

Pacific Lutheran University
PLU DIGITAL COLLECTION MANAGER

HOME CONTACT

Objects Subjects Creators Feedback Profiles Codes Skins Help Logout

Digital Asset Management for the Rest of Us: Enabling Access to Digital Archives Using Open Source Tools

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DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER

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Presentation Pathway

- Compelling issues leading us to DAM development
 - Preservation and online access of objects
 - Enhancing image resources for web pages
 - Capturing community knowledge
- Review of alternatives
- Our baby steps toward a “quick-start”
- Lessons learned

Caveat

- Institution-specific story using resources at hand

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About Pacific Lutheran University

- Comprehensive Private University
 - Founded 1890
 - ~ 3,600 FTE
 - Liberal Arts & Professional Schools
- Library collection size
 - 263,569 titles
 - 413,535 items
 - 22,340 online journals
- Integrated IR Organization
 - Ethos of low-cost & open source
 - Rarely addition; often substitution



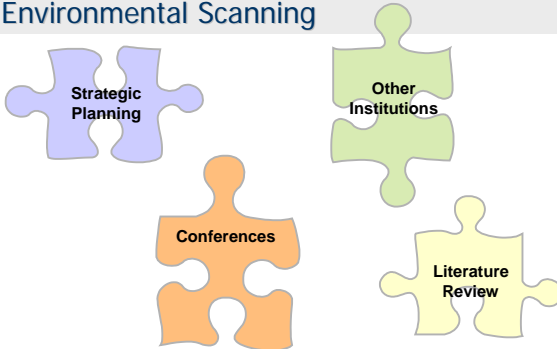
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A Sense of Urgency

- Floodgates of storage media
- Digital accessibility & searching
- Physical space/digital space
- Local and remote server storage
- Digital access
- Scope of collections
- A picture tells 1000 words and video:
29970 words per second

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Environmental Scanning



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General Criteria & Goals

- Drive sustainability with rapid, focused outcomes
- Digitally store & preserve objects
- Follow standards such as Dublin Core, CSS
- Provide unique object URL for campus integration
- Enable client-less, cross-browser access
- Build tolerance for upgrades, migrations, and collection moves

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Local Catalysts

- Collection Access
 - Dunmire negatives
 - Current photographs
 - Wang Center photos
 - Lutecast streaming archives
- Knowledgeable/Willing People to Provide Metadata
 - Archivist
 - Retired faculty and staff
 - Alumni
- Recurrent Events Requiring Objects
 - Homecoming, banquets, orientations

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Unique Departmental Needs

- Federating searching & collection limiting
- Categorized hierarchy & searching
- Switch for public view
- Various administrative roles
- Skinning malleable to departmental branding
- Handle variety of objects -- .jpg, .asx, .pdf, etc.
- Feedback submission
- Contribution of objects
- Viewing objects as groups (slide show)

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System Integration Issues

Balance among...

- Custom applications
- Scalable technologies
- Interoperability
- Upgrades & migrations
- Budget neutrality

LAMP Platform & Mozilla

Centralized Authentication

Storage Area Network

Life History of Image File in Past Year...

- Hard disk
- CD-ROM
- Filer - Network storage
- Chill - Linux server
- Rosemary - Linux server
- Netstore - SAN

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Campus Integration of Content

Make DAM objects...

- accessible for teaching & learning
- migratory among silos of content
- extractable in useful forms

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Potential Solutions (circa 2000-2003)

- Research Libraries
 - Group XML->HTML
- Fedora
- Endeavor
 - ENCompass
- ContentDM
- Build It

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Dissonance Continua

robust and sustainable	← Platform & Toolkit →	open source model
doing it right with standards and quality control	← Standards & Quality Control →	doing it quick with tolerance for fuzziness
making it work complexly for the archivist	← Audience →	making it work easily for the end user
high cost, resource intensive	← Costs & Resources →	low cost, personnel intensive
economies of scale and support	← Customizability & Sustainability →	innovation & customization

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Standards

Dublin Core Metadata

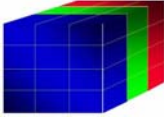
- Title, description, coverage, original date...

Uniform Resource Name

- Department, Collection code, Profile code

CSS/HTML

A system build to move, standards light the path to eventual migration.



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Our Experimental Solution

- Platform
- Authentication

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Publisher Workflow

End User Production Cycle

- Users with wide array of technological backgrounds
- Digital objects from multiple sources and formats
- Total amount of objects
- Final display considerations

Programmatic Considerations

- Server-side object optimization
- Variety, size and number of aggregate objects
- Storage, FTP transport, moving objects
- Front-end database interaction

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User Authorization Roles

Criteria	DeptViewer	DeptUser	DeptAdmin	Administrator
Object Add	no	no	yes	yes
Object Details	yes	yes	yes	yes
Object Edit	no	yes	yes	yes
Object Delete	no	no	yes	yes
View "off" images	yes	yes	yes	yes
Add, edit, delete profiles	no	no	yes	yes
Profile Details	yes	yes	yes	yes
Assign Categories	no	no	yes	yes
Assign Subjects	no	no	Yes (archives)	yes

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Administrative Tools

- Functionality to add, edit, and delete codes and users
- Access controlled by session role checks and menus



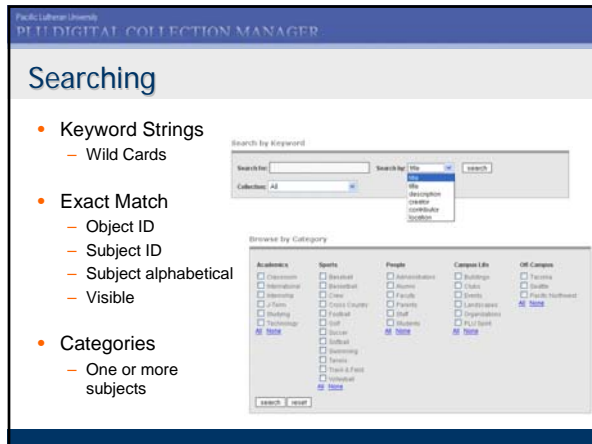
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Public Interface

- Searches only those items marked as "visible"
- Limit by collection
- Summary screen
- Details screen
- Image export: large, medium, small
- Copyright
- Image ordering
- Feedback forms
- Object contribution

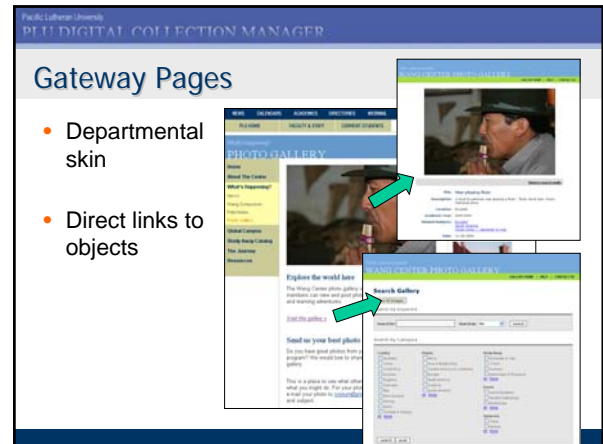
Searching

- Keyword Strings
 - Wild Cards
- Exact Match
 - Object ID
 - Subject ID
 - Subject alphabetical
 - Visible
- Categories
 - One or more subjects



Gateway Pages

- Departmental skin
- Direct links to objects



URL Dissection

Generic Search
<http://chili.plu.edu/pluindex>

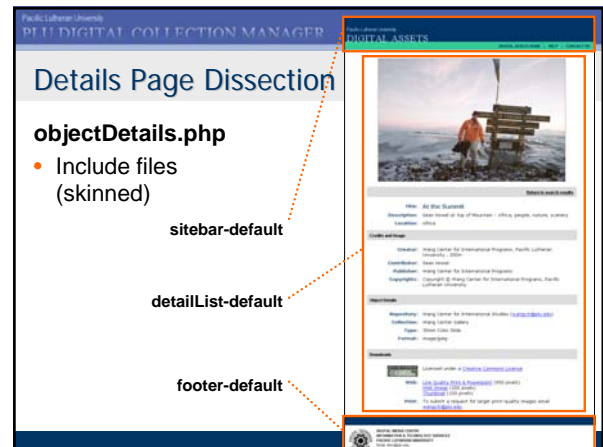
Branded Collection Skin
<http://chili.plu.edu/pluindex?skin=archives&collection=10>

Title Search
http://chili.plu.edu/pluindex/results.php?criteria=bird&search_type=title&skin=wangctr&collection=27&start_row=1&max_rows=10

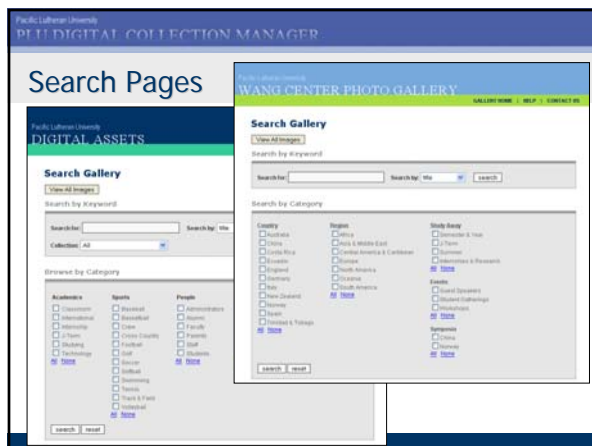
Details Page Dissection

objectDetails.php

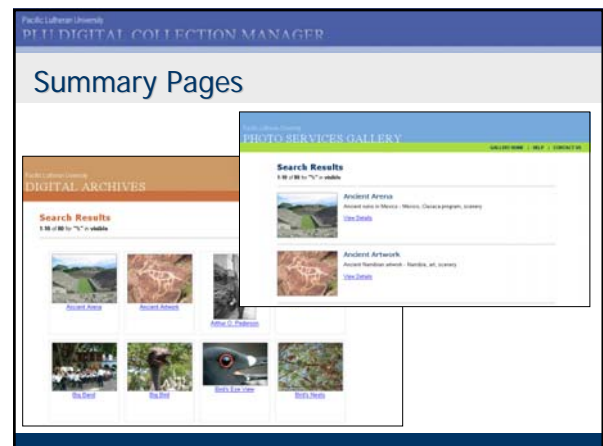
- Include files (skinned)
 - sitebar-default
 - detailList-default
 - footer-default



Search Pages



Summary Pages



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Outcomes

Number of users	18
Number of departments	6
Number of active collections	4
Number of objects	1,326
Number of subjects	6,067
Visible objects	97
"Abeyance" (Non-visible)	1,235

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Tenuous Sustainability?

- Hardware & software
- Storage limits
- Data migrations
- Community interest
- People
 - Developers
 - Content managers

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Future Enhancements

- User interface testing
- Slide shows
- Metadata quality control
- Other file types
 - .asx
 - .pdf
 - others
- More modular coding
- Database abstraction layer



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DAM Lessons Learned

- Results in more thoughtful awareness of preservation & access issues
- Difficult to strike a balance among community access and involvement, data standards, speed, and quality control
- user-centric & highly customizable design is critical to grass-roots success
- Baby steps provide showcase for value creation & critical mass of support

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Contact Info

Public Interfaces
<http://chili.plu.edu/pluindex>
<http://www.plu.edu/~wangctr/happenings/photo-gallery>

Handouts
<http://www.plu.edu/~dmc/dam>

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