Getting Unstuck

A Collaborative Approach to Getting Started with Digital Preservation

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Five Colleges of Ohio

Denison University
Kenyon College
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- Formed in 1995 with libraries being the initial catalyst for collaboration
- Other Library Initiatives:
  - Information Literacy
  - Government Documents
  - Cooperative Collection Development
  - Shared Technical Services
  - Digital Initiatives: Digitization & Digital Scholarship
- A consortium within a consortium (OhioLINK)
Digital Collections -> Scholarship & Pedagogy

Mellon-Funded Digital Initiatives

Mapping the Martyrs

Mapping the Martyrs is designed as a resource for the study of persecution and martyrdom in the early centuries of Christianity. In the past, a common belief was that early Christians were subjected to constant persecution. More recently, a newly opposite approach has gained notoriety in which the reality of martyrdom has been deemphasized or even denied outright. Both of these approaches distort our picture of early Christianity.

The goal of this site is to gather and present the data concerning incidents of persecution and martyrdom. The map provides a visual of the spatial distribution of martyr sites according to the traditions. The timeline along the bottom of the screen shows the chronological relationship between the various martyr accounts (in black) and highlights particular periods of persecution (in orange).

Clicking on a round icon will bring up a particular entry. Each entry is designed to provide basic information about the tradition of a martyr or group of martyrs. Including the traditional date of death, the means of death, the historical context, a summary of the martyrdom account(s), commentary on the significance of the martyr(s) within the Christian tradition, and a brief bibliography.

Funded by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to the Five Colleges of Ohio (Digitization Projects for Projects in Pedagogy and Scholarship, 2012.)

The map on this site is provided by theoggled project and licensed under a Creative Commons CC BY 3.0 license.
Digital Collections -> Scholarship & Pedagogy
Mellon-Funded Digital Initiatives

- Observations:
  - Faculty-initiated projects more likely to see use than library-initiated projects
  - Sustainability of digital projects is uncertain
  - Not all digital projects worth preserving indefinitely
    - But which ones are, and how?
OH5 Digital Preservation Task Force
Where We Were
(standing on the shoulders of POWRR)

- Recognition that digital preservation is important, but few dedicated resources to implement any sustainable initiatives
- Mixed bag of knowledge and expertise in digital preservation
- Preservation efforts largely limited to backup
- Few consortial conversations around preservation
“For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.”

— Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
Getting Unstuck

- Shared Principles:
  - We can learn faster together.
  - We can learn through experimentation.
  - We can make minimal upfront investments and re-evaluate as we go.
  - We can refine practices through collaborative learning and experimentation.
Megan Mitchell

The Five Colleges of Ohio Digital Preservation Task Force
Phase I - Fall 2015

Task force charged in October

- Describe DP plans/progress at each institution
- Investigate DP initiatives at other liberal arts colleges
- Investigate advantages/disadvantages of a shared system
- Identify technical/institutional barriers to collaborating on DP
- Identify individuals able/willing to commit to DP at each institution
How We Work Together

- Basecamp
- Virtual Meetings
- In-Person Workshops
Information Gathering

- Articles, reports, etc.
- Local digital inventories
- Calls to consultants
- Outreach to similar institutions/consortia
- Queries to Vendors - http://bit.ly/2mE5Qlp
Preservation 101 - January 2016

Managing Digital Content Over Time
Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Program (DPOE) Workshop
with Jillian Carney at Ohio Wesleyan University

● Back to basics curriculum
  ○ Identify, select, store, protect, manage, provide
● Acquiring a shared vocabulary
● First face-to-face meeting of Task Force
Task Force Retreat - March 2016

Meg Miner at Oberlin College

- Range of DP activities & tools
- Community values & needs
- Policy frameworks
- Hands-on tool time
- Advocacy & communication
Report to the Directors - What We Learned

● Status of each institution - where we are and who’s involved
● Range of DP solutions at other LACs
● Barriers to collaboration
  ○ Particular local needs (e.g. Archives at Denison and Oberlin)
  ○ IT infrastructures
● There are no consortia sharing a single soup-to-nuts DP system
  ○ Vendor Concerns:
    ■ Performance
    ■ Privacy
    ■ Dashboard confusion
    ■ Limitations of shared workflow
Report to the Directors - Potential Approaches

All-in-one for Everyone

Each institution gets an instance of same all-in-one system

Hybrid Model

- Digital archival storage for library collections (surrogates)
- Full digital preservation system for archives collections (born digital)

No consortial action

Each institution goes it alone
Phase II - Spring 2016

New charge:

- Identify tool for consortial use
- Come up with a budget
- Forge ahead
Tool Demos and Reviews

Tools:
● ArchivesDirect
● Preservica
● APTrust
● DuraCloud Enterprise Plus
● MetaArchive
● bepress (Amazon s3)

Vendor Comparisons:
● http://bit.ly/2mE5Qlp
Digging in to DuraCloud & Archivematica
Catie Newton

Slow and Steady Progress...
Delays: Security Concerns

- Is it the company's practice to keep a log of activity/note unusual activity?
- What security agreements does the company keep with host providers (AWS, SDSC)?
- What responsibility does DuraCloud have to report unusual activity to the consortium and what does that look like?
- Has the company done a 3rd party security audit?
- What kind of insurance could they provide in the case of data loss?
Delays: Contract Negotiations

- Able to leverage consortial procurement expert to make sure each school’s interests were represented
- Customized language to account for multiple needs and multiple users
- Added more specific language about training and support obligations
- Updated language about support for transfer out of DuraCloud
Lessons from Experimentation

- Disagreement about organization of “spaces” in DuraCloud
- Local organization of content is important!
- Consistent use of file naming conventions is also important!
- Sometimes you need to take a step back and prepare your content locally before you can effectively implement the use of a digital preservation tool
Processing Workflows: Fun with Archivematica
Competing Obligations
Separate...

- Slow, but steady ingest
- Purchasing RAID arrays
- Some will be using Archivematica to process and package files
- Some schools will be adding Preservica for born digital archival materials
- One school is diverging a bit
...but Together

- Role of the task force is shifting toward mutual support and learning
- We’ll be focusing on drafting documentation
- Bringing in an expert to help us draft a joint digital preservation policy for the 5 Colleges
Questions?

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