

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/>