The Snowball Effect: Intended & Unintended Consequences of Going Digital

Eric Luhrs
Digital Initiatives Librarian
Lafayette College

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A “Small” Project

• Had been looking for a small collection to digitize as a case study for future projects with Lafayette Faculty
Accessing the collection

The Warner Collection is an online digital collection of various temporary exhibits. It features zoom, panning, and help pages to make sure that the user can explore the collection effectively. The OCM subject headings and Unicode characters are used to describe the collection. The Google Maps zoom/pan interface provides an interactive way for users to explore the collection. Unique item identifiers are used to identify individual items within the collection. Downloadable images are available for users to download and use as needed.
No Work, You Say?

- Project was well-received.
- Has lead to several new sub-collections:
  1. Reference material
  2. Pictorial works
  3. Lewis postcards
  4. Warner negatives
  5. Warner slides
  6. Rupert ’32 material
Growing collection of current Asian-language reference volumes to support specialized image research.

Challenges:
ordering cataloging
Printed Pictorial Works

Contemporary image-rich publications with captions. 532 digital items so far, more to come.

Challenges:
metadata changes
disbind and re-house
Lewis Collection

**Digital-only collection of 529 postcards. Similar to Warner’s cards, but without the provenance.**

**Challenges:**
digital only temporary custody
Warner Negatives

3,800 photographic negatives that document Gerald Warner’s travels. Have completed 369 digital items so far, more to come.

Challenges:
color correction started as digital only
Warner Slides

Slides with captions that document Warner’s travels through Japan in the 50s, after his service as US Consul to Taiwan. Approximately 600 digital items expected Fall 2009.

Challenges:
bulk slide feeder
expanding scope: Japan
Claude K. Rupert ’32

Slides and photographs from Lafayette Alumnus who served in China as part of the 14th Air Force, 1942-52.

Challenges:
expanding scope: China
Growing Pains

- Rapid growth leads to some over-arching challenges:

1. Coordinating the provision of disk space
2. Shift from digital to physical ownership
3. Expanding scope of the existing web architecture
4. Workflow improvements versus staying productive
What’s My Point?

• Intention was to create a digital project.
• Strong collaboration led to some important, yet unintended benefits:
  1. Significantly improved physical holdings
  2. Allowed collection use to drive design
  3. Encouraged us to take an edition-like approach
End of Part 1

Eric Luhrs
luhrse@lafayette.edu

Project website
http://warner.lafayette.edu

Presentation slides
http://dspace.lafayette.edu/handle/10385/529