SUCCESS STORY: DePaul University Libraries

Finding the right tool to create online collections

DePaul University Libraries picks CONTENTdm for its diverse team

OCLC™
The world's libraries. Connected.

Situation

The staff at DePaul University Libraries knows what it takes to build digital collections. They had created the DePaul Libraries' Image Collection and Lincoln Park Neighborhood Collection, and experienced the pros and cons of using different digital solutions. So when they decided to digitize their cultural heritage collections, they knew what they wanted from a content management system.

"Our staff developed a list of priorities to assess possible solutions," says Larry Colgan, Digital Projects Coordinator. Included in the criteria were detailed requirements concerning cost of ownership, usability, intellectual property rights, quality control tools, Web publishing and support. "We wanted a solution with longterm viability. We've seen solutions come and go, and we wanted something with ongoing support, including upgrades and enhancements."

They also sought a solution that a variety of librarians could use. Staff from different library areas would work on the project, which meant that skill sets and experience with digitizing collections would vary. So giving the team the right tools and support was a necessity.

Solution

After reviewing available solutions and examining what other institutions were using, DePaul University Libraries selected CONTENTdm®. "One of the reasons we liked CONTENTdm is that it came from OCLC," says Colgan. "OCLC is a trusted name. Our librarians are very familiar with OCLC."

AT A GLANCE

- DePaul University Libraries, Chicago
- Serves 23,000 students and faculty
- Largest Catholic university in the nation and largest private institution in Chicago
- Over 30,000 digital images in collections
- http://digicol.lib.depaul.edu/site-templates/client_CM1/index.html

"CONTENTdm was easy for everyone to learn."

Standards support was another reason. The team specifically wanted a tool that was compliant with the Open Archives Initiative (OAI). CONTENTdm supports that standard and others to ensure compatibility with existing systems, flexible management of metadata and broad accessibility. The catalogers were also impressed with the support for Dublin Core and found it easy to set up and insert the required metadata records.

The project team was composed of staff from different library areas: Archives, Cataloging, Web Services and Library Systems. Students were also hired. Team members received training prior to starting and committed hours weekly to the project. "CONTENTdm was easy for everyone to learn," says Colgan. Built-in tutorials and quality control tools were features the team enjoyed having in CONTENTdm.

© 2009 OCLC, Inc. All rights reserved. The following OCLC product, service and business names are trademarks or service marks of OCLC, Inc.: CONTENTdm, OCLC and "The world's libraries. Connected." In addition, the WorldCat symbol and OCLC symbol are service marks of OCLC. Third-party product and service names are trademarks or service marks of their respective owners. OCLC grants permission to photocopy this publication as needed.

211585USC E 0902, OCLC

Finding the right tool to create online collections

Continued

OCLC™
The world's libraries.
Connected.

Results

Three DePaul University collections were digitized and made available online in less than a year. The

Vincentian Postcards Collection includes more than 950 items and is used by scholars throughout the country. The Wanda Harold Architectural Photographs collection highlights the unique designs of historical buildings, churches and residences in Chicago's Lincoln Park community. The Geographic Image Collection offers access to more than 2,000 geographic and ethnographic images collected from around the world by the DePaul Geographic Society and other members of the University community.

"CONTENTdm has impressed each member of the project team with its flexibility, ease of use and comprehensive design features," says Colgan. Now, he is evaluating potential new projects, including ideas that take CONTENTdm in new directions.

For more information about CONTENTdm Digital Collection Management Software, visit **www.oclc.org/CONTENTdm/**, call 1-800-848-5878, ext. 4301 or send e-mail to **contentdm@oclc.org**.