PROGRESS REPORT
20 APR 2009 MEETING
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Background

On 20 Apr 2009, staff from MHS met with select representatives to discuss the Great Rivers Network (GRN). The purpose of this meeting was to review and discuss the public GRN site and skinned sites, discuss the RFI for the search engine replacement, view related projects, solicit reports on content development, and plan the next steps.

Participants

Minnesota Historical Society (MHS):	Bob Horton, Jane Wong, Rose Sherman, Marj Kelly, Jenel Farrell
Anoka County Historical Society:	Todd Mahon
Blue Earth County Historical Society:	Shelley Harrison
Carlton College	Sam Demas
Independent Library Contractor	Eric Celeste
Minnesota Digital Library:	Jason Roy
Nicollet County Historical Society	Ben Leonard
North Dakota State University:	John Bye
Northern State University:	Robert Russell
Northfield/Carleton:	Sam Demas +
Olmsted County Historical Society:	Sherry Sweetman
State Historical Society of North Dakota:	Ann Jenks, Rachael White
University of North Dakota	Curt Hanson, Mike Swanson

Presentations

Great Rivers Network Progress & Group Discussion
Presentations from Jenel Farrell, Jane Wong, and Marj Kelly:
As of April 20, 2009, the GRN is now able to display an aggregation of partner county historical society websites, partner MDL, and Digital Horizons content: http://greatriversnetwork.org/

This public interface separates collections by organization or consortia. The data was mapped in using either web crawls or OAI feeds from ContentDM servers.

We are still working on a solution for displaying PastPerfect data.

The "Skinned" Site (coming soon - summer 2009) provides an institution specific, collection separated interface for searching. The data is institution specific through web crawls of site, partner MDL and Digital Horizons content, MHS, and the institutions GRN provided data.

The next phase of the GRN project will be to create documentation for consortia & partners clarifying what we need to add them to the GRN. Once we have additional partner data, we'll begin adding them to the GRN.

The next content phase of the GRN requires mapping the small data sets (spreadsheets & databases) that we have received from partner institutions.

Request for Information (RFI) Search Engine Replacement
Presentation from Rose Sherman:
Rose discussed why MHS selected the current product, Atonomy IDOL, in 2006 and the reasons we're seeking to replace this product. The RFI has been made available on the GRN site and has been sent to all the partners for review and input. The current timeframe for soliciting feedback from the RFI is from now through the summer. The RFI has been sent to vendors as has been made available to open source discussion forums. A plan to approach vendors with an RFP is set for Fall 2009.

Educational Outreach
Discussions lead by Bob Horton:
Bob covered three areas we are now focusing on: Data Ingestion, communication, and development

Ingestion	Communication	Development

• Small data sets
  o Prioritization of type?
  o Timeline/timeframe against search engine replacement?
• Pastperfect: Minimum requirement for entry
	• Face-to-face meetings are good
	• Site Visits
	• Teleconferences
	• Phone
	• Field services
	• Presentations from partners on what content they are putting up & discussion of what works and what doesn't
	• Grant opportunities?
		• Proposals for local conferences
		• Standards for managing collections
		• Data options
		• Pod or vidcasts – training
		• What area would we like to build critical mass in?
		• Collaboration rather than fee for service
		• Incorporation of outside data from web 2.0 technologies? With S&BP for contributing..
		• Building revenue: education
		  o Critical mass
		  o Audience
		  o VRDB, BR, DR
		• Development of content rather than selling collections

Omeka
Presentations from Kerri Teske and Jason Roy:

Omeka http://omeka.org/ is an online exhibition tool being developed by the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University and funded by IMLS. MHS is a partner in this project responsible for testing and promoting the tool. The goal of the project is to develop a tool that is easy to use, easy to install and allows institutions to upload their digital content and develop online exhibitions.

- Kerri demonstrated MHS's educational site created with Omeka.

- Jason Roy discussed the U of M's plans with Omeka and demonstrated their test site.

Jenel Farrell will be assisting institutions with the download of Omeka, the ingestion of data, and the maintenance and updating of the tool.

Chronicling America: **Historic American Newspapers (NDNP)**
Presentation from Anne Levin:
NDNP: http://www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica/ Grants are awarded to one institution per state. MHS is planning to apply for a second grant in Nov. 2008.

For this project, MHS is outsourcing the scanning, OCR, and metadata. The newspapers selected for digitization, during the grant cycle 2007 – 2009, are the St. Paul Globe and the Minneapolis Journal. Currently, 30,000 pages of MHS content is accessible through the Chronicling America website hosted on the Library of Congress website. At the completion of the grant cycle 100,000 pages of MHS content will be accessible.

Smart Applications: WOTR & Dipity
Presentation from Rose Sherman:
WOTR stands for Write on the Record and is the commenting tool created by MHS IT staff. Rose demonstrated both the public interface and administration of the tool.
Dipity is a free online timeline now being used by MHS librarians. http://www.dipity.com/

Minnesota History Magazine
Presentation from Jane Wong:
MN History Magazine is now available online at
http://www.mnhs.org/market/mhspress/MinnesotaHistory/index.html

Next Steps : Action Items
  Next Steps

1. Documentation to partners and consortia detailing MHS needs for inclusion of partner/consortia data in the GRN
2. Ingestion of additional partner content DM/consortia data
3. Standards and Best Practices with small data sets to partners
4. Sample ingestion of small data sets
5. RFI vendor discussions and review
6. Send out RFI
7. Meeting in the Fall 2009?

Questions

- o What would partners like to know?
- o How we can collaborate?
- o Workshops?
- o Manuals / guidelines?
- o Standards?

APPENDIX A

Agenda- 20 Apr 2009
Minnesota Historical Society

8:30   Breakfast

9:00   Welcome/ Introductions

9:15   Demonstration of aggregate data – GRN site

10:15   Break

10:30   RFI

11:00   Education

12:00   Lunch

1:00   Project Updates

2:15   Break

2:30   Next Steps

3:00   Close/ Tour

APPENDIX B

Resources

Of Interest:
- Digital New Zealand - a customizable search builder, for gathering data; and an open API for connecting DigitalNZ metadata with other data sources. Making New Zealand Content Easier to Find, Share and Use
  http://www.archimuse.com/mw2009/papers/gow/gow.html
- Fedora and Drupal: Fedora, Drupal, and Cloud Computing for a Low-Cost, Sustainable DAM http://www.archimuse.com/mw2009/papers/davidow/davidow.html
- Relative to making money from collections: Open Licensing and the Future for Collections http://www.archimuse.com/mw2009/papers/bray/bray.html
- Relative to cost of cloud computing: Museums and Cloud Computing: Ready for Primetime, or Just Vaporware?
  http://www.archimuse.com/mw2009/papers/moad/moad.html

Minnesota Historical Society

Great Rivers Network

Minnesota's Greatest Generation (MGG)

National Digital Newspaper Program

Autonomy IDOL Server

Omeka

California Digital Library

MN Digital Library

PastPerfect