

Library of Congress American Memory Page Image Navigation

Page navigation challenges:

books

notebooks

manuscripts

journals/serials

pamphlets

petitions

drawings

photograph groups

The “Page Turner”

An application was developed to handle these challenges, this application has come to be known as the “page turner”.

- First implemented for a set of Walt Whitman’s notebooks.
- Designed to be flexible enough to handle many types of items.

Page Navigation Components

- Supporting data sets
- CGI program to display/navigate images
- Various interfaces to page navigation

Create supporting data

Attributes of the image group(s) are identified. Typical attributes captured:

- image sequence,
- title for the image grouping,
- feature indicators for images, e.g., TOC,
- print page numbers,
- and URLs for related resources.

Create supporting data

Attributes are gathered by culling data from one, some, or all of these sources:

- existing descriptive data
- file naming
- directory structure

Create supporting data

This data is gathered with a program written for a specific set of image groupings.

The file is stored in a binary format to allow faster direct access.

This file, called the page turner database, is then used to drive the display.

Display and Navigate

A cgi program uses the page turner database to create a display with:

- image,
- title, feature info, print page number,
- links for next/previous navigation,
- text box for jumping to a specific image,
- and links to associated resources.

Provide Interface

Various points of entry to page navigation:

- dynamic bibliographic displays,
- search results lists,
- dynamic full text displays,
- dynamic finding aid displays,
- and html “framework” pages.

Provide Interface

Finding a starting point in a particular image set is another aspect of the interface to page navigation. Starting point examples:

- first image,
- a particular image,
- an image corresponding to a given date.

Contact Sheets

The same cgi program can use page turner databases to display smaller images in a grid (contact sheet) display.

The database structure is slightly different for this type of access, but the process is essentially the same.

Several collection designs implement both full size page image navigation and contact sheet image navigation.

Summary

A flexible page navigation system was developed at the LC for the American Memory collections. In our design, the cgi program changes very little, and the individual collection's special cases are handled during the gathering of the support data and when providing an interface to the page navigation from other parts of the collection.