Expecting the unexpected: managing the transition to a new digital repository

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Unify systems

Florida Academic Library Services Cooperative Consortium (FALSC)

FIU – ColdFusion
The Díaz-Ayala Cuban and Latin American Popular Music Collection
Why?

• Improve collection management
• Improve access to content & metadata
• Support more formats & genres – GIS data
• More customization options
• Active participation in the development
Workflow

Collection inventory → Ingesting into new system

evaluation → preparation → implementation → optimization

Crosswalk & mapping → Fixing and improving
Evaluation

- Number of records
- Structure/organization of collections
- Types of materials (text, images, audio/video, maps)
- Simple or complex objects
- Quality of digital files
- Quality of metadata
- Restrictions (IP and/or authentication)
- Persistent URLs (PURLS)
- Unique identifiers (user & system generated)
Preparation

- Exporting from legacy system (files and metadata)
- Review of metadata
- Major data clean up – lots of staff time and manual correction

Opportunity to improve the quality of the collection
Implementation

- Crosswalk instructions - librarian
- Mapping design based on the crosswalks - developers
- Ingestion into the new system - librarian
## Crosswalks - mapping

### Multiple crosswalk instructions for multiple types of files

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### Unique migration rules per format, technical metadata, roles, relationships
From digitool to dPanther
From ColdFusion to dPanther
Optimization

- Identify problems or weaknesses
- Suggest improvements

Usability testing with a wide variety of users: staff, faculty, students (undergrad and graduate), and community
Results

- Time spent: 2 years of work
- Migrated: over 30,000 records
- Collective effort - Departmental collaboration:
  - Digital Collections Center (DCC)
  - Cataloguing
  - Sound and Image
  - GIS
  - Library Systems
Lessons Learned

• **One solution does NOT fit all**
  - Collections have to be subdivided and/or rearranged based on their specific characteristics
  - You need a crosswalk for each specific set of data

• For metadata clean up, use all your “powerful tools”
  - Oxygen XML editor
  - Adobe Dreamweaver
  - Adobe Bridge
  - Etc.

• You don’t need to be a developer, but you need to understand their language
Next steps

- Ongoing quality control
- Usability study (internal and external users)
  - 1st iteration completed – 2015
  - 2nd iteration planned - 2016
- Metadata standardization for DPLA
  - Join Southeast regional service hub
Visit us at:
http://dpanther.fiu.edu/dPanther/home

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