BUILDING VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS IN DIGITAL COMMONS

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VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS

DEFINITIONS

“Online virtual exhibitions (VEs) are acknowledged as important complimentary counterparts to physical exhibitions. It overcomes space, time and location restrictions and allows global visitors to access these priceless and exciting treasures that are stored in museums, archives and other institutions on a 24/7/365 basis.” (Foo, S. (2010 March) Online Virtual Exhibitions: Concepts and Design Considerations. DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology

“an online Web-based hyper-textual dynamic collections devoted to a specific theme, topic, concept or idea” (Defence Research and Development Organisation, India)
VIRTUAL EXHIBITIONS

CHARACTERISTICS

• Digital representation of a physical exhibition:
  • Theme
  • Narrative (hypertext)
  • Media (digitized)
  • Structure (chapters)
  • Source collection (manuscripts, archives, rare books)
  • Information Architecture (linking internal and related external information sources for easy access, navigation, and searching): Websites, catalogs, digital collections, social media
VIRTUAL EXHIBITION PROJECTS AT UT

Canaday Center exhibitions (Web)
• http://www.utoledo.edu/library/virtualexhibitions/wtx/panorama.html
• http://www.utoledo.edu/library/virtualexhibitions/pgvx/

CONTENTdm (Web 2.0) - discontinued
• http://utopia.utoledo.edu/cdm/luminaries/index.php

Joomla (Web 2.0) – used for Toledo’s Attic
• https://www.toledosattic.org/exhibits/llvxmenu-intro
• https://www.toledosattic.org/exhibits/gtvxmenu-intro

Toledo’s Attic virtual exhibition (web 2.0):
• https://www.toledosattic.org/exhibits/toledo-scidex-home

Digital Commons (image galleries)
• http://utdr.utoledo.edu/rock-mineral/
• http://utdr.utoledo.edu/lucasco-atlas-1875/
BUILDING THE VIRTUAL EXHIBITION IN DIGITAL COMMONS

PROCESS
• Approach the exhibition curators for label descriptions
• Develop the metadata worksheet for batch upload
• Add coordinates (latitude, longitude) for visualization and data sharing
• Prepare descriptions to show chemical formulae correctly
• Take close-up photos
• Inspect the metadata worksheet
• Upload images and metadata into the DC system – repeat as many times as DC rejects the submission
• Send link out, and move on to the next project
VIEWS FROM THEVIRTUAL EXHIBITION
VIEWS FROM THE VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Widget view with metadata – Random view

Slide Show – Logical order
VIRTUAL EXHIBITION & DATA SHARING

Geo-located metadata records can support mapping at the item level
VIRTUAL EXHIBITION & DATA SHARING

Scientific data sharing across applications: Google Earth, ArcGIS, QGIS, and other platforms
NEXT STEP: DEVELOPING THE NARRATIVE – DIGITAL STORYTELLING

PURPOSE
• Documenting the research process
• Present contextualization of artifacts
• Present a history behind the exhibits
• Reinforce community memory and identity with stories related to exhibits

DIGITAL COMMONS
• Brief narratives in collection descriptions only; no exhibition space similar to Omeka or CONTENTdm

ALTERNATE APPROACHES
• Embedding images in Websites
• Using social media to construct narratives (WordPress, Tumblr, Storify, LibGuides, YouTube, etc.)
QUESTIONS?

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