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SPECIAL EDITION

The two-day conference was held in Denver. It began with a technical "meet-up" with just under fifty participants. The main conference followed the next day and included two keynotes, panel discussions, and presentations by Alliance members and staff. Over 100 people from around the region attended the conference.

The Alliance Newsletter

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Alliance

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Evolution of Technology and Scholarship in the Digital Age

In a compelling morning keynote address entitled **Scholars, Scholarship and the Scholarly Enterprise in the Digital Age,** Dr. Richard Katz of EDUCAUSE provided an overview of how scholarship is changing due to a evolving technological landscape. He posited that no one under 30 reads newspapers and that the industry is undergoing major transformations.

Dr. Katz followed with a discussion about the first part of the Digital Age. According to Katz, "better, cheaper and faster" defined this age. We raised educational standards and used technology to become much more efficient. "Part One" of the Digital Age liberated us from the "busy-ness" of scholarship as technology has allowed us to discover, retrieve, assess, annotate, tag and index information much more efficiently.

Now we are confronted with "Part 2" of the Digital Age. We're faced with a conundrum: as the traditional model of delivering scholarly discourse dissolves the future model has not yet resolved. The challenge now is in the curation of knowledge. It's no longer a unitized monograph. We must consider how to preserve more complicated information such as non-textual and unstructured data.

> "The challenge now is in the curation of knowledge."

One of the impacts of technology is scholarly isolation and the balkanization of ideas. Although many people - including many scholars - are more connected through social networking, the irony is that many of these same individuals are more isolated. Through blogs, social networking and traditional websites, we have sought out our peers who share are same belief systems, but may not challenge us to consider other ways of thinking.

Dr. Katz and conference attendee Karon Kelly, Director of Digital Learning Sciences, UCAR/NCAR.

Dr. Katz also provided several examples of how the technological landscape will be an impetus to a change in scholarly discourse and delivery. Search engines are closing exclusive deals with publishers, which changes what we can access on the Internet. There is less engagement in the classroom. Part of this is due to alternative resources for learning. We are also seeing a move toward crowd sourcing and shifting standards. Popularity often trumps the truth in terms of an authoritative resource. Dr. Katz cited "Rate My Professors.com" (http://ratemyprofessors.com/) as an example of this.

Dr. Katz delivered a thought provoking presentation which sparked several follow up questions from the audience and ideas that many will continue to ponder.

Thornton "Thorny" Staples of DuraSpace offered an equally thought-provoking afternoon keynote, entitled **The Future of Scholarly Communication is a Web in the Clouds,** where he reinforced concepts from his previous presentation and discussion during the pre-conference gathering, while helping us to envision the future landscape of scholarly work.

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(continued from page 1)
Staples explained that digitization is not only about preserving a collection of objects, but also about preserving the relationship these objects have to other items. Staples cited the Rosetti Archive (http://www.rossettiarchive.org/) begun in 1993 and "completed" fifteen years later, as an example of preserving a complex set of relationships between items. The archive includes manuscripts, proofs, original editions, drawings, paintings and more.

Staples also discussed the importance of durability in preserving the scholarly record. Durability assumes preservation in place and in action. That is, there is an assurance that all versions of the same object are preserved even as the original changes over time. Commercial vendors that archive information may guarantee connectivity and up time, but there is no guarantee that the "bytes" will be there five years from now, or that the different versions of an object will be preserved. DuraSpace provides this type of durability.

> "...digitization is not only about preserving a collection of objects, but also about preserving the relationship these objects have to other items"

Integration of the space and creator was another key theme from Staples' talk. In most cases, the repository and the creator are in different spaces using their own workflow to accomplish tasks. It's likely that faculty engage in the research project using whatever tools afforded to them to create and preserve their work. The repository in most cases was not designed for any specific academic unit's workflow.

Integrating space and creator would mean bringing the two together in the same space and time, such as building data sets right into the repository instead of adding them to it as an afterthought. Integration of the space and creator supports the scholarly process from the beginning of the cycle and helps to ensure durability.

Staples sparked an engaging discussion with lots of questions from attendees and lots of ideas to consider for future development of the Alliance's consortial digital repository services.

Technical Preconference "Meet-Up" Offers Opportunities to Learn About Fedora, Fez, ADR

The Alliance held a technical preconference meet-up the morning of January 28th, offering a valuable opportunity for librarians and IT staff to become more familiar with the underpinnings of both Fedora and the ADR platform. Just under fifty people attended the meet-up, coming mainly, but not exclusively, from Alliance members' libraries and IT units.

Thorny Staples, Director of Community Strategy and Alliances and Director of the Fedora Project, DuraSpace provided the technical preconference keynote address and offered a detailed look into the Fedora community and how it relates to other initiatives in the open source digital repository world.

Ed Fugikawa, the Alliance Digital Repository Services' Technical Lead, provided an overview of ADR 2.0 with a detailed look at the various underlying open source software tools, with a special focus on Fez repository management software. Currently, Fez is the core platform for ingest, management and discovery on the ADR. A preview of the Alliance repository aggregator, using OAI-PMH and Omeka to harvest openly accessible records from member repository portals was also demonstrated by Jessica Branco Colati and Alex Ushakov, Software Specialist with Digital Repository Services at the Alliance.

Chet Rebman, Fernando Reyes, and Greg Colati from the Penrose, DU, also offered insights on the development of multiple local interfaces for accessing the content stored in their instance of PEAK Digital .

Durability and Cloud Computing: A Closer Look at DuraSpace

"DuraSpace is a ...not-for-profit organization that provides leadership and innovation in open source and cloud-based technologies primarily for libraries, universities, research centers, and cultural heritage organizations....software and services are used worldwide as solutions for institutional repositories, open access publishing, digital libraries, digital archives, digital collections, data curation, virtual research environments, and more."
(From DuraSpace: http://www.duraspace.org/).

DuraSpace, the combined organization of Fedora Commons and DSpace, is committed to supporting both of the existing repository platforms, as well as to developing new strategies and solutions for ensuring digital content is "durable." To this end , DuraSpace offers a suite of open source tools which organizations can use to create digital services, including Fedora, DSpace, Akubra, Mulgara, and Topaz.

One of the most interesting new DuraSpace services discussed from the Alliance perspective is DuraCloud (http://www.duraspace.org/duracloud.php). The DuraCloud program will allow organizations to have multiple copies of content with different storage providers in the Cloud and will offer bit-level verification that what at stored at each location is identical. The Alliance is planning to participate in DuraCloud development as a beta tester.

Benefits of the DuraCloud service include:

- Ensuring trust services for the Cloud
- Replicate to multiple storage providers
- Replicate to multiple geographic areas
- Monitor and audit digital assets
- Partnerships with cloud providers
- Pay-for-use for services and storage

DURASPACE™

Panels Highlight Alliance Members' Repository Services and Activities

Two panels comprised of Alliance member library faculty and staff using the consortial digital repository service (a.k.a "the ADR") to support their campus-based repository programs and initiatives offered demonstrations, insights, and opportunities for attendee-wide questions and discussion of relevant repository topics. At each break throughout the day, demonstration showcases also facilitated by the libraries' staff provide opportunities for attendees to get "up close and personal" with different repository portals and projects.

The "Repository Communities, Policies, and Relationships" panel, from left to right, Carol Dickerson (CC), Robin Satterwhite (CC), Rachel Desormes (DU), Diana Sweany (Regis), Jessica Colati (Alliance), and Ivan Gaetz, (Regis).

The first panel, entitled **Repository Communities, Policies, and Relationships,** included representatives from Colorado College, Regis University, and the University of Denver.

Carol Dickerson, Director of Tutt Library at Colorado College, began this panel discussion by describing the open environment at Colorado College that fosters collaboration and trust among faculty and staff. Robin Satterwhite, also of Colorado College, then discussed the collections in the Digital Archives of Colorado College (DACC) (http://dacc.coalliance.org), including a costume collection, student theses, and a collection of digitized oral histories collected from women of Northwestern Colorado.

Ivan Gaetz, Dean of Libraries at Regis University, and Diana Sweany, Electronic Resources Librarian at Regis, talked about marketing the Regis Univeristy Digital Repository (RUDR) (http://adr.coalliance.org/codr/fez) internally to faculty and staff. They also discussed their various collections in RUDR which include electronic theses, learning objects, and a photo archive collection.

Rachel Desormes from Penrose Library, University of Denver (DU), talked about her role as Digital Projects Facilitator at Penrose, which requires building relationships with faculty, determining their needs, and figuring out the most efficient process for putting their content into the ADR. Desormes discussed a campus photo collection project and working with a photographer/ videographer to get his content into DU's repository portal, PEAK Digital (http://adr.coalliance.org/codu/fez).

The second panel discussion, **Repository Data, Discovery, and Delivery,** focused on data discovery and access approaches in the repository service and how institutions have made or intend to make this possible. The University of Denver again participated, alongside representatives from the University of Northern Colorado and the Government Publications Interest Group (GoPIG).

Greg Colati, Digital Initiatives Coordinator at Penrose detailed DU's approach of utilizing the consortial digital repository like a cloud service provider. The ADR provides infrastructure, storage space and other "cloud" like services, while Penrose Library, via PEAK Digital and other initiatives, serves as a cloud provider of the same services for the DU campus. Colati also talked about the library's role in helping faculty to manage metadata, differences in granularity between an undergraduate image research and faculty needs and also administrative and non-academic units' needs. He also discussed Penrose's implementation of Encore and using Origami as an image tool on the discovery layer.

Helen Reed, Associate Dean, University of Northern Colorado Libraries (UNC), and Lisa Blankenship, also from UNC Libraries, discussed Digital UNC (http://adr.coalliance.org/cogru/fez), their repository portal built on the ADR platform. They reviewed the formation and role of the Digital Initiative Group, a diverse committee who oversees the development of Digital UNC. They also discussed marketing Digital UNC and the types of documents in the repository, which include educational resources, scholarship research, student these and dissertations, early twentieth century masters theses now in the public domain and identified as interesting historical resources.

Chris Brown, Reference and Government Documents Librarian at Penrose (DU), was the final panelist to present and represented GoPIG (http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/de/gopig/gopig.htm) GoPIG is exploring how to leverage both the consortial digital repository services at the Alliance, including consortial data storage and customizable repository portals, and also the Alliance's recent consortial purchase of a microform scanner to digitize, manage and deliver government documents currently available only on microfiche. Brown outlined an approach to systematically digitize selected sets, such as the USGS Open File Reports, while also capturing single items as part of the ILL request process for microfiche materials.

Survey Says...Alliance Gathers Feedback and Ideas

For this All Alliance Conference, we decided to gather feedback about the event for evaluation purposes using a web-based, follow-up survey.

Since we were contacting all the registrants, we also took the opportunity to ask about past attendance at All Alliance meetings and conferences, as well as what topics and trends registrants would like to see be the focus of future All Alliance conferences and gatherings.

We now have some very good data points and comments to use in developing future programs. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. Your feedback is always desired and appreciated!

The survey is still available for use until March 31, 2010, here: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SZGHLDN

Even if you didn't attend this All Alliance Conference, you can "skip to the end" and suggest topics for future All Alliance Conferences and events!

From the Survey...

By the Numbers:

- **33 attendees** completed the survey (roughly one-third)
- **51%** reported that this was their very **FIRST** All Alliance Conference, while **6%** indicated it was their **SEVENTH** or more.

Some Comments:

- "Keep up the good work!"
- "I enjoyed the show and tell demos... encourage something similar in the future..."
- "Both days were worthwhile."
- "I really enjoyed the pre-conference because it was more technical..."
- "My questions were answered amazingly well, I was really impressed."

Some Future Alliance Conference Suggestions:

- "...Providing a conference presented mainly by, for and about member libraries could be very informative. Sometimes we don't talk to one another enough."
- "More technology (and even advanced technology) topics would be great."

ADR 2.0 : Releasing Repository Functionality

Jessica Branco Colati, Director of Digital Repository Services at the Alliance, provided an overview of the services offered by the Alliance and features of the ADR 2.0 release during the conference. ADR 2.0 builds on Fedora, Fez, and a number of open source software packages to support facet searching, object view and download statistics, controlled PDF viewing, audio and video streaming for select file types, and improved OAI exposure.

Software improvements are complimented by the move to virtualize the ADR server environment, providing each participating Alliance member with its own production and sandbox portals, spaces, and servers to support publicly accessible repository portals and a place to "play" with continually developing features and functions.

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- subject line of email: put topic of your message
- in the text of the message: the content of your message

For additional information or assistance, contact George Machovec (contact info at right)

Alliance

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