

January 9, 2009

Ad Hoc Digital Library Services Task Force

Goal:

Test the feasibility and assess the effectiveness of advancing the UC Libraries' digital library agenda on a system wide level and beyond via partnerships and collaborations. Deliver a report to SOPAG that summarizes findings and recommends opportunities and processes for advancing the digital library agenda

Charge:

- Explore the notion and develop a broad, overarching definition of the "UC Digital Collection" and its relationship to current/traditional collections.
 - Define the "UC Digital Collection" and articulate its benefits. How might/will this collection be used? How does it relate to existing services like Next Generation Melvyl and the Online Archive of California? Is it an end-user searchable collection or a metadata aggregation that is used to send appropriate metadata to other discovery sites (e.g., Next Generation Melvyl, OAC, Google, etc.)?
 - Identify and inventory existing UC digital collections that may provide the foundation for a broader, more diverse "UC Digital Collection."
 - Consider the impact and relationship of "acquired" digital library content.
 - Explore, document, and analyze opportunities for the creation of a "UC Digital Collection. "
- Identify and recommend on the systemwide technical infrastructure that would be needed to create, maintain, manage and support the creation and discovery of the "UC Digital Collection."
 - Identify campus needs and requirements for digital asset management.
 - Identify options and recommend a systemwide framework for the integration of campus and CDL infrastructures.
 - Identify the workflows, procedures, and policies that would be required to accomplish the above.

- Establish digital collaboration “conversations” and recommend collaboration pilot projects.
 - Identify projects that advance the digital library agenda and that could provide efficiencies for the system or individual campuses.
 - Foster partnerships among libraries within and without UC with the goals of demonstrating the benefits of collaboration and expose best practices for doing so.
 - Work and consult with other ACGs as appropriate, and recommend inter-ACG communication processes and procedures that would help ensure ongoing interdisciplinary input and participation in the activities above and the digital library agenda in general.
 - Identify for SOPAG aspects/issues related to digital library asset management, including public access, lifecycle management, curation, etc.
- Develop a strategy for creating a “Second Phase” work plan to:
 - Articulate a collection development policy for identifying and prioritizing digital collection activities/projects with an emphasis on developing a rational, cohesive, whole collection that is closely integrated with current collections and services.
 - Develop an inventory of system wide staff expertise and equipment relevant to the digital library agenda.
 - Develop an inventory of the digital library services provided at UC campus libraries.
 - Explore, document, and analyze the start-up and ongoing costs for the creation of the “UC Digital Collection. “
 - Identify barriers to defining and creating the “UC Digital Collection” and recommend strategies, and associated costs, for overcoming obstacles.

Membership

Eight to ten members to be selected by SOPAG, in consultation with the University Librarians, based on expertise in areas including local digital library development,

collections/special collections/manuscripts, integrated technical services, and innovative user services, as well as small/large campus representation.

Members

Diane Bisom (UCR, SOPAG)- CHAIR
Lynne Grigsby (UCB)
Rosalie Lack (CDL)
Emily Lin (UCM)
Brad Eden [UCSB]
Gordon Theil (UCLA)
Zheng "John" Wang (UCLA),
Robin Chandler (UCSD)
Kathleen Cameron (UCSF)
Robin Dale (UCSC)
Colby Riggs (UCI)

Reporting

The Ad Hoc TF will provide brief monthly updates to SOPAG, a draft report due September 4, 2009, and a final report due December 4, 2009.

Background

The California Digital Library hosted a Digital Library Collaboration Workshop on March 14, 2008 at UC Irvine. The idea of the workshop was promoted by CDL's Digital Library Services Advisory Group (DLSAG) as one of the responses to the findings of the 2006 report, *Communication and Collaboration: Priorities and Perspectives on the UC Libraries-CDL Partnership*. Participants from each campus attended the workshop, which included presentations and discussions such as:

1. *Where are the opportunities for collaboration in the digital library arena?*
2. *What would you need to accomplish a digital project?*
3. *Name 3 concrete things you/we can do now*

The final report of the March 14, 2008 Digital Library Collaboration Workshop identified a wide range of possible action areas falling into three (3) main categories:

1. *Explore the notion of a UC Digital Collection*
 - a. *Commitment to aggregated collections, not just UC-owned collections*
 - b. *Discovery and access a first step; supports a common user experience*

- c. *Consider thinking like a publisher*
 - i. *Emphasize prioritization for UC as a publisher of content*
 - ii. *Look for the unique collections*
- d. *Leverages our investments*
- e. *Provides interim aggregation possibilities (e.g., easier to expose all UC collections for OAI harvesting rather than one at a time as was done for Aquifer and the Next Generation Melvyl Pilot using WorldCat Local)*
- f. *Respond to call to maximize our unique content*
- g. *Branding and marketing opportunities*

2. *Continue digital collaboration “conversations”*

- a. *Where should it happen?*
 - i. *Digital Library Services Advisory Group (DLSAG is a CDL committee)*
 - ii. *SOPAG and ACGs: Develop recommendations to bring to SOPAG*
 - iii. *Engage this group after the workshop*
- b. *Aim to spread information more broadly than usual*
- c. *Start with documenting what we already know (in a project registry), don't rehash the same things*
- d. *Add a sign-off process and action commitments (analyze gaps, make recommendations, be bold!)*

3. *Launch collaboration pilots, with evaluations in 6 months*

Desired centers of expertise:

- *METS tools and training*
- *Staff development (conceptual and deep expertise)*
- *Formats*

Following the workshop, CDL established a Digital Library Collaboration Wiki and Project Registry and populated them with information about the workshop and survey responses that were collected prior to the workshop.

Subsequent feedback and discussion at SOPAG confirmed continued interest in pursuing these aims, but concerns were raised regarding the method UC should use to advance this agenda, given the interdisciplinary nature of the digital library activities and the different digital library management structures in place at each campus. In light of these concerns, with the approval of the University Librarians, SOPAG is appointing a short-term Task Force as a pilot with the goal of testing the feasibility and assessing the effectiveness of advancing the digital library agenda on a system wide level.

Relevant documents and websites

- Communication and Collaboration: Priorities and Perspectives on the UC Libraries-CDL Partnership: *Findings and Recommendations from the CDL Spring 2006 Assessment Project*
http://www.cdlib.org/inside/assess/evaluation_activities/docs/2007/cdl_spring2006.pdf
- Digital Library Collaboration Workshop -- *March 14, 2008 -- UC, Irvine Student Center* -- Survey of UC San Diego Library Campus *CAMP* Activities
- Digital Library Collaboration Workshop Final Report, March 14, 2008
- Digital Library Collaboration Wiki
- Digital Project Registry