Accomplishing the Impossible:
Digitization, Consortia, and a Small Liberal Arts College

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Overview

- Formation of the Red River Digital Archives (RRDA)
- Logistical considerations
- Advantages and challenges of consortia
Formation of the RRDA

- Collaborative partnership of Concordia College Archives, Institute for Regional Studies, & Prairie Public
- State Historical Society of North Dakota joined the RRDA in 2007

Partnership Agreement

Red River Digital Archives
Partnership Agreement

1. Introduction

Purpose Statement
The Red River Digital Archives (RRDA) provides, maintains, and preserves a wide range of historical and significant content related specifically to Fargo-Moorhead and broadly to North Dakota and Minnesota. This project creates teaching, learning, and researching opportunities for life-long learners.

Vision Statement
The RRDA is dedicated to creating a digital collection of the region’s unique and historical resources. It supports education, scholarship, and enrichment through internet access to these collections.

Harnessing technology and innovation, the RRDA is committed to:
- Creating open-access digital resources for research, instruction, and personal enrichment
- Developing and maintaining a digital library infrastructure
- Partnering on projects with other institutions that will benefit all parties
Goals of the RRDA

- Increase digital resources
- Digitize, promote, and support the access to and use of unique materials
- Develop digital asset management capabilities of individual partners
- Encourage the public to share historical resources from their personal collections
- Collaborate with colleagues to develop digital resources
- User-friendly access to digital collections
- External funding sources to advance digital projects
- Sustainable, scalable, and consistent digital library standards

Membership Levels

- Three levels dependent on goals and financial resources:
  - Partners
  - Associates
  - Clients
Data Dictionary

Title

Dublin Core label: Title
Dublin Core definition: The name given to the resource

Mandatory: Yes
Searchable: Yes
Access: Public/staff field
Authority control: No
MARC crosswalk: 245 Subfields: a & b
FBCore: FBCoreTitle
Format application: Audio, Moving Images, Photograph, Textual

The name given to the resource by the creator or publisher; may also be an identifying phrase or name of the object supplied by the contributing institution. (Western States)

Input Guidelines:
1. A brief descriptive phrase that includes these elements, generally in this order: who, what, where, when.
2. The title is a concise sentence which will be used to label the thumbnail; it will also be the first line of the descriptive information.
3. The title may be the caption assigned by the creator or the collector, or it may be created by staff from the given caption and from additional sources.
4. Preference is to use the caption assigned by the creator or printed on the original item.

Examples: (using title found with image)
Air view, Kansas, KS
On Notes field: Title printed on front of postcard

Digital Horizons
Advantages of Consortia

- Promote access to collections
- Fuse diverse resources
- Save time, money, and staff resources
- Networking
- Learning opportunities
- Diversity among participants (Yeats & Guy, 2006, p. 44):
  - Experience
  - Technical expertise
  - Repository types
- Visibility and impact (Peters, 2002, p. 416)

Overcoming Challenges

- Members progress at varying rates
- Tools and best practices for preservation are developmental
- Digital content continues to evolve
- Combating disadvantages:
  - View digitization as part of daily workflow
  - Plan
  - Communicate among members
  - Employ national standards
Summary

- Formation of the RRDA
- Pre-planning and logistics
- Advantages & challenges of consortia