Innovative Tools for Access:  
Enhancing Digital Collections With Emerging Technologies

CAROLYN F. RUNYON  
AMANDA A. HURFORD  
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES & LIBRARIES  
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Revision of Web Interface

Old Interface

New Interface
Working Group Requests

Promote Collection Browsing Options

Improve Website Navigation

Provide Additional Search Options
Working Group Requests

Advertise New and Externally Funded Collections

Enhance Marketing and Branding Strategies
Survey of Other Digital Libraries

**cooliris Interactive Media Viewer**

**AddThis Social Bookmarking Tool**
2008-2009 Academic Year

- 95.35% of site visitors had 940px+ screen resolutions.
- 95.51% of site visitors accessed the DMR with java-enabled browsers.
- 100% of site visitors had some version of flash installed

Browsing Preferences
- 85%, A-Z List of Collections Titles
- 10%, Subject and/or Location
- 3%, Format
- 2%, Department

Facebook was the 7th most popular referral site. AddThis bookmarking tool may boost referrals from social networking sites.
Anecdotal Evidence

Brief Collection Descriptions on Browse Pages
Future Improvements

Latest Additions RSS Feed

Digital Media Repository Researcher Survey
Implementation of Emerging Technologies

Existing Local Customizations

New Customizations

Web 2.0 Technologies
Technologies Already in Place

“Keepers” integrated into the new interface:
- User Friendly Viewers/Players
  - Zoomify
  - Embedded Media
- Specialized Content: Google Maps
- Local PPT Generator
User Friendly Viewers/Players

- CONTENTdm out of the box
  - Images: Toolbars not easy to zoom and pan
  - Audio/Video: “Access this item” involves an extra step to access multimedia files

- Improvements Needed = Local Customizations
User Friendly Viewers/Players

- **Zoomify**
  - Easy access button in the toolbar
  - View, zoom, and pan efficiently
  - Ability to save and print zoomed portion
  - Original viewer still intact
Zoomify Example

Ostland Atlas Map 04: Geological Map

Ostland Atlas and Statistical Report Collection
User Friendly Viewers/Players

- Embedded Media Players
  - Allowing audio and video to play in-line
  - No confusing links to follow
  - Media and transcript available simultaneously
Embedded Player Example: Audio

McKeighen, Charlie (Audio Interview and Transcript)

Middletown Oral Histories Collection

Are you having a problem playing the media above? Click here to play it in an external player.

Open PDF in new window | Go to PDF description

This interview has been edited for content. The transcript differs from the audio in some sections.

Vander Hill: Charlie, I want to thank you for being willing to participate in our project, and I’d like to begin with a standard question that I’ve asked everybody in these interviews, and that is if you’d tell me a little bit about how you and your family happened to come to Muncie, Indiana.

McKeighen: First, I am glad to be a part of it. I usually say my family moved to Muncie sometime between August 21, 1921 and July 23, 1923, but I don’t know when we came to Muncie. I was born in Lawrenceville, Illinois, but I’ve lived here all my life—my dad worked for Remington’s, Owasco, Illinois—
Embedded Player Example: Video

Alverson, William David (Video Interview and Transcript)

376th Heavy Bombardment Group Oral Histories Collection

Alverson: No, plenty to eat. That's right, just not a lot of variety. Oh, we had quite a bit, you know, we raised quite a bit of stuff, and so on and so forth. We didn't suffer, except for lack of money.

Hobbs: What were you doing when you heard that Pearl Harbor had been attacked?

Alverson: I don't remember for sure at all. I know— I know I was at home. It happened, I expect I went to church after that. I know my folks did. I might not have, but oh, yeah. That was a great blow.

[2:00]

And I decided that that I must go. You know, I didn't have to. We were farming on a large scale at that time for that day, and I was the only help my father had left except what he could hire. When he said was what I wanted to do the war.
Specialized Content: Google Maps

Google Maps
- Using My Maps function
- In collaboration with University Libraries’ GIS Specialist
- Gives a collection spatial context
- Smarter than simple browsing
- New ways to enter the collection

University Libraries Use Google’s My Maps to Create Interactive Maps for the Sanborn Map Collection of Muncie in the Digital Media Repository
Google Maps Example

Muncie, Ind. Sanborn Map, 1911, Sheet 54

Muncie Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps
Local PPT Generator

- No plug in needed
- Mac compatible
- Open XML based
- Allows authentication for licensed images
- Lets users choose metadata fields to import like CDM version
- Link valid for 24 hours
Web 2.0 Technologies

- AddThis Social Bookmarking Tool
- cooliris 3D Wall
- Flickr Photostream

Digital Media Repository Blog

Ball State University: Education Redefined
A Project of the University Libraries

Friends Memorial Church Collection

When Mr. J. Marchant of Memorial Church celebrated their centennial in 2004 by removing the contents of a time capsule placed in the cornerstone of their building in 1908, they found an unpleasant surprise. Water had seeped in through a hole in the metal container holding the historical objects carefully placed there a hundred years before. Many of the items were damaged, mildewed, or moldy. Some seemed beyond repair or salvage.

Mrs. Pat Barnett and other members of the congregation contacted John Straw in the University Libraries’ Archives and Special Collections to see what might be done to preserve these valuable relics of the church’s past. John Straw and Karen L. Reed, Archivist for Manuscript Collections, paid a visit to inspect the items and provide professional advice.

The result was a collaboration project between the Friends Memorial Church and the University Libraries to digitize the contents of the time capsule and make them available in the Digital Media Repository.
Metadata in Collaboration

Metadata Repurposing
Revising Practices for Access
Enhancing Existing Records
Repurposing Metadata

**Second Life Exhibits**
- Middletown Studies Collection and Archives
- Ball State University Museum of Art Gallery

**Microsoft Surface Applications**
- Ball State University Campus Photographs
- Charles E. Bracker Orchid Photographs
Repurposing Metadata

Mobile DMR
Revising Practices for Access

- Establishment of the Digital Access Management Task Force
- Collaborating to set metadata standards
- Evaluating methods from several points of view
  - Users/Researchers
  - Data Portals
  - Archivists
  - Metadata Librarians
- Establishment of Cardinal Core local metadata standards
Enhancing Existing Records

- Making the most of faceted search with nickname standardization
- Creating a preferred order of fields
- Subject conformity
- Name conformity
- Addition of fields
- Planning for new collections - Still Images Database
  - Promotes a collaborative and efficient workflow
Implementation of Emerging Tech and Improved Interface = Collaboration

- Archivists
- Metadata & Digital Initiatives Librarians
- Library & Information Technology
  - CONTENTdm Administrator
  - Web Developer
  - Programmers
- GIS Specialist
- Public Service Librarians
- University Teleplex
- Institute for Digital Intermedia Arts and Animation
- University Computing Services
- Department of Computer Science
Contact Us

- Digital Media Repository available from http://libx.bsu.edu/
- Amanda Hurford aahurford@bsu.edu
- Carolyn Runyon cfrunyon@bsu.edu