

EthicShare: Building an Inter-Institutional Scholarly Research Community

Kate McCready
Chad Fennell



Digital Library Federation | May 5, 2009

EthicShare in a Nutshell

- **Online research environment** for *information discovery* and *collaboration* for practical ethics scholars and students
- **Open & free to all** – designed to enable collaboration between all scholars regardless of affiliation, but account creation is not restricted
- **Based at:** the University of Minnesota's Center for Bioethics, Libraries, and Department of Computer Science & Engineering
- **Funded by** the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the National Science Foundation, Council on Library and Information Resources



EthicShare Project Staff:

- **Principal Investigators:** Wendy Pradt Lougee (Uof MN Libraries), Jeffrey Kahn (U of MN Center for Bioethics) & John Riedl (U of MN Computer Science)
- **Project Director :** Kate McCready (U of MN Libraries)
- **Technology Lead:** John Butler (U of MN Libraries)
- **Collections :** Cecily Marcus & Stephen Hearn (U of MN Libraries); Frazier Benya (U of MN Center for Bioethics, grad student)
- **Developers:** Chad Fennell (U of MN Libraries), David Naughton (U of MN Libraries), Bill Tantzen (U of MN Libraries)
& Tony Lam (U of MN Computer Science grad student)



Virtual Research Environment Components

Collection Development

Content aggregation
Ingest mechanisms
Harvesting
ETL

CONTENT

Discovery Tools

Automated ontology
Community vetting
Faceted searching
Drupal, Solr

ACCESS

Engagement & Collaboration

Social tools to add value
Editorial participation
Drupal

COMMUNITY

GOVERNANCE

Policy & Sustainability

Editorial policies
Community participation
User privacy
Intellectual Property

EthicShare Partnerships

Data:

- **National Library of Medicine** - PubMed & Catalog data
- **OCLC** – WorldCat data

Network Services:

- **OCLC** – Registry Services

University Centers:

- Georgetown University – Bioethics Thesaurus
- Governance and Presentations at Societies by Partners
from: University of Virginia, Indiana University-
Bloomington, Indiana University-Purdue University,
Indianapolis and Stanford University



EthicShare Development History

- **2004 Scholarly Communications Institute:** Held at the Council on Library and Information Resources for Bioethicists.

(Background – Bioethics Scholars are primarily humanities faculty (philosophy, theology) but the field also pulls from law, policy, medicine and public health.)

- **2005-2006 U of M Libraries Research:** Studied the research behaviors and methodologies of scholars in the humanities and social sciences
 - Identified “gaps” in the research process
 - What solutions would support the advancement of a field?
 - Would collaborative tools serve the needs of serious scholars?
- **“Helping Hands” project:** NSF funded U of MN - Computer Science and Bioethics exploring how to encourage participation in collaborative tools.



EthicShare Development History

2006-2007 EthicShare Planning Project:

- Assessment of a field
- Site visits and surveys
- Prototype of site

2008-2009 EthicShare Pilot Project:

- Build a “collection” of high quality, focused materials aggregated from a variety of source material providers
- Development of a community-supported environment
- Engage the community in the development process
- Developing process and technology models for the development of virtual research community environments.



Initial Tool and Feature Selection

Planning Grant:

- **Identifying and tuning collaborative technologies for a specific community of researchers**
- **How do you know what you don't know?** Bioethics Scholars didn't use collective work sites or technologies.
- **Held 5 site visits –**
 - U of Minnesota
 - University of Indiana
 - University of Indiana – Purdue University – Indianapolis
 - University of Virginia
 - Georgetown University



Site Visits – Early 2007

- **Presentation of Social Features**

- EthicShare team created a presentation of successful web-based tools and features from various sites for bioethics faculty and graduate students to see.

- **Discussion of Features**

- During and after the presentations we discussed the reaction of these features and the idea of implementing them within the bioethics community

- **Survey of Interest/Knowledge**

- Asked the participants to complete a 10 minute survey
- at the end of this presentation to formalize their opinions.



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Search results for: bioethics

All articles on CiteULike matching your search criteria

- ['Miracle in Iowa': metaphor, analogy, and anachronism in the history of bioethics.](#)**
Monash Bioeth Rev, Vol. 23, No. 3. (July 2004), pp. 6-15.
 by [Ferber](#) DS
 posted to [bioethics](#) by [ladygoat](#) as ★★
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- [New breeds of humans: the moral obligation to enhance.](#)**

Everyone's Tags

Most active tags on CiteULike

Filter:

algorithm algorithms
 analysis architecture
 attention bayesian
 bioinformatics biology
 brain **cancer**
 classification
clustering cognition
 communication community
 complexity computing
 context control cortex
 culture data database
 design development
 disease distributed
 dopamine dynamic
 dynamics economics
 education energy
 evaluation **evolution**
 expression fmri game gene
 genetics genome google
 graph health history
 human **information**
 interaction internet
 knowledge language
 learning

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disease distributed
dopamine dynamic
dynamics economics
education energy
evaluation **evolution**
expression fmri game gene
genetics genome google
graph health history
human **information**
interaction internet
knowledge language
learning literacy

Done
Adblock
Now: Cloudy, 46° F
Fri: 42° F
Sat: 43° F

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Done

Adblock

Now: Cloud

EthicShare Survey Summary Report

Primary Site Requirements

- Access to “High Quality” materials was clearly identified as the primary desired function of the site (100% marked this as either “important” or “very important”)
- Access to the full-text was critical
- Ability to have private and public work space
- Scholars collaborated with colleagues based on discipline, not necessarily location.



EthicShare Survey Summary Report


Social Features

- “Social” features weren’t “very important” but rated well when “somewhat important”, “important” and “very important” were totaled:
 - Get Updates via Email/RSS about New Content (77%)
 - Get Recommendations of Resources (68%)
 - Ability to Share Your Work With your Colleagues (76%)
 - Ability to Review a Resources (79%)
 - Community Discussion Space (79%)
 - Add Resources to the Site (71%)



Engage and Evaluate - Iterative Design

Beta Testing - Feedback Loops

**Ethics. Research. Community.** Username

Search the EthicShare Collection:

[HOME](#) [GROUPS](#) [CALENDAR](#) [SEARCH RESULTS](#) [ABOUT](#) [HELP](#)

Group Directory

Search for a group by name

Group Name	Description	Posts	Members
Animal Ethics	A discussion group for those who are (somewhat) interested in animal ethics	2	10
Bioethics and Environmental Ethics	The intersection of bioethics and environmental ethics	1	8
Business Ethics	This group is for discussion of issues relating to the ethics of business.	1	1
Commodification of Medicine	Discussion regarding health care as a commodity	1	4
Environmental Ethics	A forum for discussing issues surrounding Environmental Ethics	5	10

[SURVEY PREVIEW MODE] EthicShare Groups - Mozilla Firefox
File Edit View History Bookmarks Yahoo! Tools Help
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?PREVIEW_MODE=DO_NOT_USE_THIS_LINK_FOR_COLLECTION&sm=WRRyfQA1EQi5VBG9tog3z4zsjbIIck2SDi

EthicShare Groups [Exit this survey >>](#)

1. Welcome

Dear EthicShare User,

Thank you for your feedback on the Interest Groups features in EthicShare. This survey should not take more than 5 minutes of your time.

If you haven't already, please try to do these action steps outlined in the email message sent to you (also found here: <http://ethicshare.cs.umn.edu/tests/groups>)

Regardless of whether or not you have created or joined any groups, your feedback is valuable and will help us to improve EthicShare Interest Groups.

Results from the survey will be used to support our development and pilot efforts. Please be assured that your answers are confidential and results from the survey will be released only as summaries in which no individual's answers can be identified. All responses are anonymous and will be stored on a secure server and are accessible only by project researchers. The full consent form, sent to you earlier via email, can be found here: http://ethicshare.cs.umn.edu/files/testing/ES_II_Consent_Final.pdf

If you have any questions, please contact the EthicShare Development Team by emailing help@ethicshare.org

Sincerely,
Kate McCreedy (on behalf of the)
EthicShare Development Team
University of Minnesota

1. How hard was it to:

	Didn't Try	Very Difficult	Difficult	Easy	Very Easy
Join a group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create a group	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Post a message	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Comment on another's message	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please explain any difficulties:

Engage and Evaluate - Iterative Design

Usability Testing



Engage and Evaluate - Iterative Design

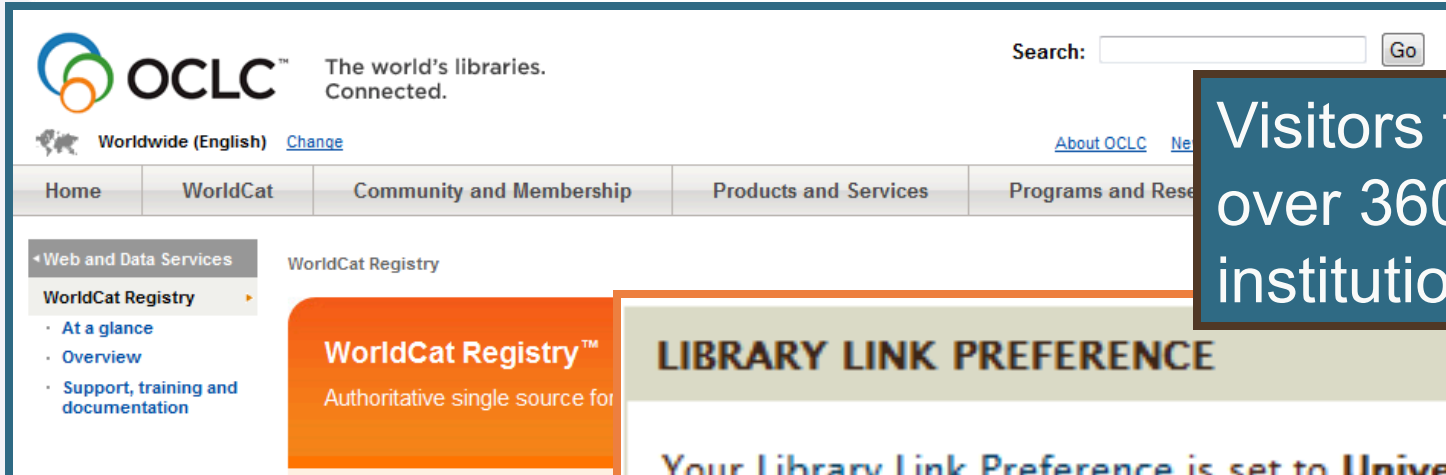
EthicShare Site Demo

<http://www.ethicshare.org>



Accessible Services

- **Link Resolution** - creating an Open URL link resolver that allows users from any institution with a link resolver to access the full text of a resources (if their institution buys that resource).



The screenshot shows the OCLC WorldCat Registry page. The OCLC logo is at the top left, with the tagline "The world's libraries. Connected." A search bar is at the top right. Below the logo, there are links for "Worldwide (English)" and "Change". A navigation menu includes "Home", "WorldCat", "Community and Membership", "Products and Services", and "Programs and Rese". On the left, a sidebar lists "Web and Data Services" with a sub-menu for "WorldCat Registry" containing links for "At a glance", "Overview", and "Support, training and documentation". The main content area features an orange box for "WorldCat Registry™" with the text "Authoritative single source for". Below this, a section titled "LIBRARY LINK PREFERENCE" states: "Your Library Link Preference is set to **University of Minnesota – Minneapolis.**".

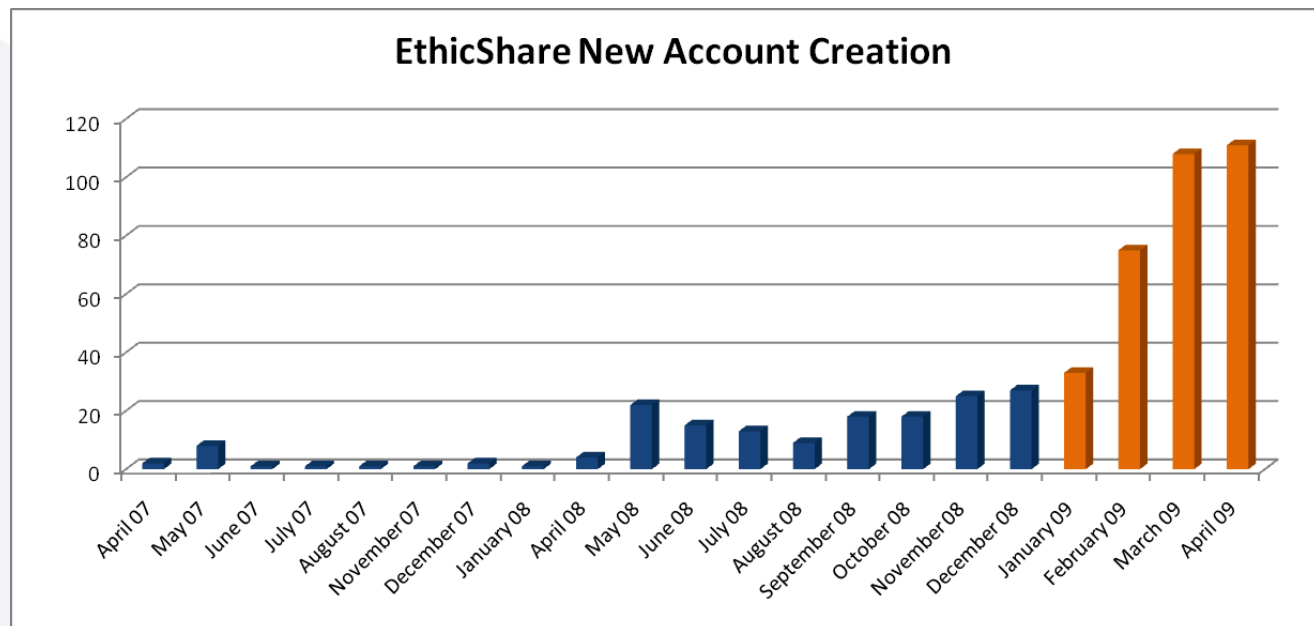
Visitors from over 360 institutions

LIBRARY LINK PREFERENCE

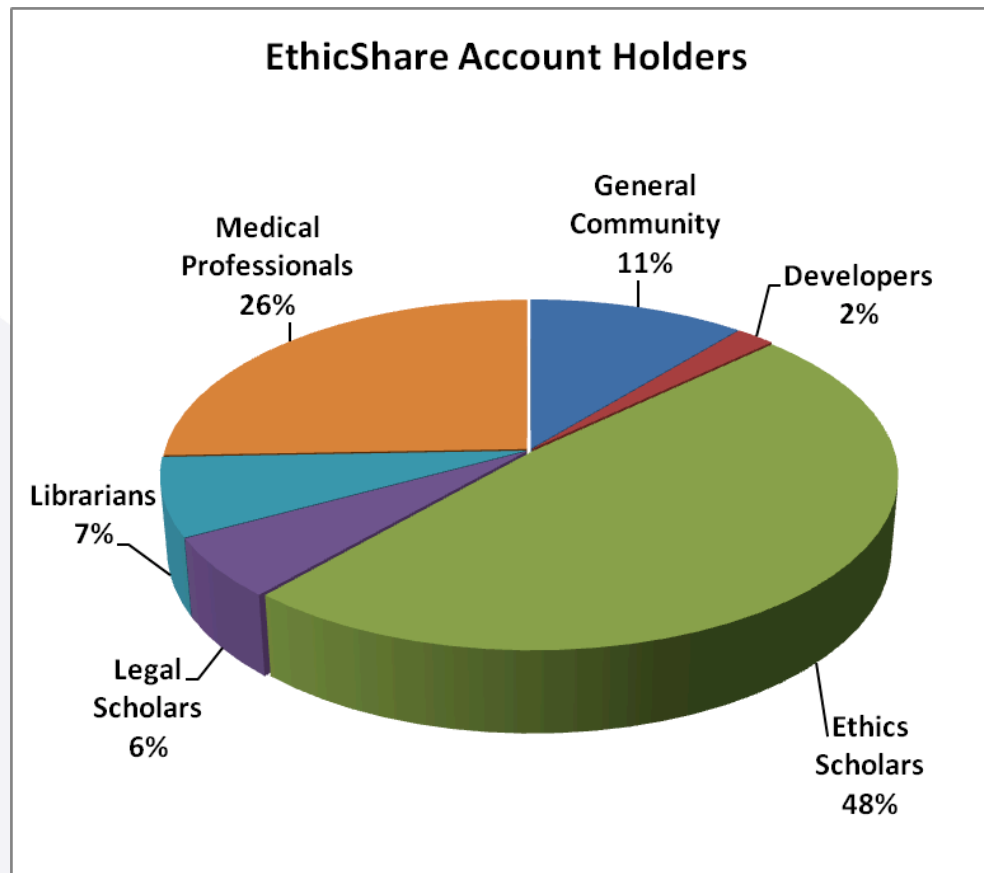
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Accessible Services

- **Account Creation**— open to all – the site is designed to enable collaboration between all scholars regardless of affiliation, but account creation is not restricted



Accessible Services



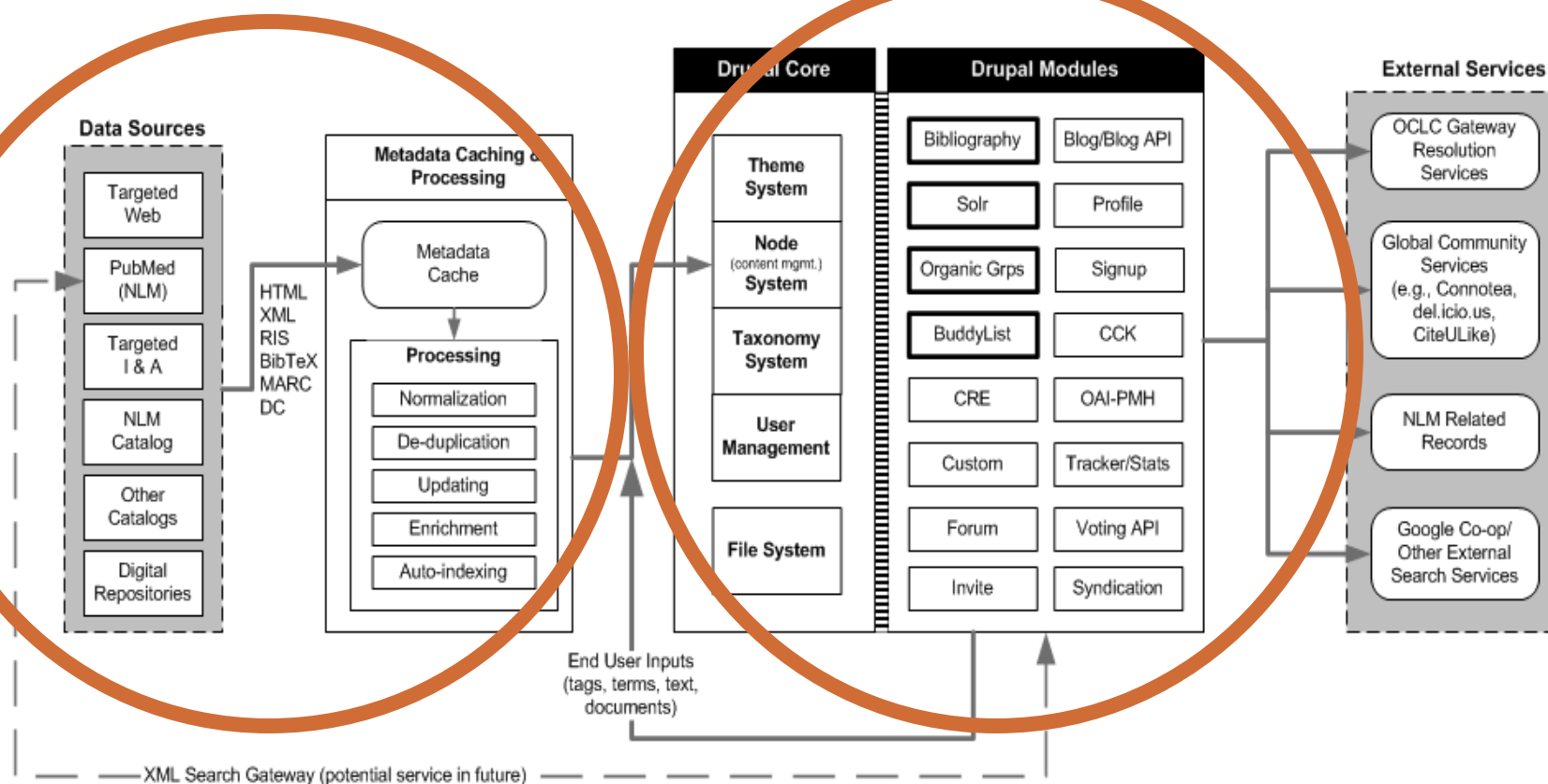
Will the primary focus for scholars be met if the “general community” grows?



Aggregation and Service Architecture

Data Aggregation for Discovery

Community-tailored Services



Virtual Research Environments... the future

Leveraging the Global but Keeping it Local:

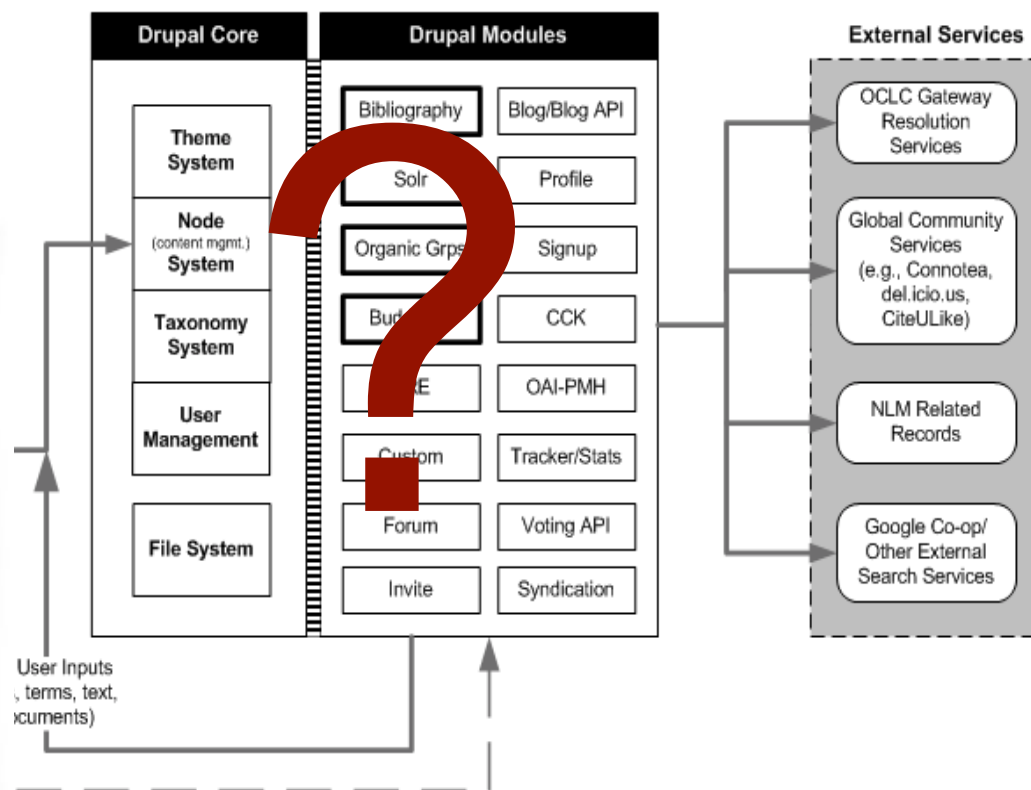
- **Authentication of Users**
 - Single sign-on
 - Authority Control (which J Kahn are you?)
- **Data**
 - Tags between data providers?
 - Content and user based recommendations
- **Collaborations**
 - Other developers interested in shared code base



EthicShare Aggregation & Service Architecture



Scholar
Images
Video
Books
News
Data
What's next...



EthicShare ... the future

Collections:

- Expand the Index (info, people, tools)
- Capture of Community's Fugitive Content
- Gray Literature Contributions
- Digital Collections (OAI-harvests), media
- Curricular Materials/ Learning Objects

Site Features:

- Recommenders
- "Classics" Lists
- Bioethics Policy Development Support
- User Submissions and Sharing Between Members



EthicShare ... the future

Research Studies (Experiments):

- Community Keyword Participation by Scholars
 - Keywords defined entirely by the users
 - Keyword “suggestions” from the Bioethics Thesaurus (only those terms can be selected)
 - Keyword “suggestions” from the Bioethics Thesaurus – users can select those or enter any term.
- User Submissions – Can we encourage contributions?

Release the Code & Process

- VRC Technology Stack
- Development Model
- Assessment Processes



Thank You!

Chad Fennell - fenne035@umn.edu
Kate McCready - mccre008@umn.edu

EthicShare Site: <http://www.ethicshare.org>
Background: <http://www.lib.umn.edu/about/ethicshare>



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