Web Development Group 07/ 20/ 05

Present: Cantrell, Juhl, Miller, Morgan, Pearce, Walker
Guest: A. Cantrell

This was a special meeting of a Web Group Subcommittee to review the new version of CONTENTdm (4.0) and to discuss the implementation of this new version.

Beth distributed information on how to view user documentation on the DiMeMa web site (DiMeMa has taken back support responsibility from OCLC for this product):


To create a user account on this system, one will need the UARK Institution ID, which is available from Beth or Todd.

Beth recommended reviewing the Powerpoints hosted on this site and other documentation on features of the new version.

Todd demonstrated the install of the new version. For testing purposes, it is running on the Thales (old Giovanni) server:

130.184.237.132 = 3.8 installation
130.184.237.132:2005 = 4.0 installation

3.8 is really just a migration phase (we had to install it to get to 4.0) so we are concentrating on making 4.0 work, not on 3.8.

Todd discussed some authentication / management issues with this new version. Users cannot be authenticated through our current active directory system but must instead be manually input as new accounts on the Thales server.

The group agreed that generic accounts would be a good option. To begin with, Todd will set up 4 user accounts: Special Collections, Scanning Technician, Cataloging, and Web Services.

Todd showed some of the differences from our current version:

- greater granularity in user permissions levels
- most administration can now take place through an enhanced web interface so that the client does not need to installed in as many places
- user interface is greatly enhanced. The queries are now executed through a PHP API instead of javascript. This means that Web Services will need to rebuild the public web pages.
- the ability to mask some collections from displaying to the public through the web interface

This last feature was the most exciting for the group as it means that Andrea and Cheri can now work towards the goal of using CONTENTdm to manage items scanned for patrons "on demand." They will work with Todd to set this up as a new collection with the goal of "cutting over" on a particular date to this new system. At a later date, they may do some retrospective conversion to place previously scanned items into this "By Request" collection. Our CONTENTdm license allows up to 8000 items, of which we now have 493.

It was decided that the "By Request" collection was the first priority (after testing is done) and that there is not a "hard" cutover date when the public Digital Collections pages will need to be migrated over. We may have the two versions running parallel for a short time.

Action items:
Todd will:

- make the web versions of 3.8 and 4.0 viewable through a web browser (done)
- set up the 4 user accounts
- install the Acquisitions Station client on the scanning workstation in Special Collections and on Andrea's, Cheri's, Mary's, and Deb's machines.
- work with Web services (Arthur, Deb, Beth) to set up editing permissions on the Thales web server

The group will:

- test permissions and editing functions on the administration module once Todd has set up accounts.
- use the sample collection from U Washington to test (not edit the Happy Hollow items)
- [shall we designate one person to receive all the comments??]

Andrea and Cheri will:

- review the fields used in the previous version of "By Request" and prepare any needed changes
- work with Todd to set up the "By Request" collection
- review procedures for scanning new items into the collection

Deb, Arthur, and Beth will:

- work with Todd to set up the Web site on 4.0
- download templates and devise a procedure for editing them
- send test URLs to the group for review

Next meeting of the Web Group: Wednesday August 3, 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Juhl