

OCLC's Implementation Services and CONTENTdm help provide Web access to Indiana's rich history

Program creates a statewide digital library

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- Indiana Memory will provide a gateway to historical treasures held by organizations throughout the state.
- CONTENTdm® was selected as the digital content management system for Indiana Memory.
- www.statelib.lib.in.us/www/isl/diglibin

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Situation | It was a big program to develop and organize. The Indiana State Library wanted to create a digital library to provide Web access to Indiana's rich history. The goal being to enhance education and scholarship of Indiana's past. As part of the program, Indiana libraries, museums, archives and other cultural heritage organizations around the state would need to collaborate and contribute their digital collections. The State Library was faced with the challenge of leading this complex effort that included a diverse project team made up of IT, administration, development and reference staff.

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Solution | Coming on board to lead the program effort was Robin Crumrin, Director of Digital Initiatives at the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis University Library. Since the State Library staff didn't have extensive experience with creating digital libraries and were faced with the challenges of building Indiana Memory and initiating a statewide effort, Crumrin recognized the need for additional help.

As a result, OCLC CONTENTdm Implementation Services became involved with the project planning. The OCLC Implementation Manager, Laurie Gemmill, helped the State Library to focus on testing and refining their guidelines and standards with institutions within a beta phase. She played a key role by helping them to prioritize their tasks and to create an integrated plan that incorporated a wide range of personnel and activities, including training and the creation of technical guidelines.

"OCLC Implementation Services really helped step us through how to do a project this big," says Crumrin. "We felt very confident in our ability to implement Indiana Memory with the Implementation Manager's expert guidance."

With regular meetings to report on progress, as well as a well-defined work plan, the Implementation Manager provided the structure for the team. She also helped them to focus their activities and discussions. Additionally, the Implementation Manager served as a point person managing questions about legal, technical, support and training issues.

Crumrin stated, "The Implementation Manager was very helpful in establishing realistic project goals. The State Library had already started the process of defining goals and objectives before the Implementation Services started, so this helped to validate the direction they were moving in. Having an outsider lead the goal setting process was helpful."

Result | Indiana Memory is expected to launch in late 2007. It is using a statewide license of OCLC's CONTENTdm Digital Collection Management Software to manage, store and provide Web access to Indiana's digital collections. Applications for the CONTENTdm software will be available for Indiana libraries wishing to participate after the launch.

Indiana Memory provides a model project for others to follow in terms of the degree of collaboration, the need to develop a common platform for the state's digital collections and the number of diverse teams of people that are working together. Additionally, an advisory board was established and will be helpful in insuring longer-term sustainability and continuity over the five-year Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding period.

For more information about OCLC's CONTENTdm Implementation services, contact your regional service provider or OCLC.

For more about CONTENTdm, visit www.oclc.org/contentdm/, call 1-800-848-5878, ext. 4301, or e-mail libservices@oclc.org.