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WWI Postcard Collection: A Community-Based Model For Digital Libraries

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WWI Postcard Collection: A Community-Based Model For Digital Libraries
In Feb 2008 Buffalo State History Professor Andrew Nicholls approached IC Director Maureen Lindstrom with 5,000 digital postcard images asking for help.

Andrew wanted to make the postcards available on the web but had no idea how to go about doing this.
After conducting a needs assessment it was determined that the solution must:

- Allow Andrew to create pages with excerpts about the card's images and text.
- Allow Andrew to add images and digital video to these pages.
- Allow Andrew to edit the items by rotating, adding titles, and descriptive text.
- Display the images in a manner easy to browse.
- Allow students and others to post their commentary on the items in the collection.
Is this the business of libraries?
Andrew's options within the business of libraries:
Archives and trusted digital repositories which collect and preserve digital information through the use of complete metadata schemes.
Digital Libraries which provide access to digital collections through metadata but may not commit to its long-term preservation.
Digitals Repository - Access?

One-way street difficult to navigate, near impossible to browse, no functionality.
Digital Library - Communication?

One-way street, easy to navigate, easy to browse, no dialogue.
Andrew's needs: Sounds like the business of Flickr? Access & Communication
... Or of an Angel LOR
Community aka "The Void": Somewhere between the public and the private.
Libraries are the heart of their communities.
What we came up with
I mean, what we modeled
The Parts

Photoshop

Wordpress

Gallery2
The Whole

Faculty can publish knowledge using Wordpress - the easiest interface there is.

Student aids or library staff can add informal titles, descriptions and keywords to the images.

Students can participate through Gallery2 commenting system.

Librarians can respond to comments and offer resources for further research.
A New Business Model

2007 LOC moves digital collections into Flickr where communication takes place (watershed moment).

Digital assets part of dynamic learning enviroment (faculty student interaction).

Librarians use informal digital media and web2.0 communication channels to market less accessible or more formal information resources.
Conclusion:

Currently, WWI Postcard Project is still on a development server http://136.183.139.251/wordpress but will move into production Fall 2009.

Buffalo State Digital Curation Committee is working on a recommendation for a Digital Asset Management solution on campus that encompasses Web2.0 technology.

The paradigm shift of academic libraries as information purveyors to places of learning must occur virtually as well as physically.

By creating informal virtual communities around digital collections, librarians can participate in the academic discussion and make more formal collections better known.
CyberInfrastructure

Public Networks

Virtual Community

Digital Libraries

Collections

Archives

(CMS / other) (transient, dynamic)
(CMS) (modular, dynamic)
(CMS & IR) (Singular, static)
(Physical)
(Subscriptions)
(IR)

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