

Mind the Gap. Bridging Digital Libraries & Archives

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ABSTRACT

The overarching goal of digital libraries and archives are similar - to foster the preservation of cultural assets, published or otherwise. Despite this common goal, the different tools, terminology, and approaches of libraries and archives can impact, sometimes prevent collaboration. This presentation will highlight features of the open source Islandora framework that can help bridge the gap between digital libraries and archives, leveraging the strengths of both fields of expertise. The resulting rich ecosystem can provide an empowering approach to building user-centric collections that also achieve the goals of long term preservation.

This presentation will use examples from the Islandora Open Source Software Community and Framework to demonstrate the strides made to bridge the gap.

General Terms

Institutional opportunities and challenges; Frameworks for digital preservation; Innovative practice.

Keywords

Digital libraries, digital archives, open source, collaboration, Islandora.

1. INTRODUCTION

The overarching goal of digital libraries and archives are similar - to foster the preservation of cultural assets, published or otherwise. Despite this common goal, the different tools, terminology, and approaches of libraries and archives can prevent librarians and archivists from collaborating. This presentation will highlight features of the open source Islandora framework that can help bridge the gap between digital libraries and archives, leveraging the strengths of both fields of expertise. The resulting rich ecosystem can provide an empowering approach to building user-centric collections that also achieve the goals of long term preservation.

2. CONTENT

The OAIS reference model creates a common thread for discourse, especially with the increasing adoption of the model in both communities. The model will be discussed in relation to its

application for digital libraries and archives, including non-traditional areas such as research data management. Also, new tools are emerging to bring digital libraries and archives even closer together. The three tools highlighted in this presentation will be the 1) the Manuscript Solution Pack (facilitating the viewing of a high resolution image of a manuscript, TEI and EAD description), 2) Drexel EAD modules (facilitates ingest and display of EAD and child object), and 3) Archidora (an integration between Islandora and Archivematica). Additional preservation features of the environment will be discussed.

3. CONCLUSION

The presentation will encourage leveraging existing knowledge bases and ecosystems for libraries and archives, working with the strengths of each, including standards, policies, workflows, and applications. Doing so will spur new developments that benefit both digital libraries and archives.

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