



Users Council Meeting

4/22/05

Project Name and URL: Documenting the American West

- Web page including project reports and findings: <http://www.cdlib.org/inside/projects/amwest/>
- Fact sheet: http://www.cdlib.org/inside/projects/amwest/am_west_spring2004.pdf

What's new?

- Collection Development
 - Established collection development criteria and collection scope
 - Identified non-partner institutions and targeted collections for possible participation
 - Developed plan to survey non-partner institutions to establish readiness to participate
- Developing OAI Harvesting Capacity
 - Set up dedicated harvest prototyping server and installed harvesting software
 - Developed prototype harvest tracking database
 - Developed METS-wrapping prototype for OAI-harvested metadata objects into American West repository.
 - Test harvested 364,000 OAI records from partners and non-partner institutions
- Transforming and Enriching harvested metadata
 - Analyzed information in <date> fields, and date information extracted from other fields
 - Developed date normalization utility in Java code capable of extracting and normalizing all date patterns found in actual <date> fields
 - Work underway to add capability to extract and normalize dates found in <title> and <description> fields when no <date> field is available in the harvested metadata record.
 - Developed American West Project Baseline Metadata Requirements and American West Project High-level Topic Taxonomy documents.
 - Contracted a vendor to perform clustering experiments and delivered approximately 364,000 American West collection OAI records to vendor for clustering experiments. Initial report on these experiments delivered
- User Assessment
 - Completed High School Teachers assessment on using digital content in classroom
 - Assessment of Librarian's behaviors and needs for online exhibit development currently underway
- Developing User Interface
 - Created personas based on user assessment reports
 - Search/ faceted metadata browse requirements completed
 - Draft home, results and item wireframes completed

Who is doing it and how?

- Partners contributing content
 - Colorado Digitization Program, Harvard University, Indiana University, Library of Congress, University of California Libraries, University of Michigan, University of Washington, University of Virginia
- Partners contributing expertise
 - UC Berkeley Interactive University, UCLA Library
- Non-partner institutions targeted for content
 - American Memory Collections, California State Library LSTA digital content projects, ContentDm using institutions, King County Snapshots, Mountain West Digital Library, San Fernando Valley History Digital Project, Washington State University

Why should you care?

- Drawing upon the resources of major research and cultural heritage institutions nationwide, this project will create an American West virtual collection providing users access to a wide range of primary source materials for teachers, researchers and the public
- Project will provide tools for libraries to repackage and repurpose content leveraging transformed metadata and create branded curatorial views, i.e. content slices meeting the needs for local users

Who should I tell when I get home?