
Reusability of University Digital Archives: Meeting the Needs of K-12 Teachers



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Interactive University



- 1996, campus-wide initiative, part of IS&T
- Use Internet to open UC's resources to K-12 communities and the public
- UC-community partnerships
- Research and develop tools and models to gather and share digital resources
- "Themed Collection" (TC)
- Partnership with CDL to develop TC's

The California Digital Library



- Established in 1997 by UC Office of the President
- Develops tools and services for 10 UC campus libraries
- Provides access to both licensed and freely available digital content
- Stewards of Online Archive of California (OAC) –
a collection of digital materials held in libraries,
museums, and archives across California

Calisphere: CDL's Public Site



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a world of digital resources
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Citrus Label Collection
Orange Public Library Local History Collection [more...](#)

California Gold Rush
Collection of Early Californian and Western American Pictorial Material [more...](#)

Japanese Prints
Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, UCLA Hammer Museum [more...](#)

What's Here

- Wide variety of **Primary Source** resources, including historic photographs, documents and diaries
- Over 100,000 **images** from archives and museums across California
- Over 300 **UC-created Web Sites** that reflect the diverse interests and scholarship of UC, including humanities, social sciences, math and science resources
- Excellent materials especially selected for **teachers**

Topics A-Z [see all topics](#)

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

A Adams, Ansel
adobe buildings
advertisements (33)
aerospace
african american (415)
African Americans, civil rights
agricultural equipment (13)
agricultural facilities (73)
agriculture (368)
agriculture and farming (2691)

American Indians
massacres
American Indians of the northwest
American Indians of the northwest, customs, folklore traditions
aqueducts
Archaeology
architects--california. (46)
arms & armaments (49)
automobile industry

Selections from Calisphere [see all topics](#)

WW II Topics:
Women enter wartime workforce/Lab

Great Depression Topics:
Dust bowl; migration

Environment Topics:
National Parks in California

Struggle for Civil Rights/Social Movements:
Free speech
UFW
Black panthers
Women suffrage

About the Project



- Collaboration between Interactive University and California Digital Library
- Activities to make UC's freely available content more usable to K-12 teachers
- Integration of assessment
- Creation of intermediate-level collections – Themed Collections

Plan for this Afternoon

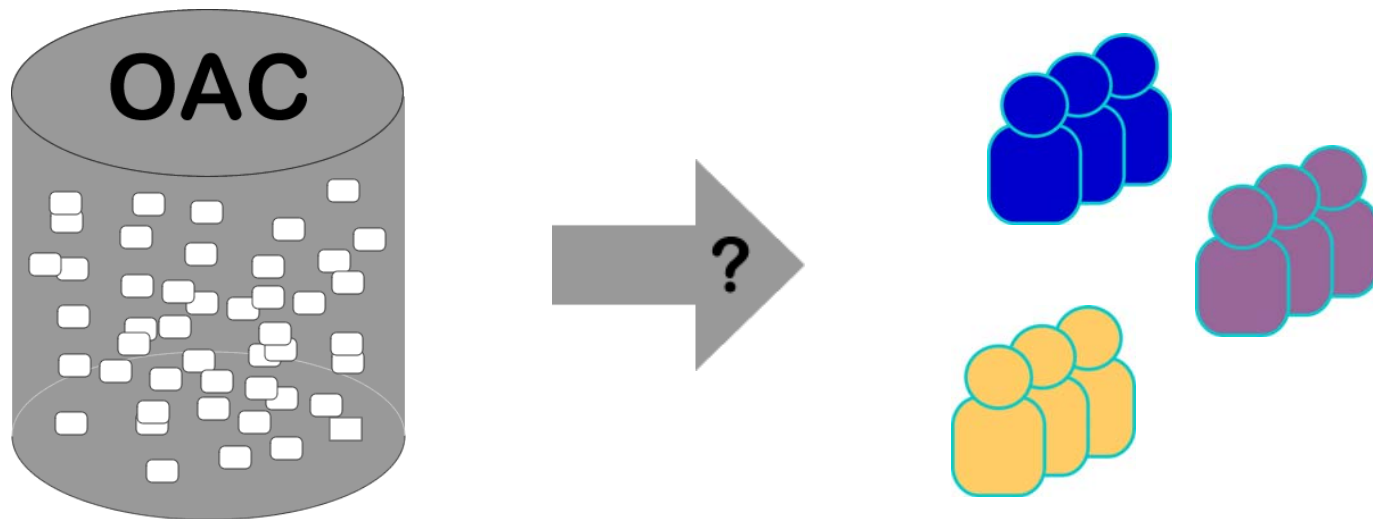


- History and context
- Examples of work
- Project evolution
- Challenges and strategies
- Lessons learned and remaining questions
- Discussion

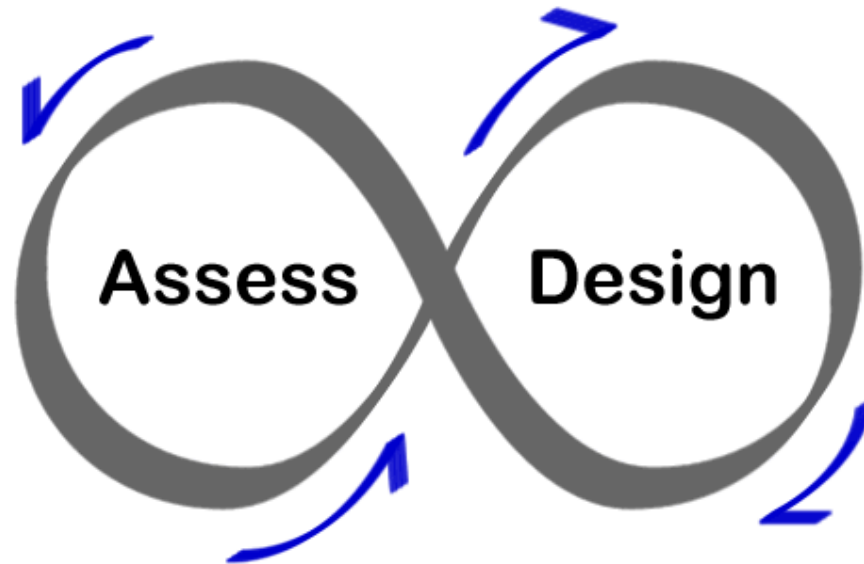
Challenge



How can we open up the University's resources to a broader community?



Strategy

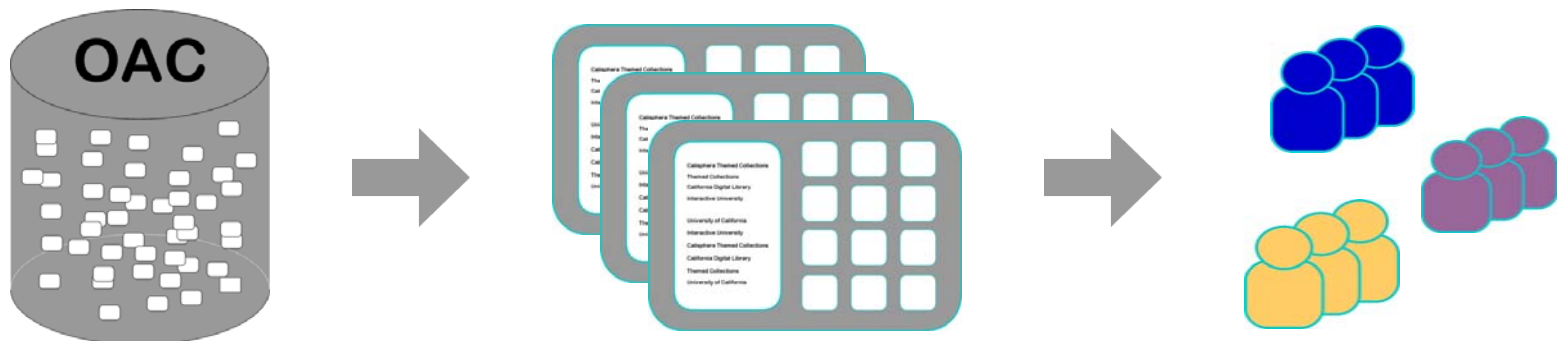


Allow assessment to inform design:
Conduct iterative assessment with target
audience.

Solution



Themed Collections: Clusters of primary sources



Themed Collections



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WW II Topics

Peoples of California

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Date: 1932

Title: untitled

Caption: Lange, Dorothea Centerville, California. 4/9/42

Suggested Citation: [Identification of Item]. Available from the Online Archive of California; <http://ark.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/t6x0nb5tc>.

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Pieces of the Puzzle



- Archive of freely available digital content (OAC)
- Assessment
- Understanding users
- Themed Collections

Archive: An Evolving Approach



- Online Archive of California (1998)
 - Primary sources from UC and CA museums, historical societies, and archives
 - 120,000 images, 50,000 documents
- Public service mission → CDL Public Site (2002)
- Public Site → Calisphere (2006)

Calisphere: CDL's Public Site



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To be launched early 2006

Assessment: An Iterative Process



- Who is our target audience?
 - American West Project: Initial user needs assessment
- How do teachers currently use digital objects in the classroom?
 - Interactive University teachers study
- How do we incorporate CA content standards?
 - Teacher Advisory Board focus group
- Is Calisphere's user interface usable?
 - Usability testing

Understanding Users



- The users didn't change; our understanding of them did.
- Assessment-infused understanding of primary audience
- Question: How to organize materials for ease of use in classroom?

Understanding Teachers



- Teachers use supplementary materials
- Modular collections of primary sources
- Teachers begin with questions
- Teachers value informed selection
- Collections need introductions and context
- *Usable* design and presentation
- California content standards are important

Why Not Learning Objects?



- Learning design
- Learning objectives
- Assessment
- Interaction
- Feedback


Themed Collections



- Supplementary materials
- Maximum adaptability for teaching – a balancing act
 - Granularity
 - Scope
 - Context
 - Malleability
- Teaching is a social endeavor

Themed Collections




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WW II Topics

Peoples of California

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Team: Skill Sets



- Project management
- Assessment and evaluation
- Curatorial expertise
- Curriculum development
- Writing and editing
- Research
- Design
- Marketing

Lessons Learned



- Constrained by nature, contents, and size of originating collections
- Bounded by the use of standards to develop topics, but in line with users' expectations
- Not a “one-stop shop” for materials –
high-quality, well organized, unique resources
- Teachers dig them!

Challenges and Questions



- Is a content expert necessary?
- Is a curriculum specialist necessary?
- What if there aren't appropriate materials to represent chosen topics?
- What is the context threshold?
- How should we market TC's?
- "Can't we get a machine to do this?"

Acknowledgements



- Staff at California Digital Library and Interactive University
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Discussion



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