

Library combines institutional repository, special collections and scholarly communications into one widely accessible database

Claremont Colleges use CONTENTdm to advance teaching, learning and research capabilities

Situation

The Claremont Colleges is a consortium of five undergraduate colleges, two graduate institutions and a central organization that provides services shared by all.

In 2004, the college presidents agreed to create the Claremont Colleges Digital Library (CCDL), an internal resource for students and faculty, but also one that could serve the broader community of life-long learners and scholars.

When, in 2005, Pat Vince was hired as the very first Digital Initiatives Librarian, she knew she had her hands full. **“We wanted all of our intellectual output —our institutional repository, digital collections and scholarly communications —available in one database,”** says Vince. And the system needed to support a range of materials: audio, video, images, documents and more.

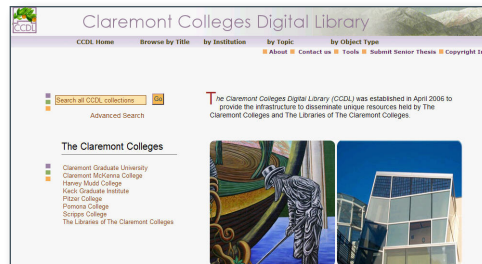
Solution

Vince led a task force to find the right solution for their initiative. Eleven different digital asset management systems were reviewed, and two were tested in a 30-day trial period. In the end, CONTENTdm from OCLC came out on top: partly because of ease of use and also because of its ability to directly link into OCLC WorldCat, the world’s largest bibliographic database. **“It was the solution we needed to not only manage the collection, but to share it with the broadest audience possible.”**

Getting the collection online was far easier than Vince and the team anticipated. “I gave two training sessions within

AT A GLANCE

- The Claremont Colleges is a consortium of seven higher education institutions
- Claremont Colleges Digital Library combines institutional repository, digital collections, and scholarly communications into one database
- Features more than 35 published collections
- Supports more than 9,300 students, faculty and staff
- New digital library leverages the capabilities of WorldCat
- <http://ccdlibraries.claremont.edu/>



“We reviewed 11 different asset management systems, but in the end we chose CONTENTdm.”

10 days, trained 24 librarians and faculty on how to use system, as well as metadata, and how to scan—**within less than 30 days we went live.”**

Results

Today, CCDL has more than 35 published collections with over 34,000 digital objects. “I attribute much of our success to CONTENTdm, which allows people who are unfamiliar

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with the library world to learn the system.” She also points to all the different formats. **“We have audio, video, images and documents that are full-text searchable.** And only because CONTENTdm enables us to do this.”

And, perhaps most important of all, by having its institutional repository, digital collections and scholarly communications available in a single database, **users can find everything the organization holds within one search,** rather than go to three separate silos of information.

Claremont Colleges is rightly proud of its accomplishments. “We’ve got a broad spectrum of material types, well represented disciplines, and we keep growing.”

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.

