



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Old Wine in New Bottles

Reframing Digital Initiatives at
The Ohio State University Libraries

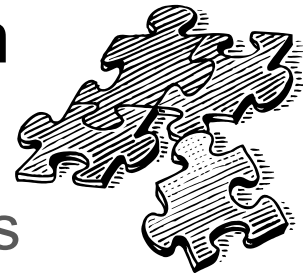
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BACKGROUND

- OSU Libraries digital projects – a long history
 - Knowledge Bank (DSpace)
 - Billy Ireland Cartoon Library image database (PastPerfect)
 - Many other projects
- However, much work was project-driven resulting in:
 - a fragmented digital environment for users
 - a difficult infrastructure to support and grow





PREPARING FOR CHANGE

- 2011 – New Libraries Strategic Plan
- 2013 – Re-envisioning the Digital Initiatives environment: approach and architecture
 - Programmatic vs. project-driven approach to planning
 - Services platform vs. individualized software components
- 2013 – IT Division restructured and grown
 - Infrastructure Support (7 staff)
 - Applications Development & Support (8 staff)
 - Digital Initiatives (1 faculty)
- 2013 – New Head, Digital Initiatives hired



PREPARING FOR CHANGE

- 2013/14 – Infrastructure and support moved back in-house from central IT
 - Servers / VMs
 - Storage
- All of these changes allowed better control of:
 - Planning for digital preservation
 - Allocation of resources (infrastructure & people)
 - Development directions & priorities



REALIGNING ORGANIZATIONAL THINKING

- 2013 – Strategic Digital Initiatives Working Group (SDIWG) formed
 - Chaired by Head, Digital Initiatives
 - Key stakeholders within Libraries
 - *Charge:* develop framework & recommendations to strategically evolve OSUL's digital library program to meet current & future needs
- 2013 / 14 Products
 - *Guiding Principles*
 - *2013 – Digital Preservation Policy Framework*
 - *White Paper*
 - *Master Objects Repository* report



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Value statements defining how we move forward
as well as evaluate current projects

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We build services, not products• We carefully weigh when to Build vs Buy vs Borrow• We develop modular services, not monolithic systems• We develop for change• We don't keep everything forever• We will build in assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We focus on the user• We work with partners• We embrace research as a core, fundamental value• We strive to stay grounded in the real world• We are driven by standards |
|--|---|



WHITE PAPER

- *Implementation of a Modern Digital Library at The Ohio State University Libraries*
 - Analysis of the current environment
 - Vision of future environment
 - Gap analysis
 - Recommendations and goals for moving ahead



MASTER OBJECTS REPOSITORY REPORT

- Purpose
 - OSUL roadmap to a trusted digital repository
 - Initial implementation of recommendations in the *Digital Preservation Policy Framework*
- Charge
 - Define Master Objects & Derivative Objects
 - Define environment and high-level repository management processes for our digital storage system
 - Recommend procedures for proper deposit and registration of objects including workflows and metadata
 - Recommend hardware-agnostic processes
 - Recommend additional software, as appropriate
 - Identify other relevant issues



PROGRESS

- **Shifting from current to envisioned environment**
 - From stand-alone projects to a coherent platform & suite of services
- **Filling in identified gaps**
- **Examples:**
 - Teams responsible for organizational best practices around metadata, digitization formats, and digital storage management
 - Implementing recommendations for Archival Collections Management (*ArchivesSpace*) and Format Preservation
 - Developing an Image Management System
 - Values statements and recommendations for a re-envisioned Discovery Environment

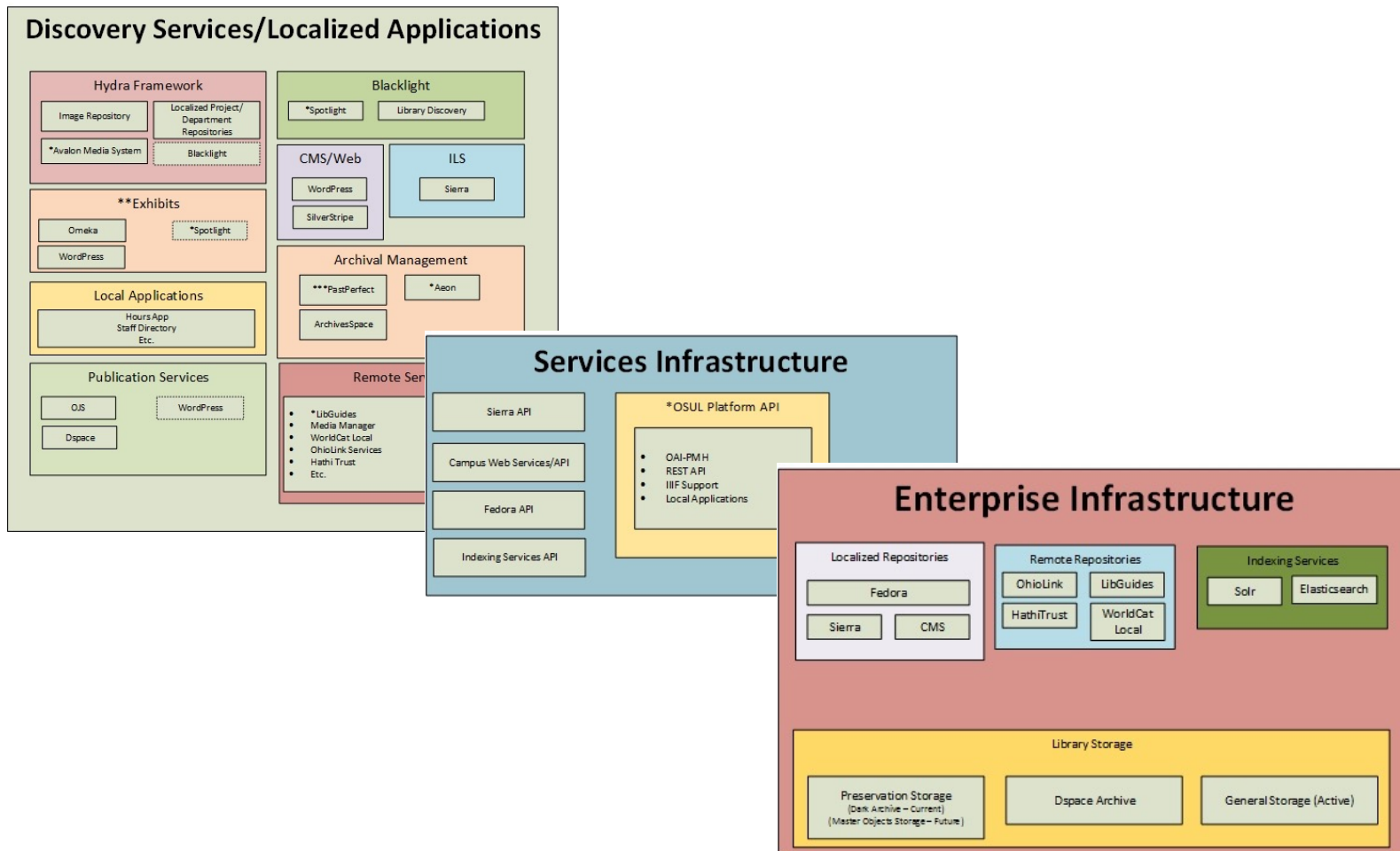


BEYOND THE SYSTEMS

- **Redefining workflows**
 - Laying out clear paths for curation, preservation, access
 - Clear definitions around systems and their use
 - i.e., how do we manage video, audio; what goes in the Institutional Repository, and what doesn't
 - Building a tolerance for iterative development
 - Listening to stakeholders as we fine tune connections



TRYING TO BE TRANSPARENT





LEVERAGING CHANGE

- **A chance to refocus**
 - Rethinking discovery and the roles of audience, design, and purpose
 - Supporting a formal digital exhibits program, and a matrix for understanding types and levels of preservation
 - Refocus on outside partnerships with a renewed commitment to data sharing and being good partners
 - Systematic evaluation of content at the edges, often stored in single use vendor products.



Questions?

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