

ADR 1.0 Released: A New Era Begins at the Alliance

Many users of the Alliance Digital Repository (ADR) Version 1.0 will never know they are using the ADR...And, that's the way it should be!

Users will see a “branded” repository portal customized to the resource-providing institution, search and browse features, ways to deposit and share content of their own, a variety of resources from any one institution, and tools to help them use - and re-use - digital content. These front-end pieces are just the beginning of the list of features included in ADR 1.0.

Those same users - whom we hope will find what they are looking for and leave happy - will unlikely be aware of the deep infrastructure, development, and policy work that underlies and supports their Web-based repository experience.

“To state the obvious, the release of ADR 1.0 is so much more than any one Web site going ‘live,’ and marks the beginning of a new era of collaborative development and resources-sharing at the Alliance,” stated Alan Charnes, Alliance Executive Director, when asked what impacts ADR 1.0

will have on the Alliance.

During the two years of ADR development, prototyping, and piloting leading up to the release of ADR 1.0, Alliance members and staff have re-affirmed that it takes not just a village – or, in our case, a consortial community – but also committees, working groups, legal counsel, external partners, and the time and skills of dozens of individual personnel and stakeholders from the twelve participating Alliance and Affiliate institutions to build a stable, scalable, standards-based, trustworthy digital repository service.

The culmination of their hard work was released this past January, with institutions now focusing on how to make the available ADR portals their own.

There is no repository “solution” on the market today that offers the depth of infrastructure, suite of included support services, disk space, collaborative environment, or flexibility and diversity of services that the ADR provides its members.

The single greatest question the ADR and its stakeholders face continues to be just what do we do with all this opportunity? How do we collectively approach the development of repository functionalities and services that meet the broadest and ever-growing set of digital asset management, access, and preservation needs in these challenging times?

Components of the ADR Service

Functions and features of the ADR Service can be grouped into the following components:

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ADR Workshops Offer Hands-On Training

Bringing colleagues from many of the Alliance’s member institutions together in one place, the ADR Hands-On Workshop Series was launched in May 2009. To date, two workshops have been held, with a third, focused on batch deposit of content, preparation, and workflows, in the works for later this month.



The workshops offer the opportunity for library personnel from multiple institutions to work together side-by-side and to get “under the hood” of the ADR’s Fez-based institutional repository portals. This guided exploration of the set-up options and customizable features, including digital object deposit web forms, search keys, access controls, as well as user and group account settings and basic record creation, helps the attendees consider all the ways the portals can be institutionally scoped and personalized.

For more information, or to request a “re-offering” of an earlier workshop, please contact adr@coallicance.org. Materials from the workshop are available for reference on the ADR Resources Wiki, under Tutorials [<http://adrresources.coalliance.org/wiki>].

Meet the Newest Faces at the Alliance

Ed Fugikawa



At the end of July, Ed Fugikawa will be celebrating his first anniversary working at the Alliance on the ADR service! We will, however, be forgoing the traditional first anniversary paper gift in light of his role as the Senior Software Engineer for the *digital* repository!

Please join us in giving Ed a great big “Thank you!” for all the time and effort he puts into building and maintaining the repository’s services.

In the past year, Ed has contributed enormously to the ADR team by not only bringing his strong technical and programming skills to the organization, but also by stepping up, somewhat unexpectedly, into the lead programming position for the ADR when Keith Maull, the first ADR Software Engineer, departed in December 2008. Ed works with Alliance staff, contractors, external vendors, Alliance library personnel, and campus IT units to develop and refine software, interfaces, content, metadata, and workflows that support the repository service and its member-identified deliverables.

Prior to joining the Alliance, Ed worked at Kent State University and West Virginia University, as well as in the private sector. His past responsibilities include building a knowledge management system based on raster-based GIS and image processing systems as part of the US Army Corp of Engineers’ GRASS system, focusing on data migration and conversion. Ed has also developed tools and helped create rules to support management systems and end-user interactions. Ed also served as a systems specialist at Kent State Library School, supporting both hardware and software needs, as well as faculty research and development projects - including some funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) as part of the National Science Digital Library (NSDL).

Looking for Some Summer Reading?

Check out “**Describing Digital Objects: A Tale of Compromise**” in the latest issue of *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* (Volume 47 / Issues 3-4 / 2009).

Robin Dean, Keith Maull, and Jessica Branco Colati, discuss how a standard descriptive metadata policy for repository objects was developed at the ADR and how it is currently being implemented.

Alex Ushakov



Please join us in welcoming Alex Ushakov to the Alliance’s ADR Team!

Alex will be filling a re-worked Software Engineer position we’ve had available since Keith Maull’s departure last December. In his new position, Alex will be working with Ed Fugikawa, ADR Senior Software Engineer and Tim Donnelly, the Alliance Network and System Administrator, supporting the current ADR services and engaging in on-going development activities to meet the deliverables identified by Alliance members.

Alex brings with him a wealth of experience working with academic institutions and non-profit organizations. Most recently, he served as the Director of Technology at the Austin Val Verde Foundation / Total COMCO Inc. in Santa Barbara, California, where he was responsible for creating custom media solutions for education and private sectors, which included developing innovative Web 2.0 applications for digital content delivery and video streaming.

Prior to working at the Foundation, Alex was a principal developer at the Alexandria Digital Library (ADL) at UC-Santa Barbara, where he coordinated digital library development - including interactive learning user interfaces for use with geo-spatial digital content. At the ADL, and also on an earlier NSF-funded project at the University of Northern Colorado, Alex worked closely with librarians and faculty developing to develop usable digital library services and learning environments.

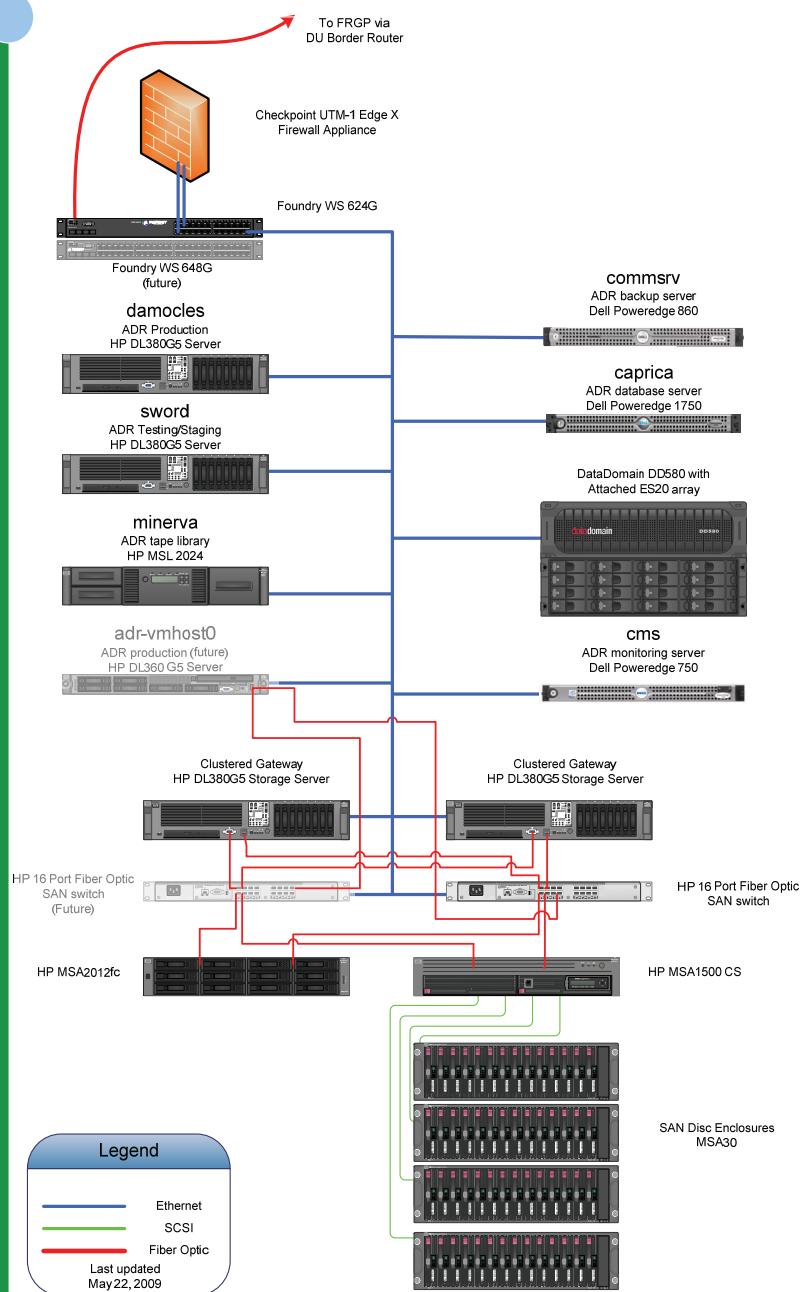
Kyle Henke and Bridget Whittenberg

If you’ve been working with the ADR, you probably met, emailed, or called Kyle and Bridget, especially if you’ve attended a workshop, worked with the content deposit web forms, or been mapping metadata for batch ingest. Both Kyle and Bridget are temporary contract employees tasked with providing, among other things, metadata support activities and documentation and training resources.

Kyle’s a current DU LIS student and Bridget’s a recent DU LIS alumna. Both have committed significant time to self-study of various metadata schemas, XML , XSD, and XSL /T best practices, and learning the Alliance landscape to best serve the ADR. Although we know they won’t be with us forever, we are very grateful for their assistance as we move from ADR 1.0 to 2.0!

Collocation and Redundancy: Protecting Members' Digital Assets

ADR Physical Diagram



The Alliance is committed to continually looking for new and better ways to protect members' digital assets deposited and stored in the ADR. With this commitment in mind, the Alliance collocated the ADR hardware to a more secure, stable, and systems-redundant computing center on the University of Denver (DU) campus in March 2009.

The move took several months to plan with the assistance of DU's University Technology Services, and several days to accomplish. The planning - and scheduled interruption in service - were quickly shown to be well worth the effort and inconvenience, as soon after the collocation was completed, the Denver area experienced power outages affecting both the Alliance offices and DU locations. ADR services, though, were not affected.

DU's collocation facility provides the ADR hardware with a much more resilient home. Not only is the facility environmentally-controlled, it is also alarmed, under surveillance, and connected to multiple emergency generators capable running for days, if necessary, in the event of a power failure (as already demonstrated!).

Even though the hardware is now located away from the Alliance office, our technical staff have 24x7 access to the facility and can perform most day-to-day tasks remotely from the main office, home, or anywhere Internet access is available. This allows us to work as if the hardware was right next to us much of the time. We have configured several different monitoring and reporting software utilities that keep us informed of any potential problems before they can impact the end users.

To further ensure that the ADR is available when you need it, we recently added a second fibre channel switch to the storage network portion of the ADR environment that will add one more layer of redundancy to the network.

And, in the event the worst should happen, we have also upgraded our backup software to an

Enterprise Class package that cuts our backup time by more than 50% over the previous software. All our backup data is first placed locally on a disk-based system then copied over to traditional magnetic tapes to be stored off-site at an Iron Mountain facility on both a weekly and annual rotation. By using a disk-based system first we can ensure that backups are speedy and restores can be accomplished almost instantaneously. Storing the tapes offsite provides continuity in the event of a catastrophic event that damages the disk system.

Interested in learning more about the ADR Hardware and Infrastructure? Contact adr@coalliance.org.

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- Content and Metadata
- Controls
- Hardware and Infrastructure
- Relationships
- Software
- Trust

These high-level divisions organize features and functions, as well as focus development resources. They also allow the not-so-visible needs, like technical infrastructure redundancies to alleviate hardware failure risks, to be included and prioritized alongside content manipulation and streaming features, mass data-loading, and policy reviews and revisions.

Staging, Production, and Public Portals

In ADR 1.0, each institution has its own brandable portal to the repository, as well as a staging instance of the portal, where customizations can be proofed, local training can take place, and content and collections can be modeled – all in a password-protected space safe from web crawlers and accidental access by the public.

Production instances of the portal are also protected until an institution indicated they are ready to “go public” – and when that time comes they are up and running and ready for public use in a matter of minutes!

All production portals come with a set of content-specific web forms supporting deposit that automatically captures descriptive standards-based metadata and stores it with the file(s) uploaded to the repository. The interactions of Fedora and Fez support this deposit workflow with little to no “library-speak” needed on the part of the content contributor. Institutions can customize these web forms, as needed.

Once a repository portal is in public release, the Alliance tracks its web statistics using Google Analytics, as well as monitors other sites linking to ADR portals, as Duke University Libraries recently did to highlight resources available in the ADR in the areas of Eastern European and Russian studies. We also look to promote the repository portals in Google and other search

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engines, facebook, Alliance Web pages, conference proceedings, and other appropriate spaces. Currently, the Alliance is supporting two publicly accessible

production releases of ADR 1.0: PEAK Digital at the University of Denver and the University of Wyoming Digital Repository.

From Our Members

Athletics and Archives Team Up to Deliver the Past

Contributed by Greg Colati, University of Denver

The University of Denver’s Division of Athletics and Recreation and the Penrose Library’s Special Collections and Archives have teamed up to organize, digitize, and archive historical photographs, documents, and electronic media elements related to athletic history at DU.

Athletics and Archives are natural collaborators, since both are concerned with records, recordkeeping, research, and traditions. Although the ultimate purposes may be somewhat different, the process of recording, collecting, managing, and making available historical content is roughly the same.

The two-year pilot project was jointly funded by the Library and Athletics. Beginning with still images and moving to other content types including media guides, team rosters, and moving images there are currently more than 3,000 digital objects in the repository with another 10,000 soon to be available. The project team developed descriptive standards for digital objects that supported both library and athletics needs and interests, and mapped them to the ADR standard MODS metadata schema.

In addition to providing access to the digital objects through PEAK Digital, the DU instance of the Fez presentation application, all of DU’s ADR digital objects will soon be available from DU’s online catalog (PEAK). This comes through the combination of the Encore product from III, and OAI harvesting of DC records and thumbnails from the ADR.

Visit PEAK Digital at <http://adr.coalliance.org/codu/fez>

Recognizing Undergraduate Research and Scholarship

Contributed by Dennis Moser, University of Wyoming

The University of Wyoming has a tradition of supporting research and, more recently, an active program of supporting research by undergraduates throughout the state. Each year, undergraduates from Wyoming institutions are recognized at a day-long celebration held in Laramie.

After the show, the real celebration starts; every scholar strives for publication and through the use of the Alliance Digital Repository, UW gives these students the scholarly recognition that they have earned. To date, nearly 300 presentations from current and previous Undergraduate Research Days, along with presentations from the McNair Scholars, have been made available through the ADR.

The works are received in electronic form, usually PowerPoint presentations, and converted into Adobe PDF files for consistency. These files are then cataloged and made publicly available through the Repository “Browse” interface. Keyword tagging is also done to enhance their searchability.

To date, this work has been done using an “in-house” workflow performed by Library personnel; the exciting aspect now is that as we open the Repository to the public, we have had the students themselves working to submit their papers and presentation directly into the Repository ... Helping to build the future of institutional repositories and open scholarship.

Visit the University of Wyoming Digital Repository at
<http://adr.coalliance.org/wyu/fez>

Collaborative Librarianship: A New Journal

Collaborative Librarianship (<http://collaborativelibrarianship.org>) is a new online open access quarterly journal which was launched in January 2009. The journal was envisioned by Ivan Gaetz, Dean of Libraries at Regis University, who brought it to fruition in over a year of planning with a team of librarians in the region. The journal is hosted on a server at the Alliance using the open source software called Open Journal Systems (OJS) which is produced by the Public Knowledge Project (<http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=ojs>).

The scope of the journal is broadly defined to include any activities in which libraries work with other groups to accomplish their goals. Increasingly, libraries are moved to seek partnerships with other libraries, with other organizations in the information and technology fields, with other entities in our institutions, and with other groups and enterprises in our communities. While partnerships of all sorts have had a long history in the field of librarianship, today, as never before, there is greater urgency to develop and exploit library partnerships, and to think widely and creatively on new types of, and potentials for, partnerships.

Collaborative Librarianship has four major sections including Scholarly Articles - which are peer reviewed (section editors: Ivan Gaetz and Michael Levine -Clark), From the Field (section editors: Chris Sugnet, Jeffrey Bullington, Cory Tucker), Reviews (section editors: Pamela Blome, Barbara Losoff), News (Valerie Horton and Joseph Kraus) and a special regular column called "Collaboration Matters" by Nicole Engard from LibLime. Janet Lee and Greg Robl are doing copy editing and technical support is primarily being done by Joseph Kraus with additional support from Chris Brown and George Machovec.

The first two issues of the journal have had many thought-provoking articles including an interview with Camila Alire, "Michigan Evergreen: Implementing a shared Open Source Integrated Library System," "Collaborative Tools Used to Organize a Library Camp Unconference," "Perspectives on Peer Support for Tenure-track Librarians: The Annual "Juniors" Retreat at Stony Brook University," among others. The journal also has an associated news blog which may be accessed from the journal's home page.

For more information contact Ivan Gaetz, Dean of Libraries, Regis University at igaetz@regis.edu or one of the section editors as found on the journals Website.



Although the journal grew out of roots in Colorado as evidenced by the strong Colorado representation in the journals sections; the journal has a strong national and international editorial board and group of peer review readers including:

Stephen Abram, President, Special Libraries Association, 2008; Vice President, Innovation and Chief Strategist, SirsiDynix; Past-President, Canadian Library Association; Toronto, Ontario

Camila Alire, President Elect, 2008-2009, American Library Association, Dean Emerita, University of New Mexico and Colorado State University, and Past President, 2005, Association of College and Research Libraries, Sedalia, CO

Dr. Shimelis Assefa, Morgridge College of Education, University of Denver

Brenda Bailey-Hainer, President and CEO, BCR; President-Elect, 2009, Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (of ALA)

Christie Brandau, State Librarian, Topeka, Kansas

Deirdre Brennan, Executive Director, Oak Park Public Library, Oak Park, IL.

Todd Carpenter, Managing Director, National Information Standards Organization (NISO), Baltimore, MD

Timothy Cherubini, Director of Information Resources, Collections & Scholarly Communication, SOLINET, Atlanta, GA

George Jaramillo, Library Director, Taos Public Library, Taos, NM

Barbara Jeffus, School Library Consultant, President of the National Association of State Educational Media Professionals, Sacramento, CA

Jesús Lau, President-Elect, 2008-2009, Mexican Library Association (AMBAC), Director, USBI, Universidad Veracruzana, Veracruz, Mexico

David Stewart, President, 2008-2009, American Theological Library Association, Library Director, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN

The OJS software is hosted on a Linux server at the Alliance. OJS is produced by the Public Knowledge Project (PKP) with major support coming from Simon Fraser University and other academic sites. The software may be freely downloaded (<http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=ojs>) and supports features such as

- OJS is installed locally and locally controlled.
- Editors configure requirements, sections, review process, etc.
- Online submission and management of all content.
- Subscription module with delayed open access options.
- Comprehensive indexing of content part of global system.
- Reading Tools for content, based on field and editors' choice.
- Email notification and commenting ability for readers.
- Complete context-sensitive online Help support.

Announcing the Alliance Collaborative Microform Scanner

The Alliance Member Council has approved the collaborative purchase of a high performance microform scanner (both fiche and film) on behalf of a cluster of libraries in the consortium.

The device will be purchased through the pooling of funds from seven member libraries and the Colorado State Library. The unit will be placed at Norlin Library at the University of Colorado at Boulder where the largest base of microforms is stored. Participating libraries can request that microforms housed at Norlin be scanned and delivered; libraries may send in individual microforms for digitizing or libraries may schedule time on the unit (using your own staff) for large-scale digitization projects. Items which are digitized can be placed in the Alliance Digital Repository, if a local library chooses. Several have expressed interest in digitizing important materials for placement in the ADR.

The project was spearheaded by Peggy Jobe, Head of Government Documents, at CU Boulder because of the large historical body of federal documents in microformat which are now almost unusable. The purchase of the microform scanner will not only re-energize the use of these important materials but will also aid libraries who want to discard documents in cooperation with CU Boulder, the regional federal repository. Research on which microform scanners to consider for purchase has been done by Michael Riberdy at Norlin Library and the Alliance office is coordinating the purchasing of the scanner.

Sunrise Microscanner Demo
Norlin Library, CU Boulder
Monday, July 2, 2009, 1-5 PM
Contact Peggy Jobe for details.

A large body of historical microforms has been collected at each of the libraries in the Alliance. This data includes valuable fiche collections such as NTIS reports, DOE Reports, government documents, ERIC documents as well as microfilm for journal backfiles, newspapers, dissertations/theses and other documents. Most Alliance libraries have substantial collections in microform, for example, CU Boulder alone estimates a collection of over 5 million fiche - much of which is not available in any other format.

Discovery of these collections typically takes place through specialized databases (e.g. NTIS, Energy Database, ERIC, Dissertation Abstracts) and once documents have been identified they historically have been viewed with micro readers/printers. As microforms have become an increasingly rare medium for document distribution, preservation and access; most of these types of materials are now born digital. However, the historical collections of fiche/film documents are substantial. Microform reader/printers are now an obsolete technology and must be replaced or the vast collections will become unusable.

High performance microform scanners are now available from several companies which will allow a library to insert fiche or film and scan at rates of over 100 frames per minute and produce a digital representation of the document. This summer, several different companies have been invited to demonstrate their hardware and a purchase will be made at the end of the summer. For more information contact Peggy Jobe at CU Boulder (Margaret.Jobé@Colorado.edu) or George Machovec at the Alliance office (george@coalliance.org).

Alliance

We are here to serve you!

Alan Charnes, Executive Director
George Machovec, Associate Director
Geri Virtue, Administrative Coordinator
Tim Donnelly, Systems/Network Administrator
Rose Nelson, Systems Librarian
Terry Leopold, Database Purchasing Coordinator
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Featured Web sites “Quick List”

The Alliance
<http://www.coalliance.org>

ADR
<http://adr.coalliance.org>

PEAK Digital
<http://adr.coalliance.org/codu/fez>

University of Wyoming Digital Repository
<http://adr.coalliance.org/wyu/fez>

ADR Resources
<http://adrresources.coalliance.org>

Collaborative Librarianship
<http://collaborativelibrarianship.org>

PKP's Open Journal Systems
<http://pkp.sfu.ca/?q=ojs>