

To: Council of University Librarians, via Ginny Steel, CoUL Chair

From: SOPAG, via Diane Bisom, SOPAG Chair

Date: October 6, 2011

Re: SOPAG Acceptance of the DLSTF2 Final Report

SOPAG is pleased to distribute the Final Report of the Digital Library Services Task Force 2 (DLSTF2). Prior to this distribution, SOPAG shared the DLSTF2 Final Report with the California Digital Library (CDL) and requested they draft a document describing existing and developing CDL services and projects that could meet some of the needs identified by the Task Force.

The following documents are attached and have been posted to the SOPAG web site:¹

DLSTF2 Final Report

DLSTF2 Final Report: CDL Suggestions and Opportunities Pt. 1

DLSTF2 Final Report: CDL Suggestions and Opportunities Pt. 2

DLSTF2 Response to CDL

SOPAG has reviewed the DLSTF2 Final Report in conjunction with the DLSTF1 Final Report and the Next Generation Technical Services (Phase 2) New Modes Final Report. Taken together, these reports provide the foundational information necessary to establish a unified UC Digital Collection, a vision shared and supported by SOPAG. In addition to transmitting the DLSTF2 Final Report to the Council of University Librarians, SOPAG will also:

- Distribute the DLSTF2 Final Report and CDL Suggestions and Opportunities documents to the ACGs with invitation for feedback.
- Forward the DLSTF2 Final Report and CDL Suggestions and Opportunities documents to the NGTS Management Team and request they charge an NGTS Power of Three group (POT 1) with implementing the actions outlined below.
- Formally accept the DLSTF2 Final Report and discharge the DLSTF2.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

The priority actions for the UC Digital Collection are informed by principles surfaced in the recent work of several groups, including DLSTF1 and 2, NGTS, and SOPAG's observations of current campus needs. These principles broadly include: take advantage of existing UC Libraries' technologies, whenever possible, so as to encourage efficiency and collaboration; quickly enable discovery of UC's existing collections while developing an ongoing means of generating and stewarding future resources; and provide a flexible approach that promotes multi-campus participation. SOPAG now recommends the UC Libraries proceed with the creation of a UC Digital Collection by taking the following priority actions:

¹ All documents referenced in this memo available at: <http://libraries.universityofcalifornia.edu/sopag/>

1. Select and implement a systemwide Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) for those UC campus libraries that do not yet have one.
2. Select and implement a discovery and display system capable of showcasing the richness of the UC Digital Collection.
3. Aggregate extant UC Library digital assets, from all campuses, into a UC Digital Collection for purposes of discovery and display.
4. Aggregate extant UC Library digital assets, from all campuses, into the Merritt Repository for purposes of long term preservation.
5. Establish a UC Library Digital Collection Systemwide Service designed to support and manage the resources and processes relative to the UC Digital Collection.

NEXT STEPS

SOPAG will ask the Next Generation Technical Services Management Team to charge the Power of Three 1 (POT1) with implementing the above priority actions. Specifically, we recommend that POT1 continue the work completed by DLSTF2 and begin action on the following tasks:

1. Identify the critical requirements for a systemwide DAMS that meets the needs of those UC campus libraries that do not yet have one; conduct an assessment of DAMS options and determine which option will best meet the critical requirements; recommend a particular technology stack and submit funding request to NGTS Management Team.
2. Identify discovery and display system options; determine which will best meet the needs of the UC Digital collections; recommend a system and implementation strategy.
3. Develop an aggregation strategy that ensures existing UC digital assets will be available for discovery and display as part of the UC Digital Collection.
4. Develop and implement a strategy for ingesting extant UC library digital assets into the UC3 Merritt repository service for purposes of long-term preservation.
5. Propose a structure for a UC Library Digital Collection Systemwide Service Group designed to support and manage the resources and processes relative to the UC Digital Collection, including rights management.

We note that in their memo to UC Libraries staff regarding the NGTS2 Phase 2 Final Reports, the Council of University Librarians assigned high priority to several New Modes Task Group recommendations and requested SOPAG consider three of them (NM3, NM4, and NM5) as a part of next steps for DLSTF2; the three New Mode recommendations are:

- NM3. Systematically and efficiently digitize high-use, high-priority collections for access to UC primary resources. (Currently assigned to CDC subgroup for identification of high-priority collections.)
- NM4. Implement a coordinated, systemwide solution for creating and managing digital objects.
- NM5. Using the University of California Curation Center (UC3) services as the foundation, develop and implement infrastructure to manage the unique digital assets created or purchased by the UC system.

Many aspects of NM3, NM4, and NM5 are directly addressed in our recommended Priority Actions and Next Steps; we are confident that as progress is made within the NGTS POT 1 structure, attention will be given to a more detailed examination of how to effectively continue moving the New Modes recommendations forward in a timely fashion.

Finally, SOPAG recommends that the work and decisions made to carry out the above priority actions adhere to the principles, goals, and central concepts articulated by both NGTS and the UC Discovery Systems and Services, included below.

NEXT GENERATION TECHNICAL SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION CONCEPTS

The concepts central to the UC Next Generation Technical Services implementation are:

- Transformation is an evolving, phased process, with occasional big leaps.
- Cost savings and cost avoidance are strategic.
- The current focus is on implementation and action vs. more study.
- Quick wins early and often are essential.
- Continuous vetting happens throughout the process and at all levels (upward, lateral, etc.) to keep all informed and to minimize "surprises".
- Communication plans provide timely and consistent messaging.
- Draw members from existing ACGs and other groups, and leverage local experts for system-wide benefit.
- Continuously assess, revise, and adjust the NGTS implementation framework.

UC DISCOVERY SYSTEMS AND SERVICES PRINCIPLES

The principles guiding UC Libraries' decisions about the investment of resources in discovery systems, tools, and services are:

1. As feasible and appropriate, UC's content will be included in and exposed via network-level content aggregation and discovery environments.
2. External network level discovery systems and services that meet the needs of our user communities will take precedence over locally built systems when quality options exist.
3. Local discovery systems and services will be built when the needs of our user communities, or the discovery and display requirements of a content type, cannot be met through existing or anticipated network-level discovery systems and services.

UC DISCOVERY SYSTEMS AND SERVICES GOALS

The foundational goals supporting UC Libraries' actions and decision-making about information discovery systems and services, local and network level content aggregation systems, and relationships with content vendors are:

1. Reduce "information silos" by increasing the amount of aggregated content accessible through Web-scale discovery services and other network level aggregations.
2. Aggregate and expose the broadest spectrum of content types to discovery systems: e.g., digital resources, datasets, Web archives, physical artifacts, or special collections.
3. Aggregate UC content in Melvyl.
4. Embed information discovery tools within faculty and student academic workflows.
5. Create metadata records that support and enhance information discovery, navigation, and durable linking for multiple content types.

6. Advocate for open metadata within the broader information marketplace.
7. Encourage licensed content vendors to expose their content and record sets to network-level discovery systems.
8. Encourage licensed content vendors to adopt trusted authentication protocols stressing federated identity management and privacy protection, e.g., Shibboleth.
9. Ensure UC institutional branding is available on content contributed, selected, or licensed by the University of California.