ArcLight: illuminating archives

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Description and objectives

- Project initiated by Stanford University in 2014 to address a long-standing interest in discovery/delivery of information in 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/Hydra 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
- Mar 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)
Screenshots
Architecture

Browser

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

EAD files

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)
Collaboration with Michigan

- Lots of finding aids in DLXS
- Looking for a modern and accessible interface
- Mark Matienzo taking lead on ArcLight - an opportunity for us to collaborate
- Bentley Historical Library was willing to be engaged in the process of new interface development
U-M Local testing

Hosting a local arclight instance with 3,000 EAD finding aids. Bentley staff did extensive testing.

- Searching
- Display
- Component Pages
- Online Digital Content
- Requesting Material
- System Administration
U-M Next Steps

- Identify the use cases served by DLXS to define the MVP

- We host finding aids from seven repositories. Work with Bentley, Clements and Special Collections

- We plan to work on future ArcLight development
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(1) Design phase contributor
(2) MVP development team member
(3) MVP development stakeholder

Institutions

Chemical Heritage Foundation
Columbia University
Georgia Tech
Getty Research Institute
Indiana University
National Library of Medicine
New York University
Pennsylvania State University
Rockefeller Archives Center
Stanford University
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
University of Michigan
Yale University
More information

- Demo site: https://arclight-demo.projectblacklight.org/
Thank you!

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