INTRODUCTION AND GETTING STARTED

PHOTO CATALOGING AND DELIVERY SERVICE
WHAT IS A SERVICE?

- Services put more control in the hands of the collections manager
- System + support structure (documentation, training, support)
- Over the next several years, the DLP will be moving more digital collections development onto services
HOW HAVE WE BEEN DOING THIS?

May I? → Yes! → Consultation → 2 → 3

Cataloging (lots and lots of) → PhotoCat configured manually

Time to make them public!

More consultations here

Search & Browse configured manually

Checking & re-checking metadata
HOW IS THE SERVICE DIFFERENT?

May I?  Yes!  Consultation  2  3

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HOW IS THE SERVICE DIFFERENT?

May I? Yes!

Initial Consultation Document
- Metadata
- Collection & Unit

PhotoCat2 configured automatically from this document

Cataloging (lots and lots of)

Images can be made available online as they are cataloged through the IU Photos Collection Site

IU Photos Collection Site
- Search/browse by collection
- Search/browse all collections in one unit
- Search/browse across all photos in the site
WHAT DO I NEED TO GET STARTED?

• Collection of documentary photographs
• Metadata, or the ability to create metadata
  • Potential for importing existing metadata (from spreadsheets, etc.)
• Time, dedication, stamina
• Funding wouldn’t hurt
INITIAL CONSULTATION

- Members of **DLP Services Team**; folks from other units (e.g. Tech Services) when needed
- Metadata: initial fields based on MODS, selection of controlled vocabulary
- Text for search/browse interface: sentences about collection and unit, URLs for linking to additional context / information
ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM

- Digitization of photographs
  - DMIC Lab
  - Equipment located in library unit
  - Vendor

- Metadata creation
  - Collection managers
  - Students (interns, hourly, GA)
  - Faculty, staff
  - Technical Services staff (for library collections)

- Options for individualization
  - Metadata fields
  - Contextual collection site, using IU Photos Site for search/browse/display
WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

• Documentary photographs collections from any IU collection, library, archive, department, museum, etc. (Faculty projects must be sponsored at the institutional level)
OUTLINE

• Development Assumptions
• Architecture and Data Modeling
• Demonstration and Implementation
• The Future
CONSTRUCTIVE ASSUMPTIONS

PHOTO CATALOGING AND ACCESS SERVICE, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
ASSUMPTIONS

• Types of assumptions
  • What task do we want to accomplish or simplify?
  • Who will participate in the solution we develop?
  • When will these tools need to be used?
  • What impact will developments on the horizon have on the needs of the assumed users and tasks?
WHY ASSUME AT ALL

• When you assume...

• Can’t we find out for sure?
  • Perceived needs and desires change
  • The environment can change
  • Requirements are difficult to articulate
  • Consensus amongst stakeholders takes time
  • People change
EXISTING PIECES

SDA
(master file storage)

SRU

Fedora Commons

photocat

Search and Browse
EXISTING PIECES

• PhotoCat
  • Image-centric
  • METS/MODS-based
  • Fedora/SRW backed
  • Infrequent additions of collections
  • No changes to collections

• Search and Browse Application
  • SRW-backed
  • Item-centric
NEW ASSUMED REQUIREMENTS

• This application will collect metadata about items
• Items will be grouped into “collections”
• Users will be able to control whether an item is visible to the public
• Collections will be added frequently
• Collections will have to change from their initial specification
• Representations of the metadata will change
  • Will not fit neatly into any standard schema
  • Will not be represented the same over time, even in standard form
• The number of metadata “fields” as compared to the number of collections will plateau
• Fields may be linked to vocabulary sources
NOTABLY NOT ASSUMED

• Any particular underlying data storage technology
  • (though our implementation uses fedora)
• Any particular underlying search technology
  • (though our implementation currently uses SRW)
• Any third-party metadata representation
  • (though for most of our collections we disseminate MODS version 3 records)
• Anything about the nature of objects represented
  • (though for all of our current collections they are documentary photographs)
• Any particular language
  • (though we haven’t yet translated the applications into other languages)
FLEXIBILITY ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

PHOTO CATALOGING AND ACCESS SERVICE, ARCHITECTURE OVERVIEW
METADATA MODEL

• Three Level Approach
  • Field Definition
    • Define a “field” once, and allow it to be used in any collection
    • Can support very special cases
    • Define a vocabulary source type to be used in any collection
  • Collection Configuration
    • A selected sub-set of the pre-defined fields
    • With configured behavior (repeatability, read-only, etc.)
    • Possibly with attached vocabulary or input sources
    • A set of default values
    • Configured transformations to dissemination formats
    • Choices about optional features
  • Item Metadata
    • Fully documented in the Field Definition
    • Easily parsed and indexed
    • Won’t change (this is the solid foundation)
FIELD DEFINITION: WHAT IS A “FIELD”?

A Field is:
• The encapsulation of some information about an image.
  • Examples: pictured individuals, date taken, film type...

A Field is NOT necessarily:
• A single input box on a web page
• An element in a metadata schema
WHAT IS A “FIELD”?

- Title:
  - Brief text describing what's featured in the photograph and pointing out other interesting features.

- Usage Notes:
  - This is the entered title.
FIELD CREATION GUIDELINES:

• Any vagueness or ambiguity in the information that you wish to collect must be resolved before choosing/creating a field for it.
• If two values entered in this field (in any collection with any configuration) could EVER map to different locations in ANY standard format, you must create more specific fields (check the existing mapping files)
MODULAR DESIGN

[Image: Honeycomb structure]

DESIGN IDEOLOGY

- lowest common denominator = the assumptions we will assert
- Extended functionality with extended assumptions
VOCABULARY SOURCES AND TERMS

Baseline Vocabulary Sources

- Term
  - Has a textual representation
- Vocabulary Source
  - Has identifying information
  - Contains some terms
  - Exposes the ability to search by prefix

Managed Vocabulary Sources

- Term
  - Has a textual representation
- Vocabulary Source
  - Has identifying information
  - Contains some terms
  - Exposes the ability to search by prefix
  - the ability to add/remove terms
ITEM METADATA MANAGER

**Baseline Item Manager**
- Allows item metadata to be read
- Allows item metadata to be written
- Allows for item creation
- Allows for item data file submission

**History Enable Item Manager**
- Allows item metadata to be read
- Allows item metadata to be written
- Allows for item creation
- Allows for item data file submission
- Allows for historical information to be queried
DEMONSTRATION AND DISSECTION

PHOTO CATALOGING AND ACCESS SERVICE, TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW
THE FUTURE

PHOTO CATALOGING AND ACCESS SERVICE, NEXT STEPS
NEAR-TERM GOALS

- Expose completed collections to the public
- Increase usage (add collections)
- Reintroduce batch operations
  - Allow for persistent groups of items
  - Allow for search and replace operations
- Add powerful import/export functions
- Expose collection configuration and field definitions for editing by collection managers and application administrators
- Include the fields and interactions the users find most helpful
EXISTING SERVICES

• Documentary Photos Service
  • Built on existing infrastructure (PhotoCat and Search/Browse)
• EAD finding aids publication (not including digitized archival objects)
“ALMOST” SERVICES

- Variations (audio and music scores)
- Video Streaming Service
- Digital Archival Collections (EAD, item-level)

Lacks the support structure required for a fully-functional service
DEVELOPING SERVICES

• Digital Archival Collections, described at the folder level ("FindingAidsII") (Summer/Fall 2011)
• Future services: Scanned books? Text Encoding? Art photographs? Maps?