DLF Aquifer in Context: Community Connections and American Social History Online

DLF Forum
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Panel topics

• DLF Aquifer and
  – ORE
  – Service Framework

• American Social History Online
  – Project goals and status
  – Determining high-level functional requirements for American Social History Online
  – Metadata levels of adoption and adding collections
Aquifer and other initiatives

• ORE
  – Tim Cole (UIUC/Aquifer TWG) DLF Aquifer liaison to ORE
  – Aquifer as an ORE testbed

• Service Framework
  – Geneva Henry working with SWG
  – Aquifer implements service expressions
American Social History Online

• Funding for *DLF Aquifer Development for Interoperability Across Scholarly Repositories: American Social History Online* approved by Mellon board in March 2007
  – Interoperability/Middleware layer development
  – Integration of collections into local environments
    • Course management system
    • Portal with link to citation management
    • Commercial search service
    • Federated search
  – User studies/end user engagement
Research possibilities

• **Migration Stories: Aggregating Regional Stories to Tell National Stories**

• **New Research: Reconsidering Major Questions through Broad Access to Resources**

• **Interdisciplinary Study: A Wider View**
The collections

- Early prototype showed last year includes six collections from three libraries http://quod.lib.umich.edu/a/aquifer/
- Additional collections added recently with more to come
- Collection desiderata list includes ~90 additional collections from ~10 additional libraries
Designing for scholars

• Business analyst/assessment expert key position for grant work
• Core team lead and liaison to local implementers
• Functional requirements come from service definitions
• Assessment a critical activity
  – Does the software work?
  – Is the collection concept valid?
Measuring value to scholars

• Does the DLF Aquifer concept move us along the path to interoperability?
• Are themed collections useful?
• Do the local scenarios represent where scholars work?
• Does other content (e.g. commercial collections, Google books) need to be integrated for maximum value?
Distributed core team with close ties to working groups

- Tom Habing (UIUC) Developer
- Kat Hagedorn (Michigan) Data analyst
- Susan Harum (UIUC) Business analyst/assessment expert
- Chick Markley (Berkeley) Systems architect/analyst
MODS Levels of Adoption

• Allows users to cite the resource. Minimum for participation; Aquifer will not harvest otherwise

• Allows users to perform basic searches and filtering. Minimum for doing anything useful with harvested records

• Allows users to browse and group search results. Facilitates more advanced functionality

• Allows users to perform more precise searches. Adopt all required guidelines (and some recommended)

• Allows users to effectively evaluate resources. Completely adopt all recommendations
Organizational challenges to Aquifer participation

• Many collections outside of Aquifer scope
• Lack of time/money/staff to perform needed work
• Buy-in from collection managers not involved with the initiative
• Competing for precious time from developers and systems staff
Other tools needed for metadata preparation

- FAQ page
- Crosswalks (conceptual and XSLT)
- On-site training and consultation
- “Report card” on guidelines compliance
- OAI Static Repository Gateway
- Tools for creation of native MODS records
- Metadata remediation tools
Questions? comments?

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http://www.diglib.org/aquifer/