

American West Conference Call

April 1, 2005 11am-12pm

DRAFT minutes

Attendees: Attending: Willet (PW), Urban (RU), Johnston (LJ), Arms (CA), Kott (KK), Koelling (JK), Llona (EL), Lally (AL), Brancolini (KB), Mankita (IM), Chandler (RC), Lee (HL), Landis (BL), Colvin (JC)

1. Welcome and introductions

2. User Assessment: High School Teachers Isaac Mankita of the Interactive University reported on the assessment findings.

Background: In the Fall/Winter of 2004, the IU conducted a user needs assessment for the American West project. The goal is to explore how to configure collections to meet users' curatorial, research and/or teaching needs.

Methodologies:

Eight Social Studies teachers were interviewed. Results were analyzed and summarized in the findings report. Available on AmWest website:

<http://www.cdlib.org/inside/projects/amwest/AmWestAssessment-2005-0202.pdf>

Finding discussions (short list; please see report for complete findings):

Teachers often begin their teaching with a question.

Most teachers mentioned the web as a source for their own knowledge. Many teachers return to the same web sites for materials.

How resources are presented or packaged was also important to teachers. Texts and images found on the Internet need to be easily printed or be projected for use on an overhead projector.

There is actually not a lot of organized sharing of teaching materials among teachers.

Poor Technology in Schools is common. Not enough computers in schools or computers not functioned properly.

Digital collections need contextual introduction for teachers to quickly assess usefulness of the materials.

Partner's responses:

Your findings indicate teachers "teach" with printable versions of digital content. Is 72 DPI adequate?

- The teachers are downloading articles, cartoons, maps, and photographs; 72 DPI can be a concern if quality is poor

Are you teachers a representative sample?

- The sample is limited, but it is representative of a California urban high school environment

What are the teacher criteria for a "trusted site"?

- Trusted sites reveal who created the resource, why it was created, and who is the audience
- World History Matters site <http://www.worldhistorymatters.org/> is trusted because it was created by an academic source

Can we share the assessment report within my own institution?

- Yes

Additional questions about the findings can be directed to the American West Partner's listserv where Isaac Mankita is now a listserv member.

3. Communication strategy - Jennifer Colvin, CDL Senior Communications Analyst, joined us to present the 2003-2004 Progress Report, which serves as a communications strategy component.

HL - Background: American West project goal to communicate with partners on the benefits of participating in the project. The communication tool was developed to enable partners to advocate locally for building and prioritizing digital library collections.

JC – Communication tool - Reported on how American West First Year Hewlett Report was repurposed and turned into several webpages that are now available on AmWest website - See <http://www.cdlib.org/inside/projects/amwest/progress/>

Partner's responses:

Separating the Hewlett report into parts and smaller sections is very helpful.
Consider means to improve navigation within the American West site, because users can easily become lost within Inside CDL.

4. Reviewed the American West Partners Meeting agenda on April 12, 2005.

RC – walked through agenda sent as attachment to the ListServ.

Partner's responses:

It is a full agenda, so please share as many documents as possible prior to the meeting

Please post the Baseline Metadata Requirements and High-Level Topic Taxonomy on the project website.

UVA will provide harvestable sets for test harvesting prior to meeting

UMICH (Kat Hagedorn) is developing an American West subset of Michigan material for harvesting

UW is testing making MODS available for harvesting; will send record to Bill for evaluation

CDP will be reloading existing sets of records; Richard and Bill will review CDP data dictionary sections

5. DLF OAI best practices update from Bill Landis. (5 minutes)

BL – recently joined the DLF OAI Best Practices group. Presented CDL baseline metadata requirements to the group. Looking forward to further discussions at the upcoming DLF. Our partner, Jenn Riley, is also a member of the DLF OAI group.

BL - DLF OAI best practices have a broad scope accounting for the needs of range of materials including satellite images and other born-digital resources and historic collections of digitized materials; Best practices will be presented at DLF in April 2005 and will include guidelines for data service providers, content providers, OAI harvesting and communication. Jenn Riley (Indiana Univ.) will give us a brief update during our 4/12 American West meeting.