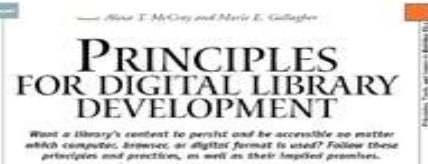



Development of Digital Libraries Webliography

Ours is an age of information revolution: libraries are supplemented by websites; books are accompanied by bits; and access is distributed far beyond the boundaries of institutions, municipalities, and even continents. In order to provide the best level of service and remain competitive, information organizations are increasingly making their collections accessible on the web, organized into “digital libraries” using a combination of traditional library practices and cutting-edge technologies and standards. In this information explosion, organizations run the risk of leaving users in the lurch, confused amidst a storm of arbitrarily organized, formatted, and available data. In order to properly serve their users and put themselves in the best possible situation for collaboration and interoperation, organizations are seeking ways to build digital libraries per established best practices, sustain them for years to come, grow vast and diverse digital collections, and provide access using existing standards, tools, and technologies. This humble Webliography may act as a starting point for those interested in such an endeavor.

 D-Lib Magazine <<http://www.dlib.org/>> -- D-Lib is an electronic journal “with a primary focus on digital library research and development”, covering a broad range of topics in great detail. The journal has published on a monthly basis since July 1995, providing users with free access to the most current material from trailblazers in the field, ranging from pure research and evaluation to implementation guidelines. The design is simple and scholarly, navigation is straightforward, and there is a wealth of information on nearly all the topics related to digital library development.

Principles of Digital Library Development <http://lhncbc.nlm.nih.gov/dlb/pubs/200105_cacm_mccray.pdf> -- While this document may not be current, having been published in May 2001, much of the information contained within is surprisingly still relevant. A number of practices and principles are suggested therein, so it would serve wonderfully as a good introductory read. [Note: Required Adobe Acrobat Reader plug-in, freely available from <http://www.adobe.com/>.]




 Digital Library Federation <<http://www.diglib.org/>> -- The DLF is a consortium of numerous universities, libraries, and organizations such as OCLC, RLG, and CNI, and their website seeks to provide “information about developing digital collections and managing networked information,” which it accomplishes thanks to the authority and expertise of its constituent organizations and members. Especially useful are the different sections on architecture, preservation, collections, standards, and practices, which are organized in an intuitive fashion.

Strategies for Building Digitized Collections <<http://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub101/contents.html>> -- Published in 2001, this document is intended as an aid to developing a sustainable strategy for digitizing

**Strategies for Building
Digitized Collections**

collections, with equal treatment given to access and preservation, both key aspects of materials in digital libraries. Towards the end of the document, in chapter 4, are particularly helpful sections when making a cost-benefit analysis, a wise process for any organization.

 **INSIDE CDL** Inside CDL <<http://www.cdlib.org/inside/diglib/>> -- The CDL (California Digital Library) has developed a page documenting the numerous “building blocks” they have used to build their comprehensive, state-of-the-art digital library, listing a number of best practices, standards, and software technologies. All documents linked within are dated, which is a nice touch; when evaluating technology which is quite volatile, it is crucial to know the dates involved. A nice touch is a glossary towards the bottom of the page; frequently, acronym-laden documentation can seem like “word soup.” The glossary is a way to make the slew of new technologies and standards less daunting.

Guide to Good Practice in the Digital Representation and Management of Cultural Heritage Materials

<<http://www.nyu.edu/its/humanities/ninchguide/>> -- Produced by the Humanities

Advanced Technology and Information Institute (HATII), University of Glasgow, and the National Initiative for a Networked Cultural Heritage (NINCH), this is an extraordinarily detailed guide touching upon nearly all conceivable topics during the life-cycle of a digital item. It also contains links to many other lists of best practices, thus it is quite comprehensive. Sections are included on planning, selection, digitization, quality control, collaboration, sustainability, assessment, and preservation. While not directly dealing with digital library, this document is relevant to management of a digital collection, an issue central to developing a digital library. Published in late 2002, most of the information contained within is still topical.



Development of Digital Libraries Webliography

The Development of Digital Libraries Webliography has been compiled to serve a wide range of information professionals—from librarians to technologists, scholars to information scientists—interested in numerous aspects of the development of digital libraries: building the library; growing a collection; evaluating and utilizing existing tools and technologies; and examples of current digital library projects.

Items included in the Development of Digital Libraries Webliography were discovered via a select number of search engines and general web directories, such as Google (<http://www.google.com/>), the Librarians' Index to the Internet (<http://www.lii.org/>), the Open Directory Project (<http://www.dmoz.org/>), Yahoo! (<http://www.yahoo.com/>), and BUBL Link (<http://bubl.ac.uk/link/>). Some items are documents with rather narrow scope, and others contain lists of links to yet more items. The compiler of this Webliography was unsure whether the primary resources or the “meta-resources” were more appropriate for inclusion, so some examples of each are represented in the Webliography.

Of the five resources used to select items for the Webliography, Google and the Open Directory Project—which Google uses to power its own directory—were by and large the most useful.

Google continues to be the top of the “surface web” search engine heap, because of its simple but powerful interface, intelligent ranking algorithm, and wide coverage. As no proximity operators are included in Google, I used two different but related queries: digital library development, and “digital library development.” The first query retrieved a number of documents—approximately 8.5 million—including some which had very little to do with the topic at hand, such as the development of libraries in third-world countries where digital technology is not as readily available. The second query retrieved a much smaller set of results—right about 16 thousand—as all documents were required to match the whole “digital library development” phrase. Both searches yielded good results.

The Open Directory Project, similar to Yahoo! and the Librarians' Index to the Internet in spirit, was particularly useful as it includes a category devoted strictly to digital library development. The category was rather easy to find, located under Reference : Libraries : Digital, and linked from several other related categories. Beneath this category there were dozens of resources, thus the ODP added quite a few potential items to the Webliography. The downside of the ODP is that items in categories are not sortable by the user and, thus, one must rely upon the cryptic ranking algorithm they have developed, which forces the user to do a visual scan of all results.

While the Librarians' Index to the Internet does not contain a category dedicated to the development of digital libraries, there is a digital libraries category with twenty-three items, some of which are relevant to the development thereof. I did not find the basic or advanced searches particularly useful, compared with the category browse interface which enables one to quickly locate the most relevant category. In the scope of the

Webliography assignment, where I was searching for information a rather narrow topic, this was ideal.

BUBL Link and Yahoo! were both simple to navigate and more or less well-organized. The Yahoo! interface is nearly identical to the interfaces of similar web directories, such as the ODP and the LII. BUBL Link's interface is similar, but different in that it employs the Dewey Decimal Classification scheme to organize its links. The former had very few relevant links in its digital libraries catalog, some of which were dead. The latter did not have a category that fit the content of the Webliography very well.