DAC Meeting

April 9, 2012

3pm Eastern

Present: Demian, Eric, Pat, Kevin, Lisa

AGENDA and Minutes

1. Update on Newspapers Task Force  
   Pat will submit a NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources proposal
2. Archon/AT. Catholic Theological Union (CTU)   
   Lisa will be using AT since most convenient for Eric. Lisa will install local software to make EADs available via a web interface for CTU.
3. Implementation of sandbox portal

Eric: The list of usability improvements I was expected to implement include:

  \* add a a note to the email dialog box denoting how the from

    field is mandatory and requires an email address

  \* create a directory of institutions, and from search results

    hyperlink institutions names to the directory

  \* update the Portal look & feel (theme) so it is based on the blueprint theme

  \* turn off the Suggested Topics feature

  \* fix the author searches so when author names are clicked the

    content displays correctly

  \* make the login links float to the right instead of the left

  \* change the red text such as the text in the search box to

    black

* change the login label to read Login / Create account

Kevin : no objections, good work.

Demian would eliminate the green background. Can help with CSS if needed to make that happen.

Eric identified people from DePaul willing to do work on CSS, will give them access to sandbox and will need to tweak the template a bit.

Group agreed that good to engage more members in the work of the portal.

Eric will do while DePaul folks work on site. Demian suggested, too, that they might then help with the mobile app.

1. The main focus of the call is a review of Eric’s implementation of the usability study improvements and discussing new features of VuFind 1.3 that we may wish to implement.

List of possible features to implement in VuFind follow. Demian offered a description of each feature and a sense of how difficult each would be to implement.

1. added basic OAI-PMH harvester tool -- only applicable if partners have OAI-PMH repositories that we should harvest

Tool to pull down xml documents for harvesting. If someone has this tool implemented, might be easier for Eric to bring in their content. Can also manipulate IDs. Don’t know if anyone is using OAI-MPH now.

1. added optional "Next" / "Prev" links to navigate through search results from the Record view (disabled by default see the new[Record] section of config.ini to enable this option).

Worth discussing, but pretty trivial.

1. alphabetical heading browse functionality

Worth discussing, though a mostly librarian-oriented feature. If on, need to run additional scripts that the module uses. Not hard to turn on if we want to try out.

1. BibTeX export support.

Trivial, can export citations using this format. Submitted by a library in Germany.

1. book preview support through Google Books, OpenLibrary and

   HathiTrust

Worth discussing, supports these three. Uses an API to find out if a full text preview is available online, if yes, gives link. Impressive feature, go right to book. Question is whether books in portal would be found. Many people at Villanova have been happy with the google previews. Even older items without ISBNs are eligible for viewing.

1. full OAI-PMH server support and smarter RSS feeds

We might want to discuss whether or not we want to turn on the server, but this isn't really a user-oriented feature to rapidly share portal content. I don’t know that we want to do that, or even within our record use policy. Probably want to leave alone.

1. new "book bag" functionality for performing actions (save, email, etc.) on multiple items from result lists (available in Blueprint theme only) -- worth discussing

Shopping cart interface. Can do bulk actions, can send all via email, save to a list, etc. etc. Here usability tests would be useful to see how folks like it. Already up and running.

1. new (experimental) jQuery Mobile theme -- mobile support in general may be worth discussing

Fits into smaller screen. Easy to turn on but more CSS work to do. would want to customize interface as portal. Look at weblogs or google analytics to see what percentage of users is accessing via mobile devices.

1. new recommendation modules (Timeline graph, Europeana, Google Maps) -- we could discuss this, though it's a more advanced topic

Can plug in to search results to load widgets as part of results list. Google map saying where items on map if have geographic item. Maybe more useful is visual timeline graph by year in a visual way. Might try and then do usability tests.

1. optional support for multiple result list page sizes

Can choose how many results they want.

1. optional support for multiple result views (list vs. grid) --we could discuss this, though I wouldn't recommend changes

Can get thumbnails for collections with lots of graphics.

1. search result highlighting -- we could discuss this; probably worth turning on.

Can turn on highlighting and results will hold the keyword you searched for.

1. Sitemap generation -- already discussed as part of SEO conversation (but maybe not implemented yet)

Eric: Yes, and will turn on to run on a regular basis.

Comments and discussion:

Kevin: browse functionality might be preferred by more than librarians.

Lisa, why not turn them on if simple?

Agreed to turn on all that are simple.

For now, do all EXCEPT: a, d, f.

5. Discussion on the format of our member directory.

Do we want a directory or link directly to the member institution?

Kevin likes idea of directory, list of institutions which takes you to contact info.

Rather than hot-linking institutions, can have links in directory - one to institution homepage, one to crra directory. Could show either or both of those links.

Lisa institution info might be very different, let each institution log in and fill in their own information and add whatever they want. Still, a link within the link.

Would not recommend the direct link as the default.

Once Concrete5 content is set, can pull from the database to maintain the data.

What in each entry?

-institution

-URL

-postal address

-phone number

-generic email contact

-specific enough to distinguish archives or library if more than one possibility per institution

 Group agreed could live with just directory, linked to from institution name in record.

Minutes were approved.

**Next meeting: May 4 1:00pm**

Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada): 1-866-469-3239

Attendee access code: 216 605 75