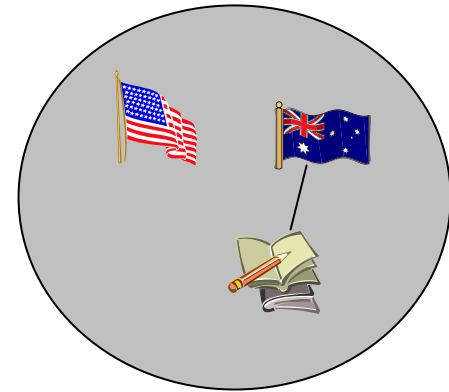
Digital Libraries will be distinguished by the Services they provide.

Virtual Collections Is a Service.

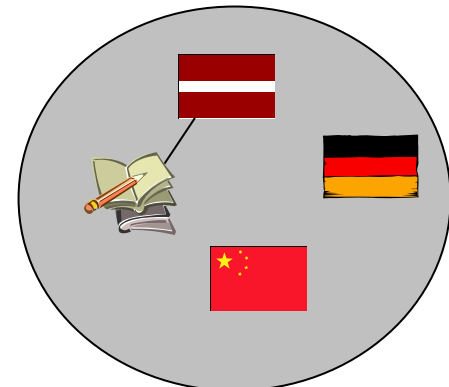
## Digital Flag Collection



## My Virtual Collection (1)



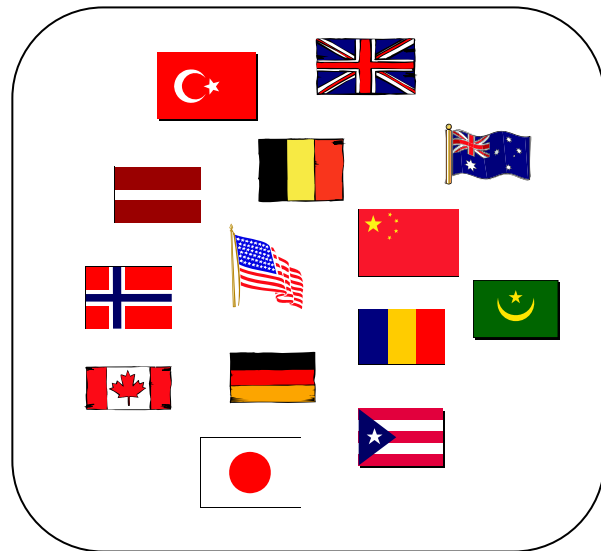
## My Virtual Collection (2)



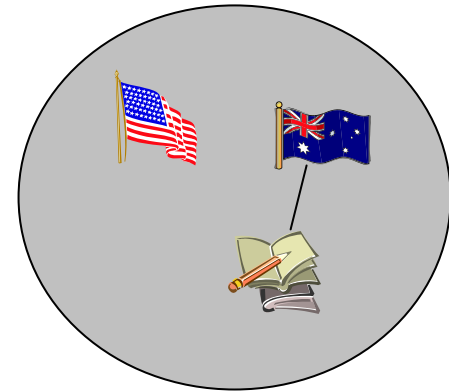


# What are Virtual Collections?

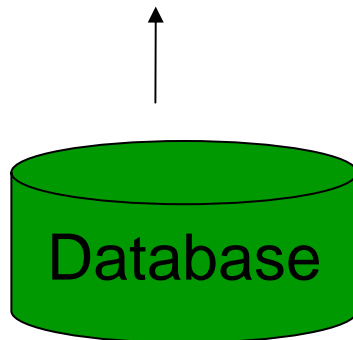
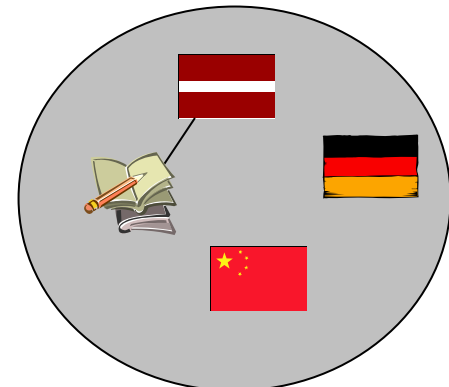
## Digital Flag Collection



## My Virtual Collection 1

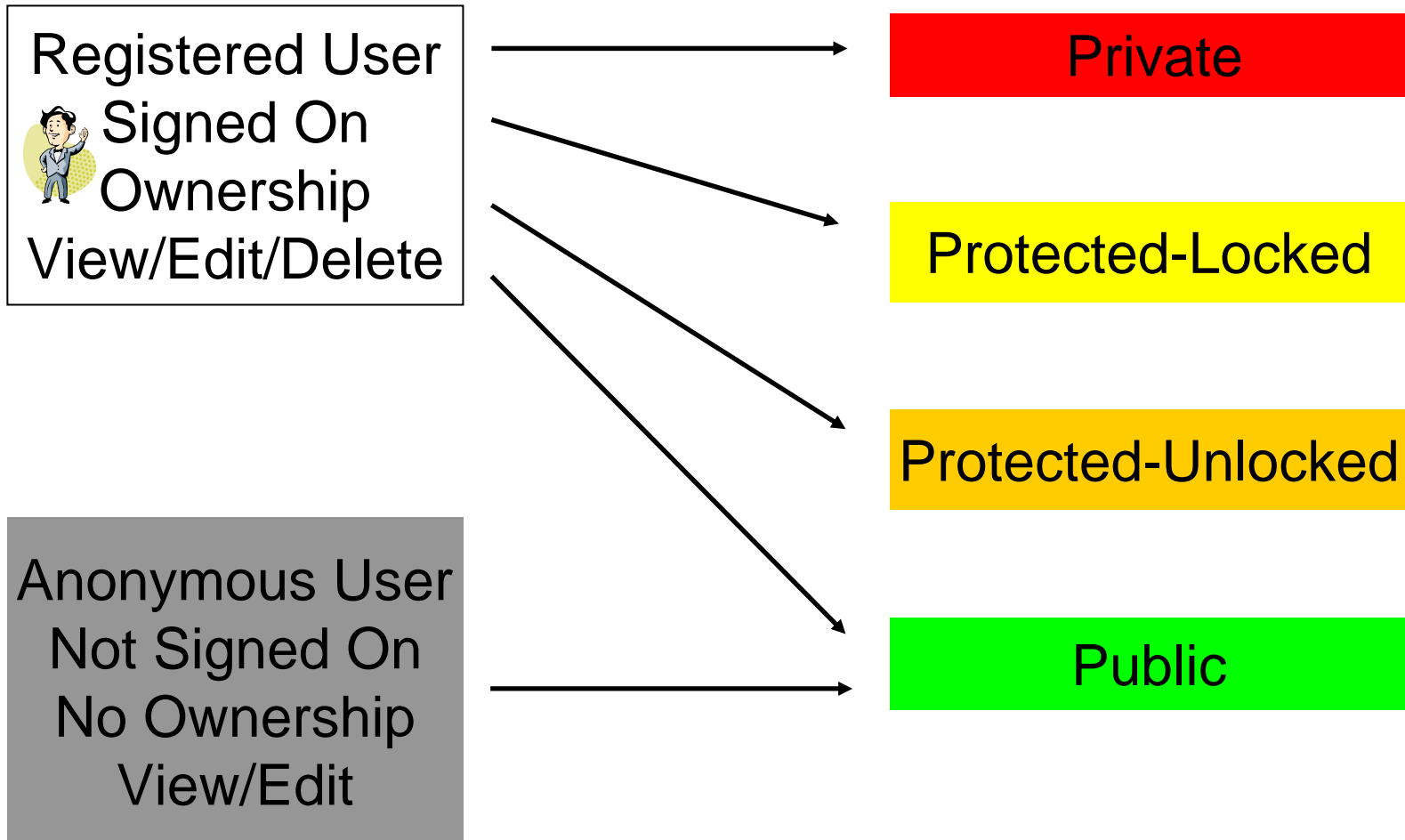






## My Virtual Collection 2



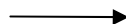
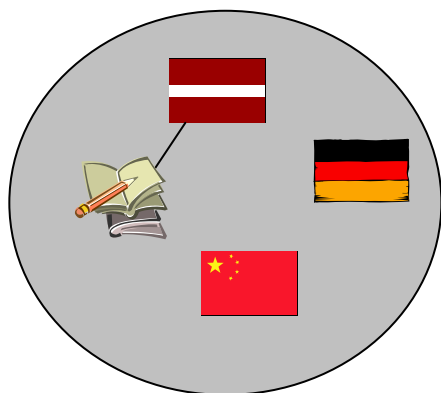
# Users Create Virtual Collections

## Virtual Collection Types

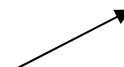


Collection State	View	Edit
Private 	No	No
Protected Locked 	Requires Password 1	Requires Password 2
Protected Unlocked 	Requires Password 1	Requires Password 1
Public 	Yes	Yes

Note: The Owner of a Virtual Collection has full View/Edit/Delete Rights



VC Table
Unique ID
Title
Owner
Owner ID
Date Stamp
Access Level
Access Code
Lock (Y/N)
Admin Code
CLOB text



```
<?xml version="1.0"
encoding="UTF-8"?>
<records>
  <record>
    <recordID>56334</recordID>
    <note>A very long note</note>
  </record>
  <record>
    <recordID>59360</recordID>
    <note />
  </record>
  <record>
    <recordID>61526</recordID>
    <note>A very short note</note>
  </record>
</records>
```

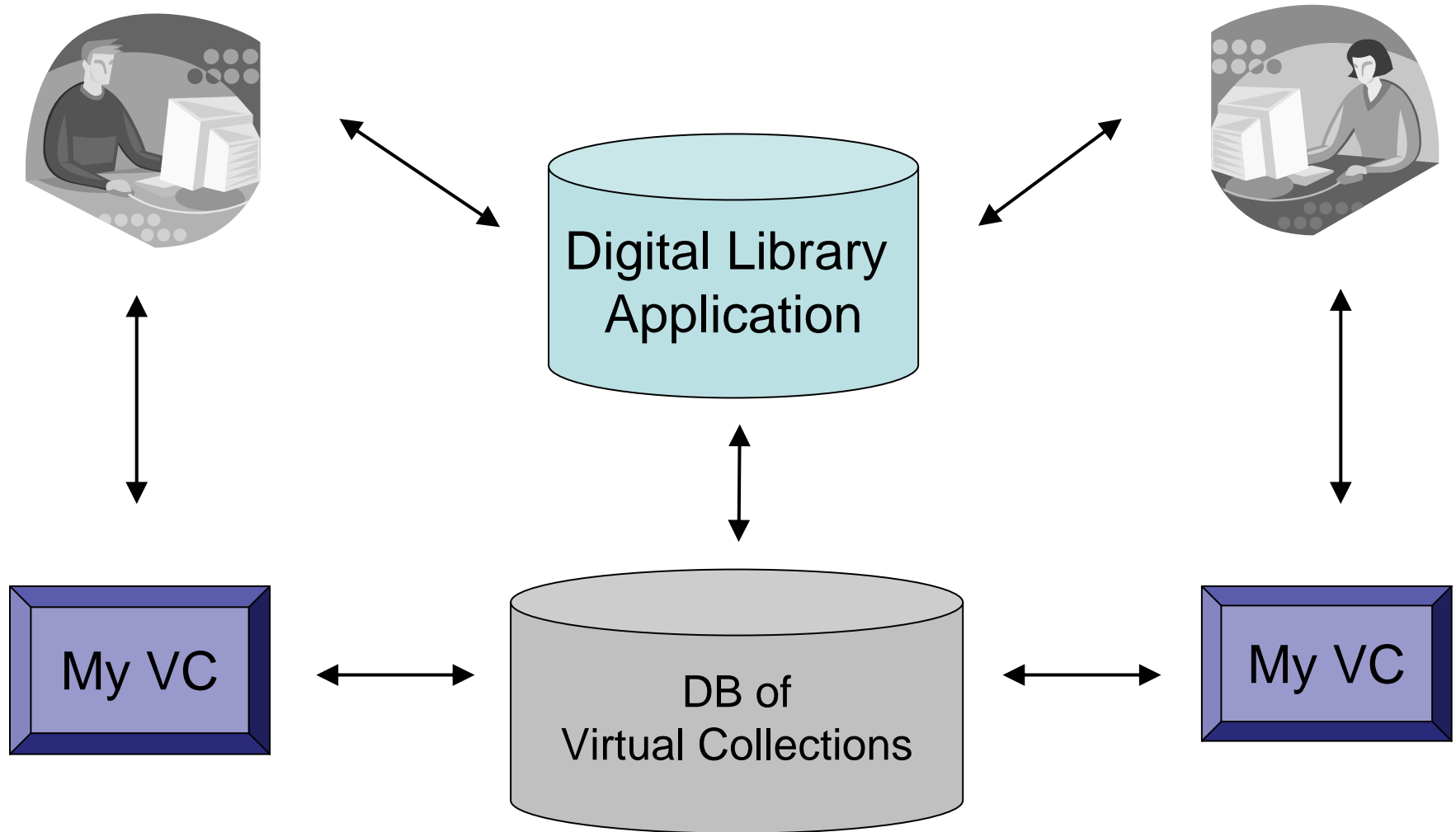
## **The Sheet Music Consortium**

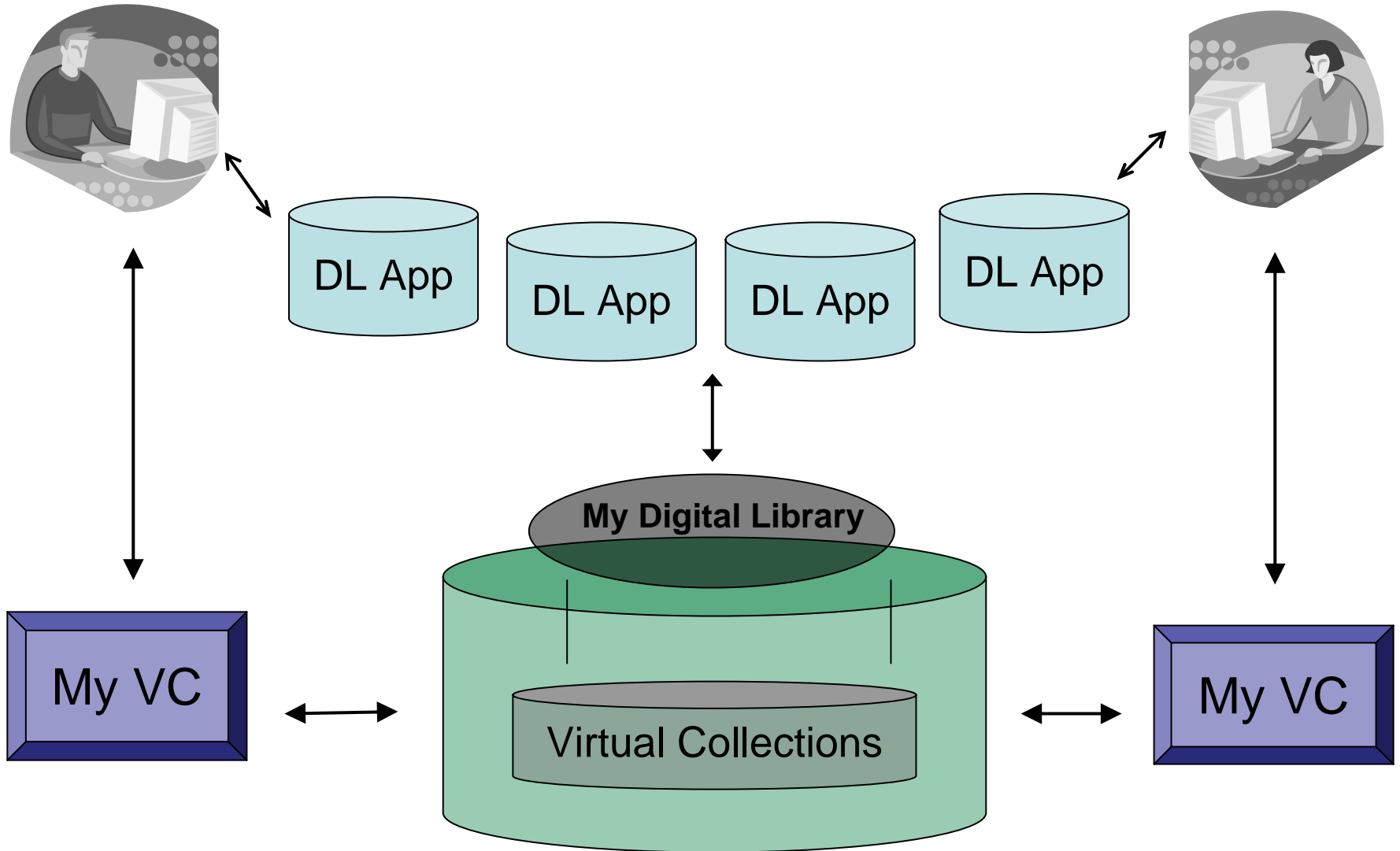
<http://digital.library.ucla.edu/sheetmusic>

## **Rat Spinal Cord Image Archive**

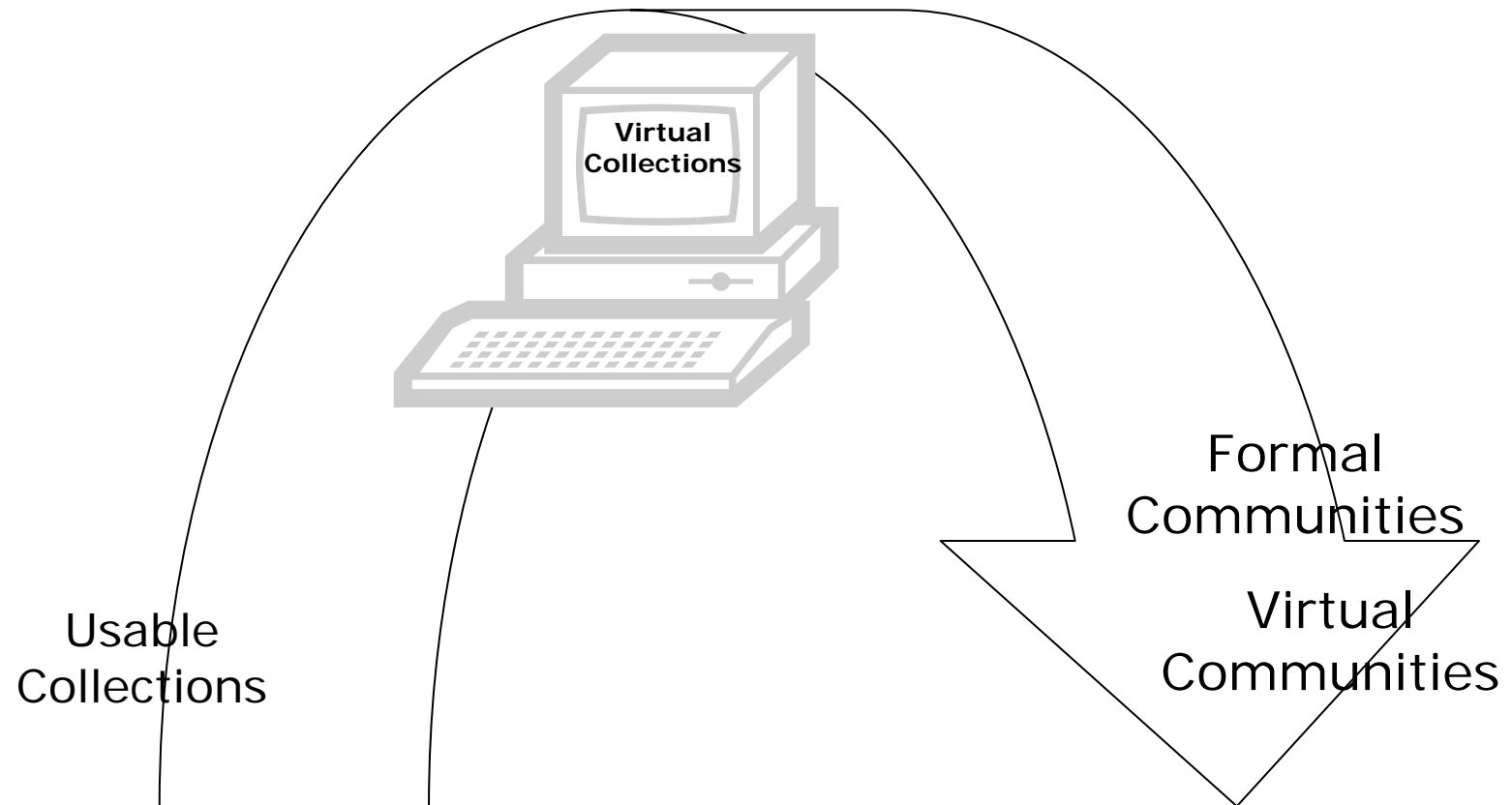
<http://digidev.library.ucla.edu/ratscia>

# Current Architecture





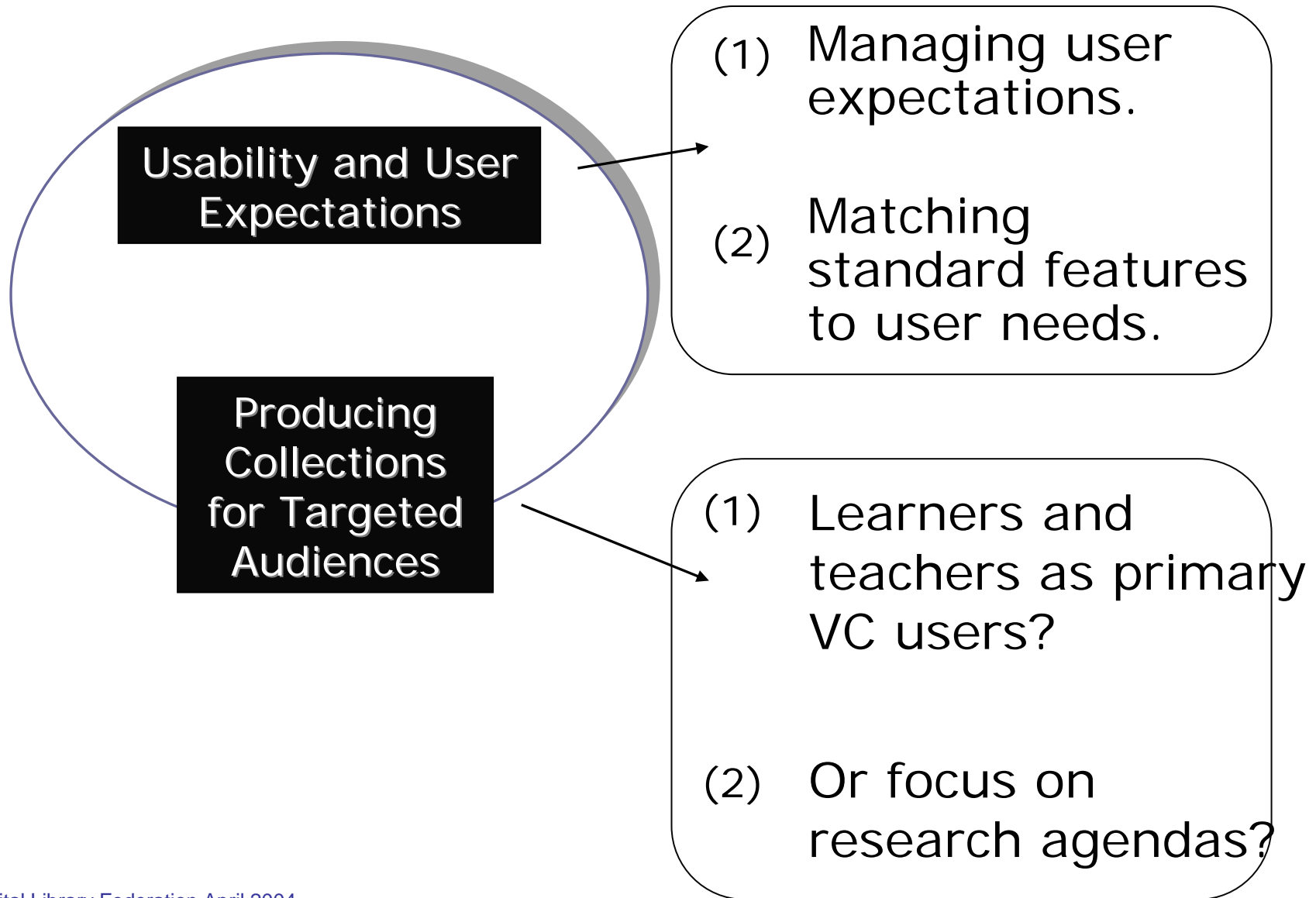
# Connecting Users to Collections





# Virtual Collections as a Bridging Technology: Implications for Digital Collection-Building

- Change criteria for acquisition and selection: Projects respond to user needs and preferences. User-driven, not provider-driven.
- Find the most appropriate subject matter to leverage features and benefits of Virtual Collections.
- Form new alliances with CMS users (faculty and students) who need organized collections.
- Attract virtual communities of scholars and researchers.

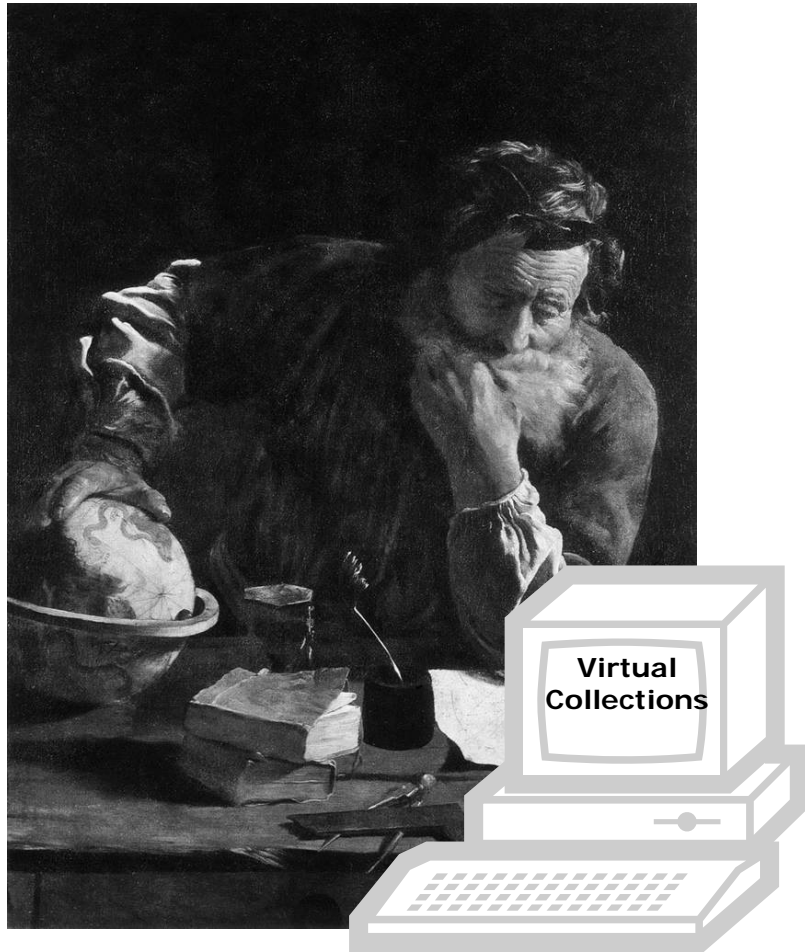


# Teaching Collections:

## Criteria for Testing Relevance and Longevity

- Plan to use in class (will teachers use the web?).
- Critical mass (# of objects = 100 >?).
- Permanent collection – of value beyond this class.
- Is the material unique (not available on the web already).
- Can departments create digitized material and metadata, or will library staff have to do it for them?
- Do department staff buy into standards for metadata and digitization?
- Can the department provide a project manager?
- Will teachers accept a standard interface and viewer?

# Virtual Collections - Virtual Communities: The Search for Contextual Mass



Heritage institutions might benefit from fostering virtual communities....

*Digicult 2004*

Writing on archival materials

# References

"Simply displaying collection objects, considered useful for informal learning in some way or another online, will no longer do."

Digicult: Thematic Issue 4 (October 2003)

"Academic libraries support and promote research, learning, and cultural engagement. In carrying out this role, they are inherently Janus-faced. Their gaze in one direction is focused on assembling, curating, and supporting the use of scholarly information; in another, it is fixed on tracking what information faculty, students, and lifelong learners actually need and on how and where they prefer to discover, locate, and use it."

Dan Greenstein in Brockman, William S. et al. Scholarly Work in the Humanities and the Evolving Information Environment, CLIR 2001: (pub. 104) <http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub104/contents.html>

*Executive Summary* of New-Model Scholarship: How Will It Survive?

Abby Smith, CLIR Symposium on Learning and Libraries (April 13, 2004):

<http://www.clir.org/registration/symp2004.html>

Martha L. Brogan, A Survey of Digital Library Aggregation Services, Digital Library Federation, Council on Library and Information Resources, 2003.

<http://www.diglib.org/pubs/brogan/>

Borgman, Christine L:

Challenges in Building Digital Libraries for the 21st Century, in Digital Libraries: People, Knowledge, and Technology (5th International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries, ICADL 2002). Singapore, Springer

The Interaction of Community and Individual Practices in the Design of a Digital Library, in Sugimoto, S. (ed). Proceedings of the International Symposium on Digital Libraries and Knowledge Communities in Networked Information Society, March 2004, University of Tsukuba.

<http://www.kc.tsukuba.ac.jp/dlkc/>

Digicult Thematic Issue 5: Virtual Communities and Collaboration in the Heritage Sector.

<http://www.digicult.info/>

# References

Problems of reconciling digital library environments with learning object standards are discussed in two working papers: Clifford Lynch and Neil McLean, "Interoperability between Information and Learning Environments—Bridging the Gaps," A Joint White paper on behalf of the IMS Global Learning Consortium and the Coalition for Networked Information. Draft version of June 28, 2003: 13p.; at [http://www.imsglobal.org/DLims\\_white\\_paper\\_publicdraft\\_1.pdf](http://www.imsglobal.org/DLims_white_paper_publicdraft_1.pdf) ;

and by Raymond Yee, "Enhancing Interoperability between Digital Libraries and Educational Technology via XML Crosswalks." <http://www.cni.org/tfms/2003a.spring/abstracts/PB-Enhancing-Yee.html>