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/pgvx/

CONTENTdm (Web 2.0) - discontinued

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 THE VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

The University Libraries, in collaboration with Professor Mark Camp and the Department of Environmental Sciences, have created this exhibit showcasing a wide variety of rocks, minerals, and fossils from the University’s focus on Mineralogy and Paleontology. The exhibit also contains a series of artifacts from the personal collections of Mark Camp and Ruth Jacobs, along with maps and artifacts stored by Gary Auman.

The display is divided into three sections: industrial, focusing on minerals used in manufacturing with an emphasis on Toledo-made items; fossil items recovered from various locations in Ohio; and fossils, a focus on the evolution of life on earth and the diversity of plants and animals that have existed since the early stages of life. These sections are supplemented with detailed maps and timelines.

Project collaborators: Prof. Mark Camp (Dept. of Environmental Sciences), Katherine Wicker, Ruth Jacobs, Susan Heine, and David Remes, in addition to various library staff.

Find other resources for Environmental Sciences at UT Libraries.


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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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