

Visual Materials Session Review 2007

Session #: 104

Session title: Open Source Software Solutions for Collection Management and Web Delivery

Number of VM Reporters contributing comments: 1

Reporter 1's VM experience level:

Archives Profession: 5-10 years

VM Specialization: Generalist w/ significant VM

Speakers:

Lisa Miller, Chair (Hoover Institution Archives)

Susan Hamburger (The Pennsylvania State University)

"Oliver Spits Out a Finding Aid: Using CONTENTdm with a Database"

Jennifer Harp (Mount St Mary's Archives and Department of Special Collections)

"Let Them Do the Work: Preserving a University's Scholarly Output Through Self-Archiving"

Mary Taylor (University of Nevada Reno)

"Local Collections, Grassroots Tools: Using Open Source Software for Sacramento History Online's Image Database"

Description from program:

Implementing open source software for digital projects is a cost-effective and reliable alternative to proprietary software. The speakers discuss out-of-the-box and home-grown products, including DSpace, XTF, DLXS, and PHP scripting language with a MySQL database for Web delivery of finding aids, images, articles, and books. Focusing on benefits of open source software, they also cover evaluating vendor products such as CONTENTdm, addressing issues of staffing and technical support, and adhering to best practices.

Summary of session:

Brief evaluation and overview of CONTENTdm and DLXS. Followed by a non-technical review of DSpace discussed in regards to Institutional Repositories. Lastly a case study of the implementation of MySQL and PHP.

Session strengths:

Overall, fairly informative case study examples of institutions that used different platforms for digital content. Each had an overview along with pros and cons of the systems.

How effectively did the session address the topic as proposed in the program?

The speakers addressed open source software that many archives currently use and touched each of the points from the program description.

Toward what experience-level was session geared?

Beginning to advanced

What topics (broached or implied) merit further development in future sessions or articles?

More development of critical analysis of the open source software is needed.