Re-platforming digital collections for enhanced access & search functionality

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Current system
- Not cross-searchable
- Not openly accessible
- Not all fields are fully searchable within each collection

Project overview
Currently, Kent State University Library is preparing to redesign its online exhibits and digital collections on to a different content management system and interface. The plan will entail migrating existing digital collections to another platform, and in so, provide a more inclusive search mechanism to enhance access. In order to prepare for this migration, we are currently mapping the existing digital collections and associated metadata for the proposed solution, from a locally created and hosted framework into a more sustainable platform with a consolidated, searchable base for all digital objects and corresponding metadata.

This work includes moving away from a highly tailored, in-house solution, and transposing the data into a RDF file. Principles of Linked Data will also be applied to the accompanying metadata files during the conversion process. The largest resulting change from this shift of a homegrown solution into an extensible, open access platform is for the capability of searching across multiple collections. Currently, cross collection searching is not available in the current interface, and there are oftentimes many related materials between several existing digital collections that would benefit as a result of this change. The poster will address the shift in the ideology into this new framework and highlight the benefits in this switch.

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