Blacklight, ArcLight, and RPTF

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RPTF 2: From Archive to Classroom
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My background

- Archivist, software developer, manager, metadata specialist, project manager
- Deep experience with metadata aggregation; partners of varying resources and technical abilities
- Passionate about improving access to dispersed collections and leveraging technology to improve those platforms
Description and objectives

- **ArcLight** initiated by Stanford Libraries in 2014 to address a long-standing interest in discovery/delivery of archives
- Support discovery of physical and digital objects
- Compatibility with and intended for integration with other systems, e.g. ArchivesSpace and Hydra-based repositories
- Development, enhancement, and maintenance by the Blacklight/Samvera (Hydra) open source software communities
- Maintain a community focus throughout the project
Design and development process

- Design process led by 2 UX designers in Stanford Libraries’ Digital Library Systems & Services group (Gary Geisler and Jennifer Vine)
- Followed a model for user-centered design developed and refined over time (see DLF 2014 presentation) and leveraged existing practices for community-based open source software development
- Community-oriented, collaborative design/development process
  - Intentional choice, informed by DLSS open source participation
  - Opportunity for other institutions to identify needs and participate
  - Build interest and identify potential commitments for software development
Overview and timeline of work to date

**Discovery**
- Phase 1: Environmental scan, Stakeholder goals, Interview planning
- Phase 2: Archivist interviews, End-user interviews, Interview analysis

**Information Architecture**
- Phase 1: User needs, User personas, Requirements prioritization
- Phase 2: Conceptual models, Conceptual sitemaps, Wireframes

**MVP Development and Visual Design**
- Phase 1: Minimum viable product, Visual design mockups, Visual design style guide

Timeline:
- Nov 2014
- Feb 2015
- May 2015
- Summer 2016
- Oct 2016
- Nov 2016
- Jan 2017
- Feb 2017
- Feb 2017
- Mar 2017
- Apr 2017
- Apr 2017
- Jun 2017
Implemented features

- Presentation of archival description, hierarchically and by individual components
- Repository information
- Integrated delivery of digital objects (using oEmbed)
- Indexing of EAD 2002
- Keyword searching and faceting by collection, creator, date range, level of description, names, creators, repository, etc.
- Sorting by date, creator, title, relevance

- WCAG 2.0 Level AA conformance
- Search within collections
- Hit highlighting
- Component-level views with contextual information
- Proof of concept request management integration
- Bookmarks
- Configurable repositories and departments
- Basic inheritance of descriptive metadata (e.g. for access and use restrictions)
Architecture

Browser

ArcLight webapp

- ArcLight
- ArcLight Indexer
- BL Range Facet plugin
- Blacklight 7 alpha

MySQL

oEmbed Service
(digital object display)

Solr
6.5.1

Google Forms
(request form impl. For demo)

Can replace or override

AWS: EB (demo only)

EAD files

Can replace or override

oEmbed Service
Service
digital object display

Can replace or override
Opportunities for RPTF and questions

- Strategic opportunity to consider how RPTF undertakes metadata aggregation as a core activity
  - What do we expect from potential contributors?
  - What is the balance of technical work across the Task Force?
  - Which other aggregation projects can we leverage?

- Defining a clear understanding of discovery to support this community’s needs
  - What level of detail can we expect in terms of collections and items to make them useful or intelligible to researchers?
  - Can we usefully narrow the set of relevant features from what ArcLight provides?

- Consider the Blacklight ecosystem
More information

- Demo site: https://arclight-demo.projectblacklight.org/
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Individuals

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(1) Design phase contributor
(2) MVP development team member
(3) MVP development stakeholder

Institutions

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Thank you!

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For more information, visit http://bit.ly/arclightproject