

DISC/Knowledge Bank meeting - August 9, 2006

Minutes submitted by Amy McCrory, August 17, 2006

Present: Beth Black, Joe Branim, Wes Boomgaarden, Tom Cetwinski, Tschera Connell, Amy McCrory, Sally Rogers, Beth Russell.

Guests: H. Lewis Ulman, Kathy Webb.

1. Digital publishing issues

Lewis Ulman from the OSU College of Humanities visited DISC to discuss electronic publishing of scholarly work. He is interested in identifying the Libraries' role in preservation and accessibility for digital projects. He described the William B. Anderson Letters project, created by COH students and faculty with the cooperation of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Library and the Web Media Collective: http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/ulman1/WBAnderson_Letters/

His primary concerns are as follows:

Integrity of digital objects. HTML products extracted from XML files can generate multiple views of source materials, creating richer scholarly access to them. At the same time, this practice results in complex, multi-part digital objects whose preservation requires careful planning.

Dynamic generation of output. Scholarly best practice calls for a dynamic server that creates HTML and other digital output from source XML "on the fly." The COH has an Apache server that does this. However, there is no long-term support provided for this setup.

Access to and "findability" of electronic resources. Currently, OSUL catalog records pertaining to the Anderson letters do not reference the electronic editions on the COH server. How should cataloging of such materials be done?

Beth Russell explained that catalog records for digital projects are created on demand, as an "instant service" rather than a long-term program. Amy mentioned that generation of catalog records via XSLT has been put into practice for EAD finding aids, and could be extended to other XML types. Lewis's use of AACR2 and LC authority lists means that integration with the library catalog could be accomplished without much difficulty. He would like to see more "best practices" informed by library professionals—for example, how to handle authority lists drawn from more than one source.

Preservation of digital assets. The College of Arts and Sciences and COH do not offer full support for digital projects hosted on their servers. The Media Manager does, but it is not designed for long-term preservation of collections. "Boutique projects" are the current model at OSU, with no broad program for sustainability.

Tschera and Tom noted that the Knowledge Bank can serve an archiving function for completed versions of projects, since XML is a supported file format in DSpace. They confirmed that RAR has a community in KB. However, support for ongoing activities like editing would have to occur in some other environment designed to handle dynamic content.

Monitoring of scholarly publishing process. There is no independent body reviewing the creation and editing of the records in projects like Anderson. Questions of authority and trustworthiness, which should be addressed, are not. Publishers outline certain practices, but are not taking responsibility for preservation, authenticity, or scholarly quality. Producers should be more in control of their content.

Recording of technical data. Technical details of digital objects' production are needed in order to keep digital projects intact and fully operational over the long term.

Joe asked how many faculty take an active interest in XML and electronic publishing. Lewis named Art and English departments as places where interest is growing, and mentioned a recently established MA concentration in multimodal born-digital materials.

Amy invited Lewis to visit the Open Archives Information Source/Trusted Digital Repository study group that she, Beth Black, and Tschera are forming.

2. *The Lantern online*

Wes distributed a proposal for digitizing the microfilm copies of OSU's student paper and delivering the content online. \$100,000 has already been allocated, which would make it possible to deliver part of the 100+ years of content.

Joe suggested planning to do all of the content at once. Wes said since the project would cost in excess of \$50,000, it may have to be bid out, and a detailed specification would have to be written. Sally asked for more details about server requirements. Wes and Amy will research this.

3. *Popol Wuj online*

Wes distributed a draft of the Memorandum of Agreement between OSU and the Newberry Library. Carlos Lopez would like it to include a proposed timeline. Beth Russell and Wes both said that a timeline would be difficult to write, since it is dependent on the digitizing work and Brigham Young University's production of an optical disk version. Trisha Davis is going over the MOA.

Beth Black asked whether an English translation of the manuscript would be available. Beth Russell said that the issue of an authoritative English translation was problematic, so this project will include K'iche' and Spanish transcriptions only.

4. *Ancestry DPS*

Ancestry DPS runs a for-profit genealogy research service, Ancestry.com, and offers reduced prices on digital imaging services. They offer especially large discounts on any materials that would be of interest to their paying customers. Sally pointed out that anything we send to them would have to be copyright-free. The group discussed whether to adopt them as a regular vendor. It would require research into their pricing, delivery time, and the quality of their product. Sally suggested considering them if we have a particular project to outsource.

5. *OJS - DPubs*

Sally has been talking to Cornell about upcoming release of Dpubs, an open-source journal publishing enterprise. She asked Anita Cook about putting the *Ohio Journal of Science* in OhioLINK's Electronic Journal Center. Anita said OhioLINK would be in a better position to consider this in 6-months, as they are moving the EJC. Dpubs can connect to a Fedora repository. The developers are considering if they can make it work with Dspace too, but there are some technical problems.

Sally and Beth Black have been talking to Conrad at OIT about changing the service agreement to include more support for storage. They are hoping OIT will provide Unix support for beta testing Dpubs, since the search for a Systems Developer in the Libraries IT Department didn't result in a hire yet.

Tom is talking to *Disability Studies Quarterly* about hosting it in Dpubs; our options are to run DPubS at OSU or to ask Penn State to host it for a fee. Sally hopes OhioLINK will support it eventually. Sally demonstrated the *Journal of Pennsylvania History* as a Penn State application of Dpubs. There are

customizable interfaces, providing more flexibility than Dspace does. Administration of Dpubs would require Unix, Apache, XML, Perl, and XSLT capability.