

The Digital Insider

Digital Information News from the State Library of North Carolina

The Digital Information Management Program (DIMP) works to preserve democracy by providing freedom of access to North Carolina state government information



Developing Shareable Metadata Standards

Staff from the Government & Heritage Library's Metadata & Cataloging Services branch are participating in a new initiative from the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) to develop guidelines and standards for shareable metadata in CONTENTdm.

Metadata, or "data about data," describes materials so users can find the items (books, texts, videos, images, etc.) they are looking for and identify them accurately. Metadata is "shareable" when it follows agreed-upon standards that allow it to be searched in different online systems, and understood by a wide variety of users.

OCLC's CONTENTdm product—the online system currently used to

house the State Library's Digital Repository—is used by over 1,000 organizations. Using clear, agreed-upon standards for creating metadata for digital materials from these organizations will make that metadata more shareable and our electronic collections more widely discovered by people around the world.

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To create these standards for shareable metadata in CONTENTdm, OCLC has created its Metadata Working Group (MWG). The MWG is made up of staff from OCLC and CONTENTdm customers and information is shared through a group wiki and online meetings.

"The State Library can provide valuable input to the Working Group, as our unique role as the state publications clearinghouse requires us to provide access to materials that the other group members aren't working with," says Kate Klutz, the Head of Cataloging & Metadata Services at SLNC and the Library's representative on the MWG. "We're excited about being part of this effort, and about helping to develop standards and guidelines that will aid other libraries in creating their own high-quality metadata, as well as ensuring that our own metadata provides the best possible access to our digital collections."

See: <http://tinyurl.com/oclcmwg> for more information.

North Carolina eNCyclopedia Project

The eNCyclopedia is an online resource that highlights North Carolina's unique resources, people, and culture to enrich, educate, and inform, and provides reliable information about North Carolina to students, researchers, and curious individuals.

The North Carolina eNCyclopedia is being updated to include enhanced web features, new graphics, updated article language and citations, and a search engine accessible both on the eNCyclopedia homepage and via WebFeat. Changes and updates are

being prioritized based on the results of a user survey conducted in June 2009. The newly designed site is expected to launch in early 2010.

In September, the Government & Heritage Library invited users to vote on their favorite logos as part of early redesign efforts. A total of 950 votes were cast. The four most popular choices will be

used in rotation on the revised and redesigned eNCyclopedia homepage.

The Government & Heritage Library sees the process of updating and redesigning the eNCyclopedia as a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with other divisions, state agencies, universities, schools, local history organizations, and other public and private institutions. Contributions and feedback from these organizations will be solicited to ensure content within the eNCyclopedia is accurate and reputable.



* STAFFING UPDATE *

In the last issue of the *DI*, we advertised for several Access to State Government Information Initiative grant-funded staff positions in the DIMP. Well, we've been lucky to fill *all* of them with what we're calling the DIMP DREAM TEAM. Meet:

Dean Farrell, Systems Integration Librarian, ASGII

Lisa Gregory, Digital Projects Liaison, ASGII

Marcellaus Joiner, State Library Project Manager, Ensuring Democracy through Digital Access

Amber Welch, Digitization Specialist, ASGII

In addition, an internal hire has allowed us to fill a position open since last spring. As of November 16, **Michelle Czalkowski** joins the DIMP as the Digital Projects Manager. Most recently the Outreach and Training Librarian in the Information Services Branch of the GHL, Michelle will head up the revamp of the eNCyclopedia, develop and manage digitization projects, and manage the GHL's web presence. Please help us welcome our new team!

Join our mailing list to automatically receive this quarterly newsletter.

To subscribe, visit <http://tinyurl.com/5r2kry>.

Three NC Institutions Awarded “Ensuring Democracy through Digital Access” Grant

From a press release published in August 2009 by East Carolina University.

A two-year grant will fund the creation of a digital collection of core North Carolina governmental documents by J.Y. Joyner Library at East Carolina University and two other state libraries.

The “Ensuring Democracy through Digital Access” grant will allow Joyner Library, the State Library of North Carolina (SLNC), and the University of North Carolina Library at Chapel Hill to digitize state documents along with printed volumes from the three partner libraries, the N.C. Supreme Court Library and the N.C. Legislative Library.

When the project is completed, computer users worldwide will have access to complete runs of session laws, legislative journals, and reports of such important agencies as the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Department of Public Instruction.

A total of 775,000 pages (approximately 2,300 volumes) will be digitized over the course of two years by UNC-CH in cooperation with the Open Content Alliance, a collaborative digital library of more than 1.2 million digitized volumes and other multimedia from around the world, all freely available through the Internet Archive. In the second year, J.Y. Joyner Library will lead a workshop in which area educators will use the North Carolina Standard Course of Study to develop educational activities that will further enhance classroom learning. These materials will then be added to the collection website in a special educator portal.

Through these activities, ECU

will aid North Carolina educators in integrating these materials into their classroom activities. In turn, these educators will inform the next generation of researchers about the publications’ value to the study of historical and contemporary North Carolina and give them the skills to integrate these materials into their research.

“This project will revolutionize the study of North Carolina’s past.”

“This project will revolutionize the study of North Carolina’s past,” said Maury York, assistant director for special collections at East Carolina University. “Scholars, local historians, and students at all levels will have ready access to rich resources that pertain to many fields—corrections, education, health care, la-

bor, public works, and much more.”

The primary audience for the collection will be historians, researchers, and students (both university level and K-12) of North Carolina, however, as this material also covers an important formative era in the history of our country, the collection will also be of interest to those outside the state. Since the digitized content will be openly accessible and retrievable through sources like Google, WorldCat, the Internet Archive, and through the collection website, these materials will be easily found by a broader audience.

The grant, “Ensuring Democracy through Digital Access,” is made possible by funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) as administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources.

For more information, and to follow our progress, bookmark <http://www.ncgovdocs.org>.

What’s Going On In the “Digital World”: E-Book Announcements

October 2009 was a busy month for the e-book industry. Besides announcements about new and expanded markets for e-book readers, both Google and the Internet Archive announced planned e-book service offerings.



Google announced that they are launching a new online service for booksellers called Google Editions. This service is expected to be available next year and will be a browser-based service. As a result, e-book purchasers will be able to read the books on any gadget that includes a web browser (though once an e-book had been accessed it

would supposedly be available offline, however, details about how this would work are still a bit fuzzy). This is Google’s first attempt to profit from the Google Book Search mass scanning project. For more information, see <http://tinyurl.com/GoogleEditions>

A few days after the Google announcement, the Internet Archive announced the BookServer project. BookServer is an interesting alternative to Google Editions. It uses an open-architecture to allow e-book promoters (retailers, libraries, publishers, etc.) the ability to find, distribute, and deliver e-books to users, regardless of which reader the user employs. While it is also still in development, BookServer is ultimately supposed

to allow users to search book indexes across the web to identify content, compare vendor offerings, and easily download titles. To learn more, check out <http://www.archive.org/bookserver>.



Which service offering will the industry and its users prefer? Will it be Google’s “first to market, web-based” approach or the Internet Archive’s “collaborative, open, and flexible” approach? Only time will tell.

Have a “What’s Going On” question? Drop us an [email](#) and we’ll answer it in the next issue of the DL.