

Implementing a Digital Repository



...Easier Said than Done?

State Library of North Carolina
Jennifer Ricker

Timeline

CONTENTdm
implementation
plan complete
(DIMP kick-off)

July 31, 2007

CONTENTdm
implementation
team kick-off

Oct. 30, 2007

Data input into
CONTENTdm
begins

April 1, 2008

First collection
of born digital
content live

May 19, 2008

July 1, 2007

Subscribe to
hosted
CONTENTdm

Oct. 16, 2007

CONTENTdm
sneak preview
demo at NCLA

Nov. 1, 2007

CONTENTdm
upgraded to
ver. 4.3 (new
functionality)

April 16, 2008

First collection
of digitized
content live

Off to a good start...

- ❑ Previously participated in CONTENTdm trial
- ❑ Could justify need for tool to management
- ❑ OCLC sales jumped through all necessary hoops
- ❑ Implementation manager and many other library staff familiar with tool



Trouble spots



□ CONTENTdm upgrade

- Made aware in advance that upgrade was imminent, decided to go ahead with implementation and adjust as necessary for upgrade
 - Had committed to offer a sneak preview of SLNC's Digital Repository at NCLA in October
 - Meant modifying CDM interface and setting up collection exclusively for demo
- CONTENTdm upgrade included new functionality
 - Required testing and major revisions to the implementation plan
 - New functionality didn't always work as anticipated
 - Connexion Digital Import
 - PDF conversion to compound object

Trouble spots, cont.

- Going from trial to true implementation
 - Trials don't give the whole story
 - Non-issues at trial become issues in implementation (i.e., controlled vocabulary limitations, publication updates, and unicode)
 - Staff Participation
 - Limited time
 - Aim for perfection
 - Tool limitations
- Local technology support
 - No customization support



Bright spots



- CONTENTdm support team
 - Upgrade went smoothly
 - Quick turnaround on questions
 - Worked with us when functionality not performing as anticipated
- CONNEXION Digital Import
 - Rough start but is a time saver in the end
- Custom Query Tool

Bright spots, cont.

Cross-functional nature of the project

- Teamwork
- Learning opportunity
- Taking collections live
 - History of Raleigh
 - Eugenics
 - North Carolina State Documents



Lessons learned

- ❑ If possible, don't implement when an upgrade is imminent – wait until after the upgrade
- ❑ If possible, don't commit to demo anything until you have something to demo
- ❑ Thoroughly test all new functionality prior to incorporating into the process (either at time of implementation or after)
- ❑ Expect surprises!



Keys to success



- Executive support
- Funding
 - Ability to justify sole sourcing the software
- Flexible Plan
- Teamwork
- Leadership

What's next?

- Preservation
 - In the process of subscribing to the Digital Archive (interoperable with CONTENTdm)
- Add more collections/items to existing collections
- Revisit the metadata (preservation metadata)
- Refine the workflows
- Look for interoperable submission tools

