The Indiana Digital Library: Issues in Statewide Planning

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Outline

- Indiana Digital Library Summit
  - Background
  - LSTA
- Progress on creating the Indiana Digital Library
- Issues
- Resources
Indiana Digital Library Summit

- Convened by Barbara Maxwell, Indiana State Librarian
- Goal: “To bring together representatives from all types of Indiana libraries, as well as archives, historical societies, and allied cultural organizations. The purpose was to begin discussing how those groups can work together on the common issue of digitizing unique Indiana resources.”
Background

- First meeting December 4, 2003

- Representatives from 14 groups. See web site for list. Revised document and established a smaller working group to tackle next steps.

- URL: [http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/isl/diglibin/](http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/isl/diglibin/)
Vision from White Paper

- A resource that provides **online access** to the **cultural and historical resources** of the state of **Indiana**; a gateway to Indiana’s history and culture found in digitized books, manuscripts, photographs, newspapers, audio, video, and other materials.
- Made possible through the **collaborative** efforts of Indiana’s libraries, archives, museums, and other institutions of cultural heritage to **develop, maintain, and preserve** digital collections and online digital resources.
- Digital objects will be created, maintained, delivered, and preserved according to **national standards**.
- **Users at all levels** of education, from kindergarten through post-secondary education and beyond, will find a rich array on online educational materials.
- **Teachers** will be skilled in their use in the classroom and students will use them in curriculum-related **assignments**.
Reality

- Indiana has an active and engaged digital library community. However, it is small and uncoordinated.
- Digitization projects usually serve local needs and few are considered to be part of a larger digital library effort.
- Projects are often unrelated and do not provide for a growing, directed, digital library for Hoosiers. Unlike the statewide projects in North Carolina, Georgia, California, Maryland, and Colorado, among others,
- There is no one-stop shopping for digital collections in Indiana.
What do we need to accomplish these goals?

- We need central leadership.
- We need a plan.
- We need state funding.
- We need to build upon existing strengths in digital library development.

Few institutions in the state have experience in the development and maintenance of digital library collections and services. These institutions should lead the planning efforts, consulting broadly with representative bodies. We propose the formation of a small steering committee to write the proposal for a planning project to explore options and make recommendations for the future.

Principles of the white paper were adopted at the December 3, 2004 meeting, so we got started…
Working Group/Strategic Planning Group

- Few participants at the Digital Library Summit had experience, so a small group formed to lead the implementation.
- Reviewed digital library planning in other states and planned various next steps in our process
- Convened task forces to develop standards for digitization and metadata creation
- Drafted a mission statement
Mission Statement

The Indiana Digital Library, a collaboration of Indiana libraries, museums, archives, and related cultural organizations, enables access to Indiana's unique cultural and historical heritage through a variety of digital formats and free distribution over the Internet. The IDL seeks to support and enhance education and scholarship for all Hoosiers for increased understanding of Indiana's past and its role in preparing for Indiana's future.

Adopted 5/19/2004
Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)

- Administered by the Indiana State Library
- Federal funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services
- ISL --> IMLS --> ISL --> Mini-grants to libraries in Indiana
- Primary source of state funding for digital library projects since 1998
  Maximum award $75,000 (previously $30,000)
Problems with LSTA Grants

- Hoosier Heritage project by INCOLSA revealed lack of completion and/or sustainability: http://www.hoosierheritage.net/
  - Dozens of grants had been given since 1998 and few projects were up and running
  - Projects that are up are largely local – obituaries
  - Few projects that adhere to standards
  - Few resources that would support education
  - Small amounts available
Proposal for Content Development

1. Famous Hoosiers -- regardless of time period, particularly scientists, inventors, artists, religious leaders. Also needed information on politicians, soldiers, businessmen, women, Native Americans, and African Americans.
2. Underground Railroad
3. Native Americans of Indiana
4. Transportation -- regardless of time period, including canals, railroads, National Road
5. Civil War -- all aspects
6. Communication -- regardless of time period, including early newspapers
7. Architecture -- regardless of time period
8. Indiana in World War I
9. Indiana in World War II

Adopted 5/19/2004
LSTA Guidelines

Priorities for funding in 2005

- Local, unique content with potential statewide interest
- Relates to existing digital content
- Follows standards and guidelines established by IDL working groups
- Has P-16 educational components or potential for development
- Collaborative projects given preference

Workshops in December 2004 focused on preparing a proposal: standards, new LSTA forms, and priorities. All documentation needed to be in place by this time.
Results of Focus Group

- Need training
- Different institutions have different priorities
- Institutions may have important collections, but no technical knowledge
- Important to partner
- Important to offer training
- An alternative to training might be to have a mobile unit travel the state to digitize materials
- Institutions want a single source of information about standards and guidelines; FAQ with experts
Activities (2003-2005) [1]

- Bring together all of the representative groups in the state to participate in the planning process
- Include people and institutions with experience in developing and sustaining digital library collections
- Establish standards and best practices for creating digital collections and metadata
- Write guidelines for the award of LSTA digitization grants
- Establish a selection process for these grants that encourages applicants to use the standards, best practices, and guidelines

- Provide access to this documentation on the Web
- Publicize its availability via listservs, newsletters, and other publications
- Conduct a survey about digital library activity in the state
- Train librarians, archivists, and museum professionals to plan and implement digital library projects in adhering with the standards, best practices, and guidelines
  - Conducted 5 workshops in December 2004, which were attended by approximately 130 people
Activities (2003-2005) [3]

- Conduct focus groups around the state to gather information about what librarians feel they need in order to move forward with digital library projects
- Award LSTA grants; meeting with recipients in June 2005
- Evaluate the process and plan follow-up activities based upon the grant proposals submitted and the results of the focus groups
- White paper on Indiana Digital Library portal
Focus Group Report

- Seven focus groups conducted by a consulting firm in February 2005
- Participants were drawn from all types of libraries and cultural heritage institutions
- Participants ranged from completely inexperienced with digitization and digital library development to relatively experienced
- Results reinforced what we heard in the survey conducted by INCOLSA
LSTA Grant Summary 2005

- 24 grants were submitted – 12 were funded; list on web site: [http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/isl/diglibin/LSTA_digital_grantFY05.pdf](http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/isl/diglibin/LSTA_digital_grantFY05.pdf)
- Most were from academic or public libraries
- Total requests: More than $500,000
- Amount available: $250,000
- For the first time, recommendations were made by experienced committee
Personal Reactions to the Process

- We have important Indiana-related historical and cultural materials in our libraries.
- Many applicants need help with their technical plans: digitization, metadata creation, storage and delivery.
- Most applicants need help with Outcome-Based Evaluation, which is required by the State Library.
- Although many inexperienced libraries sought partners, many did not. Need to do a better job getting out the word: Start small; find technical partners.
- The goal is to serve our users, not libraries. Training is secondary, not primary. Importance of assessing need.
- We are off to a good start… 12 projects by July 2006
LSTA 2006 – Summit 7/05

- Content priorities may be adjusted; it was good to have them.
- Application form needs more detail about technical planning and metadata creation.
- Budget justification needs to be more detailed; how did applicant arrive at figures?
- State Library needs to decide how to deal with funding infrastructure and equipment.
Pending Issues: Few words, huge headaches

- Digitization services – large and small
- Metadata creation
- Hosting of digital content and metadata
- Creation of the Indiana Digital Library portal
- Ongoing funding – grant-funding can pay for digitization but not maintenance and preservation
- Advisory council to vet content

Good news: We are not alone… October 20-21 conference at OCLC  
Bad news: No clearly successful models, especially in a state that has starved its state library.
Indiana University’s Role

- Most experienced digital library program in the state
- As a state university, should provide leadership
- But what else?
  - Portal
  - Training – with SLIS?
  - Hosting
  - Metadata creation
  - Consultation

How do we help without being perceived as telling people what to do? We can’t, but this doesn’t seem to be a problem.
Digital States

- A discussion list for participants in statewide digital library planning.
  http://lists.mdch.org/bin/listinfo/digistates
- Web site with links to resources and information about statewide digital library efforts.
- Links to state web sites:
  http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/stateportals.html
- Digital Best Practices (University of Washington):
  http://digitalwa.statelib.wa.gov/newsite/best.htm
State Digital Library Web Sites

- Digital States
  - http://lists.mdch.org/bin/listinfo/digistates

- Colorado Digitization Program
  - http://www.cdpheration.org/index.html

- Digital Library of Georgia
  - http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/?Welcome

- North Carolina ECHO
  - http://www.ncecho.org/
Comments? Questions?
Here’s the URL again for the Indiana State Library web site:
http://www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/isl/diglibin/
Or go to Indiana State Library web site and search: Indiana Digital Library Summit