Letter from the President

Dear ENY/ACRL Members,

What an exciting summer! I’m not just referring to the Olympics, but to the activities of our organization. The Annual Conference held on May 19 at Syracuse University was both informative and invigorating. The success of this conference was due to the team effort of the Program Planning and Local Arrangements Committees. Each committee member contributed in one way or another. There was never a shortage of ideas or eager volunteers!

The ENY/ACRL Board met on August 4 and welcomed new members: Suzanne Turner, Vice President/President Elect and Program Chair; Yu-Hui Chen, Treasurer; and Bill Walker, Government Relations Chair. Suzanne and the Program Planning Committee met in June to begin planning the Brown Bag Lunches and the next conference. The theme for the October lunches is “Reinventing Library Service: Innovations @ Your Library.” The Brown Bag Lunches are a wonderful way to get away from the library for a couple of hours to meet and talk with colleagues in your region. You can find registration information and more details on the ENY/ACRL web site. And be sure to reserve May 18, 2009 -- the date of our next conference to be held at Hudson Valley Community College.

In the not too distant future, Past President Fran Apollo will be seeking members to run for positions on the ENY/ACRL Board. Please consider her request. Also remember that the Communications, Membership, Government Relations, and Program Planning Committees always welcome new members. If you are new to the profession, you will discover that ENY/ACRL is a way to become professionally active and it’s a great place to network. If you are a seasoned librarian, you have the opportunity to contribute back to the profession, to mentor, and to add to your knowledge and experience. My participation in ENY/ACRL has convinced me that there is nothing a group of librarians can not accomplish together! Get involved and discover that for yourself!

On a personal note, Jim and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary in June with a trip to Paris and visits to Giverny and Strasbourg. The flowers in Monet’s gardens were in full bloom as were the flowers in Strasbourg. The picture of me was taken in Strasbourg. What a summer!

Susan Zappen, ENY/ACRL President

GEM cylinder player, Belfer Audio Cylinder Digitization Project, Syracuse University

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Call for Board Members

Dear Friends,

I can see the end of my three-year service commitment from here. Gosh the time has gone by quickly. Please consider putting your name forward, or nominating a colleague for the 3 positions open this year (2009): Secretary, Communications Chair, and Program Planning/Vice President.

It is exciting and satisfying work. You may learn or polish a skill, you’ll get to meet more of our regional colleagues, and you’ll have some fun traveling to ALA (if you shoot for the stars and take on the job of Program Chair).

So, this is the time. Think seriously about stepping up to do more for our wonderful organization. Contact a colleague who has the skills to do one of these jobs. Reach, stretch, nudge, please…I know the talent is out there.

Contact anyone who is currently on the Board or a Past President to learn more about the responsibilities directly.

The elections will take place in the Spring 2009 semester; academic years slip by, so act now. Call me, friends, if you have any suggestions or questions. You’ll “hear” more from me as we go through time.

For additional information about the duties of the positions, see the description in the ENY/ACRL Officers’ Handbook:

- Secretary: http://www.enyacrl.org/officers_handbook.php#Secretary
- Communications Chair: http://www.enyacrl.org/officers_handbook.php#Treasurer
- Program Planning/Vice President: http://www.enyacrl.org/officers_handbook.php#VicePresident

Francine M. Apollo
Past President
Reference and Instruction Librarian
SUNY Cobleskill

ENY/ACRL Spring Conference, 2008

Susan Zappen
Associate College Librarian for Collections
Lucy Scribner Library
Skidmore College

SPRING CONFERENCE 2008 NOTES

The Eastern New York ACRL Chapter held its Spring Conference, “OPAC: Dead, Alive or Revived?” at Syracuse University on May 19, 2008. R. David Lankes, Director of the Information Institute of Syracuse University and Associate Professor in Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies was the Keynote Speaker. Lankes energized and inspired conference attendees with his presentation, “Participatory Librarianship and Radical Change Agents.” He reminded his audience that libraries are in the knowing and thinking business not the books and things business. Libraries need to facilitate knowledge and conversations of learning in our communities. Catalogs are inventory systems. They are not dead, but they are not a social process. Knowledge is about connections and relationships not about things. We need to ask ourselves: “What is our library’s vision of the future and where does it come from? How will this help people learn stuff? How will this help people connect to stuff? What are the signs of a good library?” Lankes encouraged us to become holistic, radical change agents. We don’t know what will happen tomorrow so we get to make it up!

“PennTags: Applications for Social Bookmarking in an Academic Library” was presented by Laurie Allen, Chair of the Penn Tags Development Team at the University of Pennsylvania and Social Sciences Data Services Librarian at the Van Pelt Library. PennTags, a social bookmarking tool developed by a team of University of Pennsylvania librarians and information technology staff, was inspired by the del.icio.us social bookmarking web site and a Penn professor’s desire to facilitate an annotated bibliography project for his students. PennTags allows members of the Penn academic community to annotate library

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OPAC: Dead, Alive, or Revived?
Captured Moments, History Illustrated
Hudson River Valley Heritage partners with cultural institutions to create a digital record of life in the Hudson Valley

Helene Tieger
Reference Librarian/College Archivist
Stevenson Library
Bard College

A few years ago, pregnant with my third child, the usually infectious enthusiasm of my Director did little to reassure me as I considered the task ahead. I was going to undertake a digital project for the Archives at Bard College.

“It will be so cool!” he said. “We’ll be able put up all kinds of photographs—campus architecture, people, events. We have thousands of photographs taken over the decades... this will be a great way to tell the story of the college. This is already what we do, we can just reach more people!”

I sighed with a mixture of resignation, exhaustion, and exasperation (particularly at his liberal use of the pronoun “we”). Of course he was right, but embracing what would be, for me, a steep learning curve was about as welcome as the leg cramps that then nightly accompanied my physical condition. Still, it was certainly time to move forward, and I knew I would have lots of help.

Beginning in October 2005 and continuing through March of 2007, Southeastern New York Library Resources Council (SENYLRC), offered a series of grant sponsored, full day workshops intended to train new contributors to SENYLRC’s existing digital initiative, Hudson River Valley Heritage (HRVH). Essential topics included, among others: management of digital projects, copyright issues, scanning and Photoshop techniques, instruction in the use of CONTENTdm software, and metadata for digitization and preservation (HRVH metadata elements are based on the Dublin Core Metadata initiative). During this period, I learned enough to add a few dozen items to HRVH, including photographs and manuscript letters from our Bard Family Papers collection. Just as importantly, I built relationships with other participants and SENYLRC staff that have sustained our involvement with the project.

The staff at SENYLRC has now condensed the program into four full day sessions offered twice each year as a prerequisite for institutions to join and contribute to Hudson River Valley Heritage.

Tessa Killian, Manager of Technology and Administrative Services at SENYLRC, can help any institution get started, and

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News from the Editors

Tammy Gobert and Pat Hults
Rensselaer Research Libraries
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

We are very excited about this fall’s theme issue focused on digital projects. The response was enthusiastic and the articles should prove helpful and enlightening. We’d like to build on the special theme idea for the next issue.

Call for Articles
The theme of our next newsletter will be “The Library as Place.” We are soliciting articles that address a variety of interrelated topics, such as building renovation or construction, interior redesign and decor, creating an information commons, and any other topics that address this theme. The deadline for submission will be Feb. 1, 2009.

Please contact Pat Hults hultsp@rpi.edu if you are interested in contributing an article.

Tammy Gobert and Pat Hults, Editors, ENY/ACRL Newsletter
Digital Collections at the Colgate University Libraries

Francesca Livermore
Catalog/Metadata/Web Librarian
Case Library
Colgate University

The Colgate University Libraries selected the hosted version of CONTENTdm in late 2007 with the intention of creating some pilot digital projects in support of the curricular and research needs of our patrons. We decided on the hosted version as we wanted to concentrate on collection building and not spend time administering the product or server. As of June 2008, we’ve created two collections of still images.

Our first collection was the Andrew J. Russell Photographs, fifty eight albumen prints taken during the American Civil War. Russell was enlisted in the Union Army in the Quartermasters Corps. His images document the supply machinery necessary to support the war in the field. The prints in this collection have been used for many years in a history class taught on the war. The digital collection went live in early February 2008. We look forward to watching how the instructor and students utilize the digital images in class this fall.

This spring saw heightened awareness on campus regarding Burma with the announcement that the university would award an honorary degree (in absentia) to Aung San Suu Kyi at the 2008 Commencement. Photographer P. Klier took the 94 albumen prints in our second collection, A Burma Album. The images showcase a different world, buildings, people, places as they were in the Burma of the late 1800s. The images give us a glimpse at the beauty and majesty of that world.

For both collections we started by creating a master TIFF (scanned at 600 ppi on a flatbed Epson Perfection V750 Pro scanner). These files are stored on a network drive with an archived copy on an external hard drive. We then used Adobe Photoshop CS3 to derive web accessible JPEG files from the TIFFs. Although CONTENTdm does offer an option of automatically deriving JPEGs from the master files, this process gives us more control over our output. We are in the process of developing a macro that will automate the creation of our derivative files for future collections.

We built our metadata using fields from the Dublin Core qualified set, and adhering to AACR2 conventions as much as possible, in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Names were matched to authorities in Library of Congress or the Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus when possible, and we added subject headings from the Library of Congress Subject Headings and the Thesaurus for Graphic Materials (which comes packaged with CONTENTdm). The Excel spreadsheet was converted to a comma delineated file and batch loaded into the client-side Acquisition Station module. We verified everything there and then uploaded the metadata with associated images to the CONTENTdm server. Once on the server, metadata and images got final approval and indexing from CONTENTdm Administration, a web-based interface. The two-step process allowed multiple people to work on a collection simultaneously at their own machines, with final approval and indexing happening asynchronously by the Metadata Librarian or project leader.

We are continuing to explore the possibilities in CONTENTdm and how we can use it to its full potential and integrate the collections we build within it to our overall collections. We are working with an
Development of Digital Collections at Hamilton

Peter MacDonald  
Library Information Systems Specialist  
Hamilton College Library

During my interview for a systems position at the Hamilton College Library in 2001, the director told me he was interested in starting a digital collection of rare materials held by the library. For the first project, he suggested a collection of Civil War enlistment forms and handwritten Civil War letters. He apparently didn’t see my eyes rolling at the thought of violating a widely accepted best practice for new digital collections projects: “start simple.” Most lists of best practices suggest that one start a digital collection by scanning a small collection of photographs. Instead, our first project would be to digitize, catalog, transcribe, encode, index and display digital objects -- some consisting of multiple image files with accompanying TEI/XML-encoded text files. Wisely, the director had already decided to outsource the digitization, transcription, and encoding (1).

This incident illustrates one of the best practices of digital collections development that we have adopted here: “don’t let best practices limit your options.” Now, please don’t get me wrong. You really must become familiar with the wealth of information in print and online regarding best practices for developing sound and sustainable digital collections (see Stephen Chapman’s book Techniques for Creating Sustainable Digital Collections and the Colorado Digitization Program’s web page “Best Practices & Publications”). But no matter how much you know about best practices, there are circumstances in which the recommended best practice will not be best for you. Let me illustrate this principle with another example from our experience here at Hamilton College.

It is often considered best practice to scan materials at high resolution, say, at 600 dpi, save the scans to files in the TIFF format, burn these files to optical discs and store them off site in order to ensure that high quality master versions are always available. This sounds reasonable, but if you follow these recommendations you may end up with some serious storage and file management problems. Optical discs are not reliable in the long-run, and it is hard to know when the data on them is at risk. Creating replacement discs is time consuming and itself prone to error. Moreover, you may someday need to rename files that are on optical media in order to keep them in sync with any derivative files that may have had their names changed during the workflow process (2). If you do, you will have to copy them from the disc onto a spinning disk, rename them and burn them to disc again.

To minimize problems like these, we now convert the TIFF master files to the JPEG2000 format (3), which results in files of high-quality but much smaller size. We burn copies of these JPEG2000 files along with any accompanying text files to DVDs (making two copies on media from different manufacturers, we prefer Taiyo Yuden™ and Verbatim™) for off-line/off-site storage – eventually we will delete the original TIFF files. We have found that these JPEG2000 files can be as much as twenty-five times smaller than the TIFF files they replace, even using a conservative compression ratio of 10:1. Consequently, burning the masters to discs is much less time-consuming now. Renaming the files on the disc will still require burning new discs, of course, but the process will proceed much faster and thus be

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Bringing Our Collections to the World
CONTENTdm and the Edwin A. Link, Jr., Digital Archives at Binghamton University

John M. Meador, Jr., Director of Libraries
Jean L. Root Green, Head of Special Collections, Preservation and University Archives
Binghamton University Libraries
Binghamton University

Binghamton University Libraries’ Director of Libraries, John M. Meador, Jr., believes that one measure of a library’s uniqueness is its collection of rare books, archives and manuscripts. To expand the reach of Binghamton University Libraries’ Special Collections, the Libraries recently purchased OCLC’s CONTENTdm Digital Collection Management Software. This software handles all media types and allows us to easily handle thousands of digital images. While we are currently uploading photographic images, we will also be uploading materials such as text, ephemera, and sound in the future. Marcy Strong, Catalogue Librarian, has been inputting the standardized descriptive metadata that will allow patrons from around the world to easily search and retrieve the information they need.

The first project using CONTENTdm is the Edwin A. Link, Jr., Digital Archives, located at http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/special/linkhome.htm. The digital archives currently consist of more than 300 photographs from the Link collections, including images of the local inventor, industrialist and pioneer, and photographs depicting aviation simulation, underwater archaeology and ocean engineering. Binghamton University Libraries’ Digital Archive will be expanded in the future to include materials from other collections in Special Collections.

The Edwin A. Link, Jr., Digital Archives project has truly been a collaborative team project bringing together members from many different departments in the Glenn G. Bartle Library with wide and varied expertise. Thanks to intensive collaborative work by Jean Green, Aynur DeRouen, Beth Kilmarx, Michal Figura, Marcy Strong and Mien Wong, a growing number of digitized Link materials are being stored and made available within OCLC’s CONTENTdm. This exciting digital initiative was shared with members of the Link Board on June 6, 2008.

Edwin A. Link (far right) lent a helping hand to Charles A. Lindbergh (second from left) in 1928 when Lindbergh and Major Tom Lamp- phier, both flying Curtis (sic) P-1 pursuit planes, were forced down in Choconut, PA, by bad weather and had engine trouble. Link and pilot Richard Bennett (third from left) flew to Choconut with spare parts for the downed planes. Lindbergh and Lamphtier stayed overnight with Father Walsh (left). Edwin A. Link Collection, Binghamton University Libraries’ Special Collections and University Archives, Binghamton University.
Digitizing at Dutchess

Tina A. Kiernan  
Electronic Resources and Digital Initiatives  
Dutchess Community College

Given that Dutchess Community College (DCC) celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, two librarians of the Francis U. and Mary F. Ritz Library embarked on an online digitization project as part of this momentous occasion. So far, we have posted over 150 photos and documents detailing the history of the community college in Dutchess County, NY. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of archived photographs still require scanning and uploading to CONTENTdm™, the digital management software system that we are using.

Working in collaboration with Southeastern New York Library Resources Council (SENYLRC), DCC is one of many organizations contributing to the Hudson River Valley Heritage (HRVH) project. The goal of HRVH is to create an online, digital repository of the history of the Hudson River Valley region. The project spans seven counties in New York and has local libraries, historical societies, colleges and organizations collectively contributing to HRVH resources. These may be viewed at http://www.hrvh.org.

Because our digital collection is a collaborative effort, the implementation has gone smoothly. Before posting any photos online, prospective contributors are required to attend four workshops offered by SENYLRC: Management Essentials and Copyright Issues, Introduction to Scanning, Metadata for Digital Projects, and Develop and Manage Digital Collections using CONTENTdm. The staff at Southeastern is extremely accessible and is willing to help with whatever questions or issues that you encounter. The staff at SENYLRC makes a site visit to load the CONTENTdm software and also to go over scanning techniques which reinforce what has been learned in the workshop. SENYLRC maintains the server on which your digital collection is stored. At Dutchess, we have been using an Epson Perfection 4490 scanner and Adobe Photoshop CS3 to make photos digitally ready for uploading to the HRVH website. Luckily we have not encountered any problems, even working with compound documents. SENYLRC extensively covers how to create metadata and which fields certain types of information should be placed in. The trickiest part of the process is changing data once the images have been uploaded to HRVH – you need to either bring them back into the acquisition station or change them online, but you MUST remember to re-index your collection. Follow the outlined steps, and it’s all a pretty simple process.

Presently our contributions range from photographs of the original land and buildings of the Bowne Tuberculosis Hospital in the late 1950s to images of Eleanor Roosevelt speaking at Dutchess Community College to dance tickets, brochures, and scenes from formal dances, classrooms, registrations, building dedications, convocations and commencements. The Dutchess collection can be found at http://www.hrvh.org/collections/inst-intro.htm?inst=29. Take a look! If you have any questions, please contact Tina Kiernan at 845-431-8637 or tina.kiernan@sunydutchess.edu.

Links to Collections Featured in the Newsletter

Bard: http://www.hrvh.org/collections/inst-intro.htm?inst=1  
http://www.bard.edu/archives
Binghamton:  
http://library.lib.binghamton.edu/special/linkhome.html
Colgate:  
http://diglib.colgate.edu/
Dutchess:  
http://www.hrvh.org/collections/inst-intro.htm?inst=29
Hamilton:  
http://elib.hamilton.edu/
Rensselaer:  
http://library.rpi.edu/
Syracuse:  
http://digilib.syr.edu/
The Capital District Library Council’s Digital Asset Management System. Although pricey, CDLC chose CONTENTdm, an OCLC product, as our standard product available to the public.

Our next step was to develop guidelines for the project. Even though there are many excellent examples to draw from, this was still very time-consuming. The project’s first field trainer, Dustin Wilder, worked hard to determine what type of guidelines we needed and then drafted them. Probably the most important (and also the most problematic) document has been the Metadata Guidelines. Thank goodness for the South-eastern New York Library Resources Council (SENYLRC), which allowed us to adopt their excellent guidelines with revisions and adaptations to meet our region’s needs. We are still discovering what those revisions and adaptations should be. It seems as though every day our current field trainer, Ilka Morse, receives

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Rensselaer Digital Collections

By Katie Dunn
Technology & Metadata Librarian
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

The Rensselaer Libraries at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute launched the Rensselaer Digital Collections this fall, in collaboration with other units at Rensselaer. Our main aim for the Rensselaer Digital Collections is to improve access to materials of intellectual, historic and cultural value to Rensselaer, encompassing image, audio, video and text formats. Initial collections include student work (dissertations and theses, final projects and studio work), technical reports authored by Rensselaer faculty, architectural images, and selected Rensselaer publications. The Rensselaer Digital Collections are managed and delivered through Ex Libris's Digitool digital asset management software.

Theses and dissertations form our largest collection. Though the library still collects a hard copy of each thesis, the Office of Graduate Education at Rensselaer has required deposit of an electronic copy of graduating students’ Ph.D. theses since December 2006 and Master’s theses since December 2007. Graduate students submit their thesis through a submission form created by the Digitool software. Students depositing their theses can choose to apply traditional copyright, with access restricted to on-campus users only, or a Creative Commons license, which makes their work viewable to anyone on the web. Regardless of the license chosen, a title page and abstract for each thesis is available for anyone to view. The submission form prompts students to enter bibliographic information about their thesis, which creates an initial Dublin Core metadata record for the document. Then, within the Digitool system, the thesis is routed to the Office of Graduate Education for approval. Once the thesis is approved, the library ingests the thesis into the repository, verifies and regularizes the Dublin Core metadata, and adds the rights metadata. After we ingest a batch of theses into the repository, we harvest their metadata records using an OAI-PMH query. We use MarcEdit (a freeware program by Terry Reese) to perform an XML conversion on the Dublin Core records to create MARC records for our Innovative catalog.

Architecture students at Rensselaer submit a culminating project as part of their degree requirements, and also complete projects in their studio classes. Most students choose to make their fifth year culminating project available through Rensselaer Digital Collections. Architecture faculty members also select exemplary projects from their studio classes to add to the Collections. Making these projects available on the web not only helps architecture students gain exposure for their work, but also aids the School of Architecture in preparing background materials for ongoing accreditation. Each architecture project is comprised of several related files, which are ordered and labeled using a METS metadata wrapper that is generated during the ingest process. Architecture projects are assigned subject terms from the Getty Art & Architecture Thesaurus.

The Rensselaer Digital Collections also hold a digitized photo-archival collection of Armenian architecture, gathered by Rensselaer’s late Professor V. Lawrence Parsegian. Because Rensselaer holds the copyright to these images, we have been able to make them accessible on the open web for research and educational use. After scanning, the original TIFF files were converted to JPEG 2000 using Photoshop. An internal JPEG 2000 viewer in Digitool allows zooming and panning of...
Syracuse University Library’s Belfer Audio Cylinder Digitization Project

Melinda Dermody, Project Director, Head of Arts and Humanities Services and Belfer Audio Archive  
Suzanne Preate, Digital Projects Coordinator/Digital Imaging Librarian  
Carole Vidali, Music Librarian  
Syracuse University Library  
Syracuse University

About the Project

Cylinders are one of the earliest forms of sound recordings, representing the period from 1877-1929. Syracuse University Library’s Belfer Archive houses 22,000 commercially-issued cylinders (including duplicate takes/recordings), the largest collection of its kind in North America.

In early Summer 2007, Syracuse University Library received a grant from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation to digitize 6,000 cylinders from our collection. We combined Library funds and a gift donation to purchase a new digital sound board as well as audio software needed to perform the complex audio digitizing work. We were aware that several years ago the University of California-Santa Barbara received a substantial Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant to digitize their cylinder collection (approximately 6,000 cylinders). In order to avoid duplication of effort, we have selected cylinders from our collection that were not already digitized by UC-Santa Barbara.

Since last summer, we have come a long way with our cylinder digitizing project. In August, we moved from the proof-of-concept phase to the beginning of production. We have digitized over 200 cylinders and in doing so, have worked through the entire digitization and metadata process. A summary of our progress toward the project goals follows.

Work flow and process

We have fully established and implemented individual responsibilities within the project. These responsibilities range from cylinder selection to digitization to metadata and catalog record creation to uploading the digitized recordings and metadata records.

Digitizing

The Audio Engineer installed and learned the new array of digital equipment and software including Pro Tools LE and CEDAR. He utilizes a modern-day cylinder player called the Archeophone, specially made in France for archival cylinder preservation and transfers. The Archeophone connects to the soundboard which feeds into the computer workstation housing the audio editing software programs. Using these resources, the Audio Engineer creates an archival master WAV file as well as a “cleaned up” MP3 listening file.

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Notes from the Field

Binghamton University Library

Binghamton University Libraries renovated and expanded our Information Commons adding more computers, printers and scanners. A walk-up computer bar, additional express printing workstations, and printer islands to improve access to student printing are part of the expansion.

Edward Corrado joined the Binghamton University Libraries in May 2008 as the Head of Library Technology. Edward was previously Systems Librarian at the College of New Jersey. He was recently elected to the Steering Committee of Ex Libris Users of North America (ELUNA) and will be giving a presentation on the use of RSS with Aleph at the International Group of Ex Libris Users in Madrid, Spain. He is co-editor of Code4Lib and gave a presentation on the Code4Lib community of practice at the International Society for Knowledge Organization in Montreal, Quebec, in August 2008.

Sandy Card gave a number of presentations at the ELUNA meeting in California this summer, one on Implementing Aleph Version 18 Authority Control Functionality and another on Global Changes in Aleph. Sandy presented on authorities as part of a preconference at the SUNYLA annual conference in June 2008.

Jill Dixon has assumed the position of Science Library Coordinator.

Martha Kelehan presented “The Reading and Reception of Marie Chauvet’s Amour, colère, et folie: A Contemporary Rare Book” at the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Authors (ACWWA) conference in Grenada in May 2008.

Martha also presented “French Colonial Perspectives of Indigenous Latin America from the William J. Haggerty Collection of French Colonial History” at SALALM 2008 in New Orleans. She also organized a panel entitled: “Indigenous Latin America in Special Collections: Codices, Chronicles, and Contemporary Rare Books.”

Alesia McManus presented “The Encore Experience: Using a Third Party Discovery Tool with Aleph and Voyager” with Tari Keller from the University of Kentucky at the annual meeting of Ex Libris Users Group of North America (ELUNA) on August 1, 2008.

Bern Mulligan, Kate Bouman, Susan Currie (Associate Director of University Libraries), Sean McKitrick (Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs), and Sharon Fellows (Assistant Director of the Engineering Design Division) wrote an article published in the July/August 2008 College and Research Libraries News entitled “Critical Research Practices at Binghamton University: A Case Study in Collaboration.”

Erin Rushton, Elizabeth Brown and Sarah Maximiek created a virtual poster on the use of Meebo at Binghamton University Libraries which was selected as one of three winners by ALA RUSA Machine Assisted Reference Association in June 2008.

Marcy Strong presented a poster session, “Cataloging Screen Cast Tutorials in Dublin Core and MARC” at the Online Visual Catalogers conference in Cleveland, Ohio, in September 2008.


Julie Wang was selected as a participant in the Institute for Chinese Studies Librarianship held in Seattle, Washington, and has been invited to visit China in October 2008 as a member of the North American Chinese Studies Librarians delegation.


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Colgate University

Debbie Krahmer has joined the library faculty at Colgate University as the new Learning Commons Librarian. Debbie received an MISLT at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Previously, Debbie worked for four years as an Assistant Professor and Digital Learning Librarian at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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Hamilton College

Carolyn Carpan is the new Director of Public Services in the Burke Library at Hamilton College. In her previous position, Carolyn was a reference librarian, Acting Head of Public Services, and Associate Professor at Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. She holds a MLS degree from Dalhousie University in her hometown of Halifax, Nova Scotia. She also has an MA in Women’s Studies from the Memorial University of Newfoundland. Carolyn is the author of several books, including Rocked by Romance: A Guide to Teen Romance Fiction (Libraries Unlimited, 2004), Jane Yolen (Chelsea House, 2005), and Sisters, Schoolgirls, and Sleuths: Girls’ Series Books in America (Scarecrow Press, 2008).

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Notes from the Field: continued from p.11

Jefferson Community College

Library Director Inger Curth has retired and Connie Holberg has accepted the position of director.

John Thomas was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Librarianship.

Mount Saint Mary College

Denise A. Garofalo, formerly Library Director at the Astor Home for Children in Rhinebeck, NY, is the new Systems and Catalog Services Librarian at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY. Denise previously held positions at the Mid-Hudson Library System, New Hampshire State Library, Warwick (RI) Public Library, Pawtucket (RI) Public Library, and the State University of New York at Albany Libraries.

Jacqueline Ryan, Access Services Librarian, and Vivian Milczarski, Collection Development and Electronic Resources Librarian, have had their proposal selected for inclusion in the forthcoming Library Instruction Cookbook to be published by ACRL in summer 2009.

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

A new version of the Rensselaer Libraries' website, RensSearch, http://library.rpi.edu, was released this summer. Featuring a clean, fresh look, it is easy for both experienced and novice users to navigate.

The Rensselaer Digital Collection http://digitool.rpi.edu:8881/R/ was also made available to the public. See "Rensselaer Digital Collections" on page 9.

Katie Dunn, Technology & Metadata Librarian, gave a guest lecture on metadata to Hemalata Iyer's Information & Knowledge Organization class at the University at Albany last spring.

Skidmore College

Andy Krzystyniak has joined Lucy Scribner Library as the new Science Librarian. Andy previously served as Interlibrary Loan/Health Sciences Librarian at The Sage Colleges. He holds an MLS and MA in History from the University at Albany.

Social Sciences/Resource Services Librarian Elizabeth Putnam and husband Michael welcomed son William Phinneas (9 lbs, 6 oz.) on August 9th.

Amanda Lord has joined us temporarily as Reference/ Instruction Librarian. Amanda graduated from The University at Albany with her MSIS in Spring 2006 and worked for both the NYS Archives and the Department of Health Dickerman Library before coming to Skidmore.


SUNY Canton

Drew Urbanek has been appointed Circulation/Public Service Librarian at SUNY Canton for a one year term, to cover the leave of Doug Welch.

Southworth Library and SUNY Canton Information Services have begun the transition to a merged service location, starting with moving the computer HelpDesk to the Library. Other IS units will follow and the relocation project is expected to be completed by January 2009.

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Jane Verostek, Associate Librarian, is expecting her second daughter in mid September and will be on maternity leave from September 2008-April 2009.

Kat Burtula, a recent graduate of SU’s School of Information Studies and former Moon Library intern, will be teaching a section of our Information Literacy Class this fall in Jane’s absence. Kat also worked with us this summer to complete an inventory of the college archives housed in the Moon Library.

Ada Cornell, a graduate student at the SU School of Information Studies, will be interning with the Moon Library during the Fall 2008 semester. Her responsibilities will include reference, instruction and cataloging.

Linda Galloway presented a paper entitled “Building a Bridge from the Research Office to the Moon” at the annual meeting of the Special Libraries Association in Seattle. Linda publishes The Research Times biweekly for the ESF Research Office as part of her librarian responsibilities. Linda is currently the President-Elect of the Upstate New York Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

The Upstate New York Science Librarians will have their annual meeting at the Moon Library on Friday, October 17.

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SUNY Potsdam

Crumb Library now houses a poster printer purchased with Student Government "SCAP" funds. Faculty must arrange for their students to attend a poster development workshop taught by Keith Compeau, and have their students present their posters publicly, which may be done in the library.

The libraries have offered on three occasions, a two day faculty development workshop titled "Developing Information Literate Graduates: Integrating Information Literacy in Academic Programs" that was attended by teams of faculty members from academic departments. More than half of our departments have now sent a team to the workshop. We will be offering it again in January and May. The workshops are facilitated by Carol Franck, our Information Literacy coordinator and by Bethany Usher, Associate Professor of Anthropology.


Jane Subramanian gave a guest lecture to the graduate Information Processing class at the Department of Information Studies, University at Albany in April 2008 and also gave a presentation titled "The Norwood Brass Firemen's Strong Beat Since the 1870's" for the New York Archives Conference Annual Conference held at SUNY Potsdam in May 2008. She also was elected to the MARAC (Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference) Arline Custer Memorial Award Committee and was the recipient of two awards, the New York Archives Conference organization’s award in recognition of outstanding professional, dedicated, and generous service to NYAC, and the SUNY Potsdam Alumni Association 2008 Distinguished Service Award.

During the past academic year, we have instituted Student Consultants to the College Libraries as a regular forum for conversations with students about library services.

The libraries have administered a pilot information literacy assessment tool the first week of fall classes in more than 50 classes reaching over 1000 students.

Work is in progress to accomplish shifting portions of the college libraries website to LibGuides, such as our subject specific web pages.

F.W. Crumb Library reopened for the start of the academic year, after being closed for summer 2008 with services being offered temporarily from the Sheard Literacy Center and the Julia E. Crane Music Library. Most of the new HVAC system of the library is up and running; window replacement will continue for part of Fall Semester.

Syracuse University

Syracuse University Library Restructure Effective July 1

The University’s Master Plan for E.S. Bird Library calls for the creation of a Learning Commons on the concourse, first, and second floors, a Research Center on the third floor, and dense stacks on the fourth and fifth floors. Earlier this year, we began to create the Learning Commons by implementing several physical and functional changes on the first floor. The Learning Commons will focus primarily on undergraduate services. Access Services, Collections Maintenance, parts of Media, and Professional Programs and General Reference will be incorporated into the Learning Commons.

We are pleased to announce that Lesley Pease will be the Director of the Learning Commons and Brandi Porter the Associate Director. Rob Capuano will report to Brandi and will supervise both Access Services and Collection Maintenance. Lesley and Brandi will work together with staff this summer and fall to create a new organizational structure within the Learning Commons. Some aspects of Media Services will move to the first floor Learning Commons and other parts to the Research Center.

The preservation and conservation departments will become one unit with Peter Verheyen as the new department head.

Marty Hanson will move to the position of Social Sciences Bibliographer.

Melinda Dermody will assume interim supervision of Social Sciences and Area Studies. She has also been invested with primary responsibility for developing the requirements for faculty services and the physical environment of the Research Center on the third floor, per the Master Plan.

Syracuse University Library receives major gift of sound recordings

Syracuse University Library’s Belfer Audio Laboratory and Archive has received a major gift from the family of the late Morton J. “Morty” Savada—the complete inventory of his Manhattan record store, Records Revisited, including more than 200,000 78-rpm records, along with a related print collection of catalogs, discographies and other materials. With the addition of the Savada Collection, Belfer’s holdings now total more than 400,000 78-rpm recordings—second in size only to...

WSMT Channel 3 News reporter Don Lark recently interviewed Sean Quimby, Director of the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) about SCRC’s current presidential campaign memorabilia exhibit. The story and video are located at http://wstm.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=186319.

Sean Quimby has had an article entitled “Developing a Tool to Manage Manuscript Collections at Syracuse University” published in the Spring 2008 Manuscript Repositories Newsletter of the Society of American Archivists.

Tasha Cooper, Bibliographer for Social Sciences & Interdisciplinary Resources; Elizabeth Wallace, Biology, Engineering & Computer Science and Geosciences Subject Specialist; and Nicolette Dobrowolski, SCRC Reference and Access Services Librarian are the newly-elected members representing the Library at the University Senate. Adina Mulliken, Social Work, Marriage & Family Therapy, Child & Family Studies and Aging Subject Specialist will continue to serve the second year of her term.

Elaine Coppola, Librarian for Government Information, Political Science and International Relations in the Social Sciences and Area Studies Department, has been named the Syracuse University Library Assembly (SULA) Distinguished Service Award winner for 2008. Elaine received her award May 13 at the Library’s annual spring staff recognition event. Suzanne Thorin, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, thanked Elaine for nearly three decades of service including work as a catalog librarian, social sciences reference bibliographer, reference desk manager, and reference head before assuming her present position in Social Sciences and Area Studies in 2005. In letters of recommendation, Elaine’s colleagues commended “her collegial nature, sense of humor, analytical ability, and overall sense of advocacy for individual librarians and the broad field of librarianship more generally.”

David Stokoe was recently awarded Professional Associate status of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC.) The only national organization in the United States dedicated to the preservation of cultural material, the AIC plays a crucial role in establishing and upholding professional standards, promoting research and publications, providing educational opportunities, and fostering the exchange of knowledge among conservators, allied professionals, and the public. David has also been published recently in the UK Society of Archivists ARC Monthly (Archives, Records Management & Conservation), February 2008, Number 222. The article is entitled “An Englishman in New York.”

Ann Skjold, Art Librarian in the Arts and Humanities Services Department, has joined the library staff of Syracuse University in Florence (SUF) from August 2008 through June 2009. Ann will work closely with the SUF Library Coordinator to develop library programs and enable SUF faculty and students to make effective use of library resources. She will also assist in developing collaborative relationships between the SUF library and other libraries in Florence. Finally, Ann will serve as a consultant to the SUF director, SU Abroad, and the SU Library.

Charlotte Hess has been appointed as the new Associate University Librarian for Collections and Scholarly Communication effective August 1. Ms. Hess has served as the Director of Library and Information Services Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis since 1989, and she has been the director of the Digital Library of the Commons at Indiana University since 2000. Prior to that, Ms Hess served in several librarian positions at Indiana since 1976.

K. Matthew Dames has joined the Syracuse University Library as Copyright & Information Policy Officer. Prior to coming to Syracuse, Kevin held the position of Founder and Principal of Seso Group, LLC, Washington, DC, an information strategy and advisory firm that specializes in helping organizations create, archive, deliver, share and protect digital assets. He is currently working on his PhD in the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University.

Donald Seibert and Mary Laverty have accepted positions as temporary librarians in Arts & Humanities, effective April and May respectively. They will assist with cataloging a portion of the music sound recording collection.

Scott Warren has been named as the new Librarian-Bibliographer for Science & Technology effective August 1. Scott comes from North Carolina State University Libraries, Raleigh, NC, where he held the position of Associate Director, Textiles Library and Engineering Services, Burlington Textiles Library.

Angela Ramnarine-Rieks, Web Administrator, has resigned from the Library and is returning to the iSchool at Syracuse University to pursue her PhD, effective August 2008.

Yuming Tung, Head of Library Information Technology, has accepted a new position as of June 1 as Director of Information Technology at SUNY
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College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

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University at Albany

Karen E.K. Brown, Preservation Librarian, University at Albany, has been elected Chair of ALCTS/PARS, serving a 3 year term starting in July 2008. Ms. Brown was also the recipient of the President’s Award and Chancellor’s Award for Excellence. The Preservation Department received a major gift from former Dean and Director Meredith Butler to establish its first endowment. In addition, Ms. Brown has been promoted to the rank of Associate Librarian and was granted tenure in July 2008.

Mary F. Casserly, Assistant Director for Collections and User Services, was promoted to the rank of Librarian on July 10, 2008.

Trudi Jacobson’s second co-edited book in the information literacy collaborations series, Using Technology to Teach Information Literacy, has just been published by Neal-Schuman. Chapters are written by librarian and faculty member teams. Trudi’s co-editor is Tom Mackey, now Associate Dean at the Center for Distance Learning, Empire State College.

Carol Jewell had an article published in Against the Grain: “Using Google in Technical Services: An Unscientific Study.” The full citation to her article is Against the Grain, Vol.20, No.2 (April 2008), pp.22-26.

Candace A. Merbler is the recipient of both the 2008 President’s Excellence Award for Professional Service and the 2008 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service. In addition, Ms. Merbler has been reappointed to a two year term on the ALA AFL-CIO/ALA Library Service to Labor Groups Division Committee.

Mary Osielski, Senior Assistant Librarian at the M. E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives at the University at Albany, SUNY, has announced her retirement after forty years of service. Her retirement will start on October 29, 2008.

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OPAC records and to build a personalized collection of information resources in PennTag accounts. Patrons can annotate and tag items with terms that are meaningful to their own research interests and ultimately develop their own system for understanding content. PennTag annotations and tags also appear in the OPAC records, adding another layer of information for others while maintaining the integrity of the MARC record. PennPage is a new application that takes advantage of PennTags and allows librarians to develop dynamic online subject guides that draw content from PennTag accounts and RSS feeds.

A presentation and demonstration entitled “Encore & Grokker: Library Tools for Enhanced Searching” was given by Kate Bouman, Grokker Task Force Chair and Binghamton University Reference Librarian, and Alesia McManus, Encore Development Team Chair and Binghamton University Head of Research, Information and Instructional Services. Bouman described Grokker, a licensed product, as a visual search tool that allows patrons to visualize their information and see what concepts are related and how they are organized. Grokker is best suited for big topics or very general topics. First year and sophomore students are the targeted audience. The goal is to move students beyond the first page of results. McManus described Encore, an Innovative Interfaces, Inc. product, as yet another option for searching the catalog at Binghamton. One of the library goals is to provide different ways to search the catalog in support of the various learning styles and preferences of students. McManus explained that Encore sits on top of the catalog and provides an enhanced search interface with faceted searching, tag clouds, and keyword based relevance ranking.

Lauren Pinsley, OCLC Services Manager at Nylink, began her presentation, “Introducing WorldCat Local,” by discussing the current environment in which academic libraries find themselves. Because of the web, user expectations have changed enormously. Students in particular have increased needs and desires when it comes to research, even though they may have poor research skills. Technological development has led students to expect interactivity, immediate results, self-service at any time and anyplace along with Web 2.0 ease of use. At the same time, they need (and sometimes want) the authoritative content and research assistance for which libraries have long been valued. OCLC has developed three WorldCat products to support today’s users: Open WorldCat, WorldCat.org, and WorldCat Local. Open WorldCat is the variant of WorldCat that is available for anyone to use on the web. WorldCat.org is “...a Web portal to the WorldCat global catalog with a supporting program of data syndication that makes your library’s collection discoverable virtually anywhere on the Web.” WorldCat Local is the library-branded version of WorldCat.org that puts the local library’s resources first in search results and interoperates with local systems. Pinsley demonstrated basic and advanced searching, limiting searching, and linking to ILLIAD in WorldCat Local. She urged those interested to visit the University of Washington’s library where WorldCat Local has created a 65% increase in borrowing within its consortium and a 70% increase in ILL requests.

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“The eXtensible Catalog Project at the University of Rochester,” was presented by Judi Briden, Digital Librarian for Public Services at the University of Rochester, River Campus libraries and member of the Melon funded eXtensible Catalog (XC) Project Team, and Jeff Susczyński, Senior Web Developer in the Digital Initiatives Unit at the University of Rochester. Briden explained that the University of Rochester hosts the project where a development team designs software that it readily shares under an open source license. XC can be used as an alternative way to “reveal collections” and can be used with or in place of an opac. It works to integrate library content into other systems such as a learning management system like Blackboard or websites. It is open source, collaborative, and can be downloaded at no cost. However, Briden cautioned that you must have the funds for updates and staff support. You are supplied with the tools to customize XC and it comes bundled with a user interface that includes a complete suite of Web 2.0 functionality. Development partners include Notre Dame (Aleph) and the University at Buffalo (Blackboard). User research partners include Cornell, Yale, and Ohio State University. They are currently looking for an ANGEL partner. Susczyński, speaking about the XC Network, listed the many technologies and protocols that are used, including Open Archives Initiative, PHP, Java, LDAP, Evergreen, Blackboard, SAKAL, and Drupal. He reiterated the need for funds to cover staff support of XC. He explained that XC helps define new roles for libraries. It enables librarian participation in learning management software environments. It can be used to aid researchers by uncovering and addressing evolving user needs. Briden ended the session by sharing that libraries with XC have vision. They use new metadata standards to improve access, bring metadata into web environments, develop customized solutions, share code, and understand the needs of users in an ongoing fashion.

Conference Note Takers: Barbara Grimes, Pat Markley, Joyce Rambo, Christine Rudecoff, and Kari Zhe-Heimerman.
images. This has worked very well, allowing us greater freedom to portray interesting aspects of college and community history for which we haven't had sufficient visual documentation. The donors are credited in the collection descriptions and metadata, the archives becomes a point of meaningful contact for alumni/ae and the surrounding community, and to date all parties have been satisfied with the arrangement.

Our collections have been used for teaching purposes, most recently to inspire students for a class entitled “Writing the Hudson.” Campus offices (i.e. Publications and the Alumni/ae Office) also make frequent use of individual images for reference or publication. We have included all of Bard's HRVH collections on our archives website, branded accordingly, and thus our digital efforts reach a variety of audiences.

To ensure that these digital collections remain available, SENYLRC maintains a server devoted to the HRVH project, comprised of access jpeg images. We maintain tiff and jpeg files on an external hard drive in my office, and eventually (perhaps by the time you read this) all of these will be backed up onto archival CDs or DVDs. For additional security as well as inter-departmental access, conversations are underway with visual resources staff on campus to load all of our scanned images, including hundreds of scanned images currently without metadata, onto Bard’s implementation of the Madison Digital Image Database, or MDID. But this, I suspect, is the stuff of another article.

Today, HRVH boasts several awards, and its 30 contributors include academic and public libraries, historical societies, museums, and other cultural organizations. This past year HRVH, in collaboration with Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz, launched an extraordinary exhibit entitled “The Missing Chapter: Untold Stories of African Americans in the Hudson Valley,” which has provided essential primary source materials to teachers, students, genealogists, and scholars alike. HRVH has firmly established itself as a regional leader among institutions engaged in digital initiatives.

For my part, the cause of those early leg cramps is now a dimpled toddler who keeps up with his big brothers and easily outruns his mother. And, lo! Bard College is represented on HRVH with over 350 images… and counting.

Bard's digital collections can be viewed on HRVH at http://www.hrvh.org/collections/inst-intro.htm?inst=1, or at our website, www.bard.edu/archives. For access to the collections of all contributors to Hudson River Valley Heritage, or for information about how to become a contributor, see www.hrvh.org.

Helene Tieger currently serves as the Chair of the Digital Advisory Committee to Hudson River Valley Heritage.

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OCLC database specialist to map our Dublin Core records to MARC and upload them to WorldCat. We will explore adding these records to our own III catalog. There is another potential still image project on the horizon (archival images of our own campus) and to go along with that image collection, and try CONTENTdm’s robust complex object component, we have received permission to digitize and display the book, A History of Colgate. We hope you will look at our collections, available at http://diglib.colgate.edu.
Digital Collections at Hamilton
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more likely to actually get done.

We hope to eventually be able to replace the disc burning procedure with a hard disk based archiving and preservation system like DSpace or Fedora, which are designed to manage digital objects of all versions and formats. Neither of these seems right for us at this time. Another way to eliminate burning optical discs as part of our archival strategy would be to use one of the online storage services such as OCLC’s Digital Archive or a cheaper alternative like Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3).

In addition to optical disc storage of the JPEG2000 files, we store copies of every version and format of every digital object, including images and text, on a 1-terabyte external hard drive unit. We maintain a duplicate copy of these files on a second unit of the same kind.

We feel quite justified in bending best practices in order to meet local needs, since after all, there is often no consensus on a given best practice anyway, and we have seen that best practices change over time. We consider them starting points from which we often have to back off from or go beyond for reasons that are sometimes out of our control.

We have learned that digital collections development takes more time and energy than we would ever have thought possible.

• Materials preparation
Materials to be digitized sometimes need preparation before they are ready to be digitized. They may need to be inventoried, labeled, and encased in protective sleeves. In our case, few of the objects to be digitized had a unique identification number. We had to set up a naming and numbering system and label each item before we could digitize them.

• Enhancing vendor deliverables
Vendors do not always deliver what you expect. For example, vendors may deliver files that need to be renamed in accordance with local practice. The files may not have been sized properly for your delivery system. The supplied metadata may need to be reformatted, or, as in our case, the TEI-encoding text files may need to be edited manually so they work with your XSL stylesheets.

• Responding to changing standards
We initially had our vendor transcribe the handwritten letters and encode them according to TEI guidelines. The vendor encoded them according to the TEI version P4 guidelines, which were the current version at that time. Four years later the P5 version was released. We had to update all 3,953 pages of text to the newer version using an XSLT transformation and lots of manual editing.

• Programming and systems work
In 2002, we started out by developing our own homegrown system in PHP for delivering images and the TEI-encoded text on the Web. Getting it to display all items in useful ways, getting this all to work on all Web browsers, setting up object permissions where IP rights were required, keeping up with new versions of PHP, and figuring out how to expose our objects properly to search engines and metadata harvesters was overwhelming the project staff and taking time away from actually creating the digital objects and metadata. In 2007, we installed CONTENTdm and migrated all of our data to it. This has solved many of our problems — though it has stretched our budget for licensed software.

CONTENTdm is working well for our image collections, but it does not handle TEI files well at all. To get around this limitation we upload just the metadata for each TEI object and supply a link to a PHP script that fetches the TEI file from an XML database (eXist) and transforms the file with an XSL stylesheet to generate the XHTML for display in the user’s browser. Most of this happens outside of CONTENTdm. The TEI file has embedded links to image files for each page. (For an example, see http://dlib.hamilton.edu/dl/dlget.php?item=spe-civ-mis-02167) We hope CONTENTdm will someday do this for us out of the box.

Programming was also required to modify two scripts that were contributed to the CONTENTdm user community by Terry Reese of Oregon State University. These scripts enhance the functionality of CONTENTdm’s Web interface. One of the scripts we use, “CONTENTdm Facet Builder,” adds facets to the search results page (see Figure 1) and the other (see

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“Implementing Social Tagging and user comment capture in CONTENTdm”) allows users to submit comments.

Enhancing metadata

Long after we had already mounted thousands of objects on CONTENTdm we decided to implement persistent identifiers in our metadata. We developed a home-grown system of URL redirection (4) and had to update all of the records.

We also decided after implementing CONTENTdm to add a Keywords field to each metadata record and populate it with a controlled set of topics and synonyms that could be used by the facet-making script we added to CONTENTdm. This was time consuming, but worth it in the end. In the future, we expect to be adding preservation metadata fields to existing records as well.

Writing file management scripts

CONTENTdm requires that all files that make up a multi-page object be stored together in a single folder before they can be batch uploaded. We wrote a script that trolls through the images directory, identifies those that are constituents of the same object, and copies them together into a folder for just that object. Fortunately, our objects have filenames that are very detailed and can be easily parsed programmatically (5).

Digital Object Maintenance and Preservation

Keeping track of all the versions and copies of our digital objects, especially multi-page objects and complex objects such as those consisting of images with encoded text is error-prone and time consuming. CONTENTdm is only a delivery system and not a management or preservation system and so we need to keep track of our digital objects outside of CONTENTdm. Adopting JPEG2000 as both the master and delivery file format has somewhat simplified our storage and preservation strategy, but we are determined to find a systematic way of managing all these copies and versions of files – one that automatically checks the integrity of the files and the condition of the medium they are stored on, and notifies us whenever there is a possible problem. Until then we will have to be vigilant in monitoring the condition and location of the objects we have created.

In summary, we have learned that delivering and maintaining digital collections requires constant review of best practices, standards, delivery systems and preservation procedures. Reformattting the digital files, enhancing the metadata, scripting new features into the delivery system, and archiving the digital objects is time-consuming but necessary in order to ensure that we will be able to deliver them to users for years to come.

The Hamilton College Library Digital Collections Web site is http://elib.hamilton.edu/ and now includes not only Civil War letters but also photographs and texts from the Library’s Communal Societies Collection and the Hamilton College Archives. However, do not be surprised if you find the system down sometime this fall while we are migrating CONTENTdm and all of our data to a new server. The only constant in digital collections development is change.

Notes

1. We outsourced the digitization, transcription, and TEI encoding of more than two thousand pages of Civil War letters to Backstage Library Works with grants from New York State Regional Bibliographic Databases and Interlibrary Resources Sharing Program through the Central New York Library Resources Council.

2. For example, files of compound objects need to be named in specific ways before they can be batch uploaded and properly processed by CONTENTdm. What's more, as it ingests the files, CONTENT™ renames them again to suit its own internal purposes.

3. We generate JPEG2000 files using Photoshop CS3 with the j2k plug-in from fnordware (settings: format = JPX, compression/quality (lossy) = 75%, tile size = 1024, order = resolution, position; profile = sRGB). For more on the use of JPEG2000 as an archival file format see "JPEG 2000 - a Practical Digital Preservation Standard? " by Robert Buckley.

4. Each persistent identifier points to a PHP script that takes the value of the “item” parameter and constructs a URL pointing to that object in the system that is currently delivering it. For example, the URL http://dl.lib.hamilton.edu/dl/dlget.php?item=spe-sha-pho070 displays image “spe-sha-pho070” in CONTENTdm. Another persistent identifier points to the collection home page: http://dl.lib.hamilton.edu/dl/dlget.php?col=spe-sha-pho.

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5. The following is a typical filename in our system: “yhm-spe-sha-pho023-001_Front.tif.” (“yhm” = our OCLC symbol, “spe” = “Special Collections Department,” “sha” = The Shaker Collection, “pho” = photographs, “023” = photograph no. 23, “001” = the sequence number, “Front” = the caption).

Mentioned Resources

Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3) - http://www.amazon.com/s3-aws-home-page-money/b/ref=sc_fe_l_2?ie=utg8&node=16427261&no=3435361&me=a36l942tsj2aja
CONTENTdm (OCLC) - http://www.contentdm.com/
Central New York Library Resources Council (CLRC) - http://www.clrc.org/
“CONTENTdm Facet Builder” by Terry Reese - http://oregonstate.edu/~reeset/contentdm/downloads.html
Digital Archive (OCLC) - http://www.oclc.org/digitalarchive/
DSpace - http://www.dspace.org/
eXist - http://www.exist-db.org/
Fedora - http://www.fedora-commons.org/
fnordware - http://www.fnordware.com/j2k/
Hamilton College Library Digital Collections - http://elib.hamilton.edu/
“Implementing Social Tagging and user comment capture in CONTENTdm” by Terry Reese - http://oregonstate.edu/~reeset/contentdm/downloads.html
New York State Regional Bibliographic Databases and Interlibrary Resources Sharing Program - (http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/excerpts/finished_regs/9019.htm

CDLC Digitization
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comments and questions related to our metadata guidelines. Although we believe our metadata guidelines are very good, we know that they will change as we learn more about digitization as well as the needs of our libraries and their users. Although this can sometimes be frustrating for project participants – they probably feel like we are pulling the rug out from under them – it is something that every project is going through. Digitization is still very new, and even those institutions which have been doing this a lot longer than we have are still in the learning stage. Although there are many excellent metadata examples out there and many different types of guidelines, there are no standards yet for digitization as there are in areas like cataloging. If you are going to be involved with metadata, you should be comfortable with ambiguity and change!

Most of our initial participants have uploaded images and metadata to our CONTENTdm site. Although everyone with more experience than ourselves warned us that it would take longer and be more difficult than we anticipated, we were still surprised at the amount of effort it has taken to get this first stage off the ground. We are lucky to have received a grant to fund a part-time field trainer. The project probably could not be accomplished without the field trainer to encourage people and provide advice in the early stages of the project. We anticipate that the work will become smoother as time goes on and librarians throughout the region become more knowledgeable about digitization.

We have yet to do any web design on our site, so we are reluctant to point anyone to the site. We do know that participants are anxious to share their work with the world, so that is the next thing on our agenda. Watch a coming issue of this newsletter for information on our site’s public debut!
Rensselaer Digital Collections
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the images. The original TIFF file is also available for viewing. METS metadata wrappers organize each object’s images, bringing together different images of each architectural object, and also describe the manifestation relationship between the TIFF and JPEG 2000 files.

Many of our initial collections are growing on an ongoing basis, and we are also working on expanding our offerings. In the near future, we will be adding materials related to Experimental Media and Performing Arts performances, as well as expanding the collection of technical reports. Several recent years of The Polytechnic (Rensselaer’s student newspaper) are also ready to be added to the Collections, once issues related to copyright and syndicated content are resolved. Future additions will include older, out-of-copyright Polytechnic issues. We also are planning a review and revision of our existing metadata, developing policies for the creation of new collections, and investigating providing access to sound and video files through a streaming server.


Syracuse University
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Metadata and Cataloging

Much of the past year was spent setting standards in the area of cataloging and metadata which was a necessity in order to move forward with this project. We established guidelines and a new template for creating and updating our cylinder catalog records in order to have full cataloging.

When UC-Santa Barbara created bibliographic records for their cylinders, they borrowed Syracuse University’s cataloging for items held in both libraries and enhanced them with subject headings and links to their digitized audio files. For our project, UCSB shared their enhanced records for the approximately 6000 cylinders that duplicate our holdings. This “instantly” gave us new, full catalog records and links to digital audio files for approximately half of our cylinder titles. From there, we established the metadata standards which are applied when the catalog records are cross-walked from the Voyager ILS into CONTENTdm.

Faculty input

We solicited faculty input on a number of issues related to this project. Our Senior Program Officer for Research and Analysis met and conducted interviews with four music faculty. From these interviews, we learned much about the way they do their work and the processes they utilize in audio research. We also developed and distributed a survey instrument to obtain additional information from a broader group of faculty about their needs and preferences directly related to the cylinder collection and our digitizing project. The feedback from this survey has informed many
of our decisions related to the project, including our
decision to name the cylinder collection the Belfer Cyl-
inders Digital Connection, a name suggested by our
Music Librarian.

Collection Access

We've worked with our Communications Designer to
create an inviting and accessible entryway web page
for this collection. Faculty input from the survey has
informed our choice of search options on this page as
well as ideas about the placement of external links to
the collection. The digital delivery and storage space
on the CONTENTdm server has been designated and
configured. We have been loading test records and
adjusting the collection settings accordingly. One of
the most recent and exciting additions is a very user-
friendly embedded cross-platform flash audio player
that will appear within the CONTENTdm record and
automatically play when the recording is selected.

As you can see, this cylinder project is an excellent
example of interdepartmental collaboration and illus-
trates the complexity of digitization projects in gen-
eral. For this Delmas grant funded project, Suzanne
Thorin, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, is
Principal Investigator. The main working group in-
cludes Melinda Dermody, Project Director and Head of
the Arts and Humanities Department and Belfer;
Carole Vidali, Project Manager and Music Librarian;
Sarah Theimer, Assistant Head of Cataloging; Robert
Hodge, Audio Engineer; and Suzanne Preate, Digital
Projects Coordinator/Digital Imaging Librarian. As
needed, we also called on the following individuals for
various input/assistance: Susan Stinson, Audio Ar-
chives Research Specialist; Penelope Singer, Imaging
Technical Specialist and Communications Designer;
Angela Ramnarine–Rieks, Web Administrator; Jeremy
Morgan, Web Developer; Nancy Turner, Senior Pro-
gram Officer for Research and Analysis; and Pamela
McLaughlin, Director of Communications and External
Relations.

Stay tuned for the announcement of our product
launch! The Belfer Cylinders Digital Connection will
be accessible at the Digital Collections page
http://digilib.syr.edu/ of the Syracuse University Li-
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