

Catalogers' Group
September 24, 2007

Guests: Members of Digital Library Program

Stephen Davison

Lisa McAulay

Lynn DeLacy

Holly Wang

<http://www2.library.ucla.edu/libraries/2627.cfm>

This session was devoted to a presentation by the members of the Digital Library Program (DLP), who each gave a brief presentation about their area of specialization, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Stephen Davison:

Stephen began by recognizing the various roles that our department has played in providing service to the DLP, including guidance on metadata standards and application as well as the actual creation of metadata for specific collections, e.g., the AIDS posters. He envisions future collaboration to include our department providing input and expertise on:

DLCS (Digital Library Collection System) design

Metadata crosswalks

Data exchange and open-access harvesting

There are several categories of projects/collections in which DLP is involved:

Digitization of UCLA Library materials (e.g. Minasian Collection, AIDS posters)

Digitization of non-Library materials (working with faculty/academic departments)

Working with different physical media:

Audio

Images

Encoded text

Video (future projects)

Lynn DeLacy:

Lynn works primarily with special collections. One of her projects is the Special Collections Digital Archive, an initiative that allows for special collections units across campus to communally store and manage their digitized materials.

Lynn has also worked/is working on the following library collections:

Arts: Archive of Popular American Music (over 6K records; over 30K pages scanned)

<http://digital.library.ucla.edu/apam/index.html>

Jean Renoir Papers (photographs pulled from the collection)

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf796nb4fk>

(new project)

YRL: LA Times photo archive <http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/dlib/lat/introduction.cfm>
This collection, the product of a grant project from the California Digital Library, recently went public in June 2007. The archive contains over 5,000 images chosen from a database of over 3 million photo negatives. A professional cataloger was hired to create the metadata for this project.

Other YRL projects:

- Bonnie Cashin Collection (viewable only in DLCS)
- Tara Colburn Collection (new project)
- Andrew West Collection (new project)

Biomed: Patent Medicine Trade Cards <http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/dlib/medicinecards/>
Cataloging and Metadata Center will be providing the metadata support for this collection of approximately 250 items.

Holly Wang:

Holly works exclusively with oral histories, specifically with the Center for Oral History Research <http://www2.library.ucla.edu/libraries/6265.cfm>

Holly is working on posting oral histories to the Center's Web site. She started with developing a process for creating master versions of the more recent interviews, which are being created in digital form only (digital audio recordings and machine-readable text transcriptions). This process will continue and be refined over the next couple years and will be standard practice for all future interviews the Center conducts. Holly has also gone back to earlier interviews, which are in print and on analog audio formats and need to be digitized. The older ones generally have Voyager catalog records; however, the more recent oral histories have not been cataloged.

Formerly, the Center had a somewhat rigorous standard for capturing oral histories. In the future, the Center will accept a variety of interviews captured by other entities. There is an online database for interviews conducted before 1999: <http://www2.library.ucla.edu/libraries/6303.cfm>. For those interviews that have transcripts available on the Internet, it would be ideal to take the URLs and add them to the existing Voyager catalog records. There is also a need to work with Cataloging and Metadata Center experts on issues of authority control for the "series-like" categories of oral histories. This brings up the general issue of maintenance between Voyager and DLP records and the need to keep them in synch.

Lisa McAulay:

Lisa is the newest member of the DLP, and her specialty is text encoding. She works primarily with UCLA faculty, and her current projects include:

Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative
<http://cdli.ucla.edu/>

Encyclopedia of Egyptology
<http://www.uee.ucla.edu/>

The Encyclopedia of Egyptology represents the ideal model for digital projects, in which DLP provides the content “tree” and other agencies provide the “value added” features for interacting with the online (i.e., software that can be licensed by the partnering agency).

Bernard Picart Project

(no Web content available to the public yet; but some content may be viewed in DLCS)

This project is a collaboration between two professors in the UCLA History Dept. and a Getty Fellow from the University of Utrecht. It is an ambitious digitization project bringing together several different language editions, the English and Dutch (owned by UCLA, in the YRL Dept. of Special Collections), the German (owned by the Huntington) and the French (owned by the Getty Research Institute). The common elements among all these editions are engravings by Bernard Picart; these are of interest as they reflect his interpretations of the different texts.

Discussion of this project included comments regarding the need for responsible digitization, and that preservation experts should always be involved (just as they would be for microfilming). For example, for this project, books were photographed in a cradle, not laid flat.

The SRLF Digital Preservation Unit does a lot of the DLP’s digitization, but any projects that require specialized equipment are outsourced. SRLF has a lot of expertise but not a lot of equipment for unusual items such as oversized materials and maps.

General questions and discussion:

Q: What is the larger “web” of collaboration for the Digital Library Program?

A: For library projects, the Digital Library Council, headed by Gary Strong. Proposals can come from everyone inside the library. The DLP works with curators regarding the selection of materials, with Digital Library Services regarding rights and licensing issues, and the Cataloging and Metadata Center regarding the creation of metadata (and would like to do more of that). The goal is to achieve consistent metadata across materials.

For projects outside the library, it really depends on the project, in which the DLP acts as coordinator with faculty, digitization specialists and metadata creators. Some projects have a strong metadata component and some don’t (e.g., departmental educational materials).

Q: What are some digitization issues for the future?

A: Working with video, which is typically compressed. What standard should we use? What kinds of access points do we want to provide for videos? There are a lot of questions to consider about working with these materials.