

DLF Aquifer Project Update

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Aquifer Director

DLF Forum April 13, 2005

What is DLF Aquifer?

- Collaborative effort amongst DLF members
- Test-bed of library tools & services for the scholar
- Quality content, initially focused on American culture and life
- The distributed online digital library of the Digital Library Federation

Who is DLF Aquifer?

- California Digital Library
- Emory University
- Indiana University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Library of Congress
- New York University
- Stanford University
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota
- University of Tennessee
- University of Virginia

DLF Aquifer background

- Envisioned as a key initiative when Digital Library Federation was chartered in 1995
- The idea has informed other DLF initiatives
- Its strategic importance was emphasized in 2003 DLF planning process

Support for DLF Aquifer

- Digital Library Federation capital funds provide support
- Many initiatives that are seeding DLF Aquifer have other funding support
- Outside funding is being sought

The DLF Aquifer Name

- Unnamed in the 1995 charter but referred to as “the distributed online digital library of the DLF”
- Called DODL
- Re-named Aquifer in the 2003 strategic process
- Tagged DLF Aquifer in 2005
- Current work on DLF Aquifer “identity”

Why DLF Aquifer?

- Enabling libraries to deliver quality digital content through services to scholars
- Leveraging development through collaboration
- Complementing and building on other efforts, including mass digitization
- Improve signal to noise ratio


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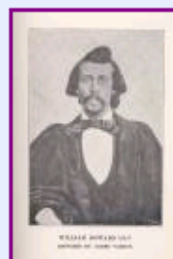
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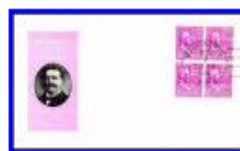
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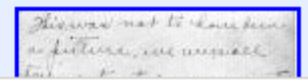


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DLF Aquifer Problem Space

- DLF Aquifer will provide tools and services for pooling and piping content
- DLF Aquifer will inter-operate with:
 - Repositories that preserve
 - Content management systems that provide structure
 - E-learning systems that support the teaching and learning process
 - Personal content management systems that support the scholar
- DLF Aquifer will siphon content from mass digitization projects

When is DLF Aquifer?

- Building on existing DLF initiatives and beyond
- Three one-year development phases
- Prototype available within first phase

Building Blocks

- Collection logs
 - IMLS collection registry
 - DLF collections database
- Best practices development (e.g. OAI)
- User studies
- Framework and toolkit development



IMLS Digital Collections Registry

A gateway to digital collections funded through the IMLS National Leadership Grant Program

Welcome to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Digital Collections Registry, a gateway to the digital collections funded through the IMLS National Leadership Grant Program ([learn more](#)) and a resource for educators and cultural heritage professionals.

You will find here a fascinating array of digital collections from all subject areas - art to science, literature to home economics - and from all types of institutions such as museums, libraries, and historical societies.

Take some time to browse through the collections or search for a topic that interests you.

Browse Collections by:

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OAI Best Practices

Digital Library Federation and NSDL OAI and Shareable Metadata Best Practices Working Group

Workspace for the DLF and NSDL working group to define best practices for the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting (OAI-PMH) and for the metadata shared/exposed by its use. We also aspire to discover or create methods to overcome impediments to more widespread use of OAI for digital library aggregation.

This workspace is intended to be the staging area for development of documents, etc. for the target audience consisting of OAI data providers, OAI service providers, metadata creators, etc.

Best Practices Workspace

- ◆ [TableOfContents](#) from which modules of best practices documents will be linked
- ◆ [\[\(excel file\) Current status of issues in Data Provider Implementations and Shareable Metadata\]](#) - Contact Kat and/or Sara if needs updating. Last updated March 17.

Next Meeting

- ◆ April 15th after the [\[DLF Spring Forum\]](#) in San Diego, CA. Lunch will be served from 1-2 and the meeting will be held from 2-3 [\[Draft Agenda\]](#)

Next Conference Call

- ◆ Thursday, March 31 - 1-2:30 Eastern Time

Notes from Past Meetings and Conference Calls

- ◆ [\[Notes from Conference Call - March 24, 2005 - Word Document\]](#)
- ◆ [\[Notes from Conference Call - March 17, 2005 - Word Document\]](#)
- ◆ [\[Notes from Conference Call - March 10, 2005 - Word Document\]](#)
- ◆ [\[Notes from Conference Call - March 3, 2005 - Word Document\]](#)
- ◆ [\[Notes from Conference Call - February 24, 2005 - Word Document\]](#)
- ◆ [\[Notes from Conference Call - February 17, 2005 - Word Document\]](#)
- ◆ [\[Notes from Conference Call - February 10, 2005 - Word Document\]](#)
- ◆ [October 25-27, 2004 \(Agenda\)](#) and [MeetingNotes](#) for the OAI and Shareable Best Practices Meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 2004 from 1:00-3:30ish at the [\[Digital Library Federation Fall Forum\]](#)
- ◆ [Birds of a Feather Session \(Agenda\)](#) and [\[Rough Notes \(pdf file\)\]](#) and [\[DP Road Blocks\]](#) - Tuesday, October 26th from 4:30-6:00 at the [\[Digital Library Federation Fall Forum\]](#)



"A library is the best possible imitation, by human beings, of a divine mind, where the whole universe is viewed and understood at the same time." -Umberto Eco

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Usage and Users

In a digital library, how information is made, assembled into collections, and presented online affects whether, to what extent, and how it can be used. In this vitally important area the DLF is sponsoring initiatives that will help libraries:

- ♦ build better, more useful, and more useable online collections and services;
- ♦ gather and analyze information that reveal how and why library use is changing;
- ♦ build user support services that are effective and appropriate in evolving online library environments.

Our work in this area is described on these pages.

DLF Scholars' Panel

Wednesday June 2-Thursdays June 3, Washington, DC

[Attendees](#) | [Findings](#) | [Bibliography](#)

The impulse driving this meeting and the discussions that followed was a desire to learn



Overview

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The Ockham Initiative is proud to acknowledge support and funding from the following institutions



Emory University
University of Notre Dame
Oregon State University
Virginia Tech

Overview

The **OCKHAM Initiative** seeks to promote the development of digital libraries via collaboration between librarians and digital library researchers. By promoting simple, open approaches and standards for digital library tools, service and content, the gap between digital library development and the adoption of digital library systems by the traditional library community will be bridged.

To this end, the OCKHAM Initiative received a \$425K grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a network of services that will improve the deployability of the National Science Digital Library (NSDL) in traditional libraries. This grant will produce the initial OCKHAM Network - a suite of interoperable digital library services for use by traditional libraries. See the grant [proposal](#) for complete details.

Development phases

- Leveraging existing collections, tools and services
- Enhancing and developing tools, services and collections
- Implementing “deep sharing”

Phase I: Leveraging

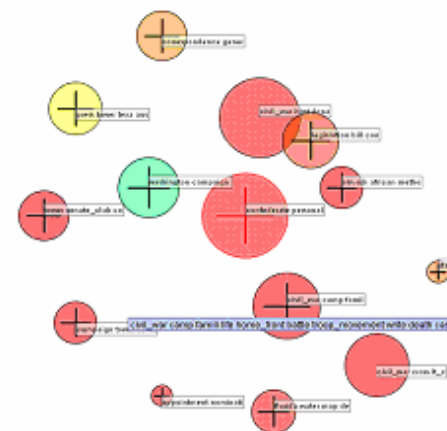
- Identify existing collections
- Harvest metadata or federate in other currently available ways
- Apply existing tools and services for access and retrieval

Phase II: Enhancing

- Adding collections to fill gaps
- Developing tools for metadata enhancement
- Developing new tools for the scholar



Metacombine Multidimensional Visualization Project



The following is a demonstration of a work in progress. Some links are broken and applets have bugs. Java demos run only under Java 1.4.2 or greater. [Upgrade to J2SE v 1.4.2_05 JRE here.](#)

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2. [Dimensionality Reduction](#)
3. [Visualizations](#)
4. [Research Questions](#)
5. [Software](#)

1 Introduction

Phase III: Deep sharing

- Enable delivery of digital objects as well as object metadata
- Interoperate with repositories for object capture and deposit

Where is DLF Aquifer?

- Distributed development
- Component projects at participant libraries (e.g. collections registry hosting at UIUC)
- Widely available
- DLF support from D.C. office
- Aquifer Director at Stanford
- Website at <http://www.diglib.org/aquifer/>

How will DLF Aquifer happen?

- Federation—the vision of the group
- Development of processes
 - To tie existing work together
 - To identify gaps
 - To foster development in gap areas

Nuts and bolts of collaboration

- Belief that libraries can add better value to the scholarly process through cooperation
- Altruism--decreasing one's own fitness to increase the fitness of another (something bigger)?

The DLF Aquifer “organization”

- Aquifer Prototype Group was “committee of the whole”
- Aquifer director position filled
- Re-designed organizational structure in implementation
 - Aquifer Prototype Group “sunset” at February meeting
 - Replaced by smaller Aquifer Implementation Group

DLF Aquifer participation

- Core DLF Aquifer participants
 - Contribute collections
 - Contribute staff effort
 - Host systems or services
 - Think about their organizations differently as a result
- Many others are involved
 - DLF member libraries contribute collections
 - Other partners work on initiatives upon which Aquifer is built

Current DLF Aquifer activities

- Four working groups formed
 - Collections
 - Metadata
 - Technology
 - Services
- Working groups recommend policy to Aquifer Implementation Group

Vision for the future

- Working groups will design discrete projects hosted by participant libraries
- Staff will grow in a distributed way
- Initiative will iterate
 - DLF Aquifer will build on other work
 - DLF Aquifer will spawn new work
- Models for ongoing deployment will be developed

Who will benefit?

- DLF Aquifer envisioned as:
 - Library services for the scholar
 - Freely available for integration in the individual library environment
- Of benefit to libraries
- Of benefit to scholars

Questions?

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