Unifying Cultural Memory

Information Landscapes for a Learning Society
UKOLN, July 1, 1998

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Barriers to Unified Cultural Resources

- Intellectual
- Social
- Economic and Political

Intellectual Barriers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Users</th>
<th>Repositories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purposes</td>
<td>Collections</td>
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<td>Queries</td>
<td>Genres</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interface</td>
<td>Monographs</td>
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<td>Etc.</td>
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Reference Resources

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<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Places</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Terms</th>
<th>Etc.</th>
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Intellectual Barriers

- People with purposes pose queries
- Repositories impose methods for management
- Reference Resources abstract knowledge
- A common Knowledge Model enables people to use diverse resources to satisfy their purposes

Social Barriers

Supporting Social Processes

- Query
- Discover
- Retrieve
- Collate
- Analyse
- Re-Use

Supporting Social Processes

- Query
- (schemas)
- Discover
- Retrieve
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- metadata

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Supporting Social Processes

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Supporting Social Processes

- Most activity takes place in User Space
- Entire Process embodies Users’ schemas
- The “Stuff” is a digital representation
- Each process creates or acts upon new metadata
- Doing things with data produces new representations
- Process is cyclical
- Using information produces new information

Economic/Political Barriers

- Limited resources
- Vested interests
- Old processes in new spaces
- Creating new economic and legal systems with existing resources and institutions

An example - AMICO

Art Museum Image Consortium (AMICO)

- Enabling educational use of museum multimedia
- Existing law and technology
- Existing funding - reallocated
- Traditional partners in new roles
- New social and economic relationships
**Repositories**

- Create authentic representations  
  - best practice guidelines
- Ensure authenticity
- Acquire rights
- Produce content

**Not for Profit Distributors**

- Deliver Library to specific client groups
- Structure service to meet needs of clients
- Build tools to support work processes  
  - may cross-license to other distributors
- Provide service and tools

**Not for Profit Consortium**

- Collate data from various repositories
- Enhance through editorial and quality control
- Enable access through thesaural resources  
  - synonymy / explosion
  - hierarchy / navigation
- Link through common knowledge models  
  - public, open and extensible
  - inclusive across media / genre types
- Publish reusable information objects

**Educational Institutions**

- Subscribe to Library
- Terms and conditions of use reflect practices
- Unlimited use by authorized users
- Not site-dependent
- Control not technological
- Enforcement through codes of conduct and academic sanctions
- Integrate with existing resources and processes
Users

• Integrate content into existing resources
• Customize to support working methods
• Share experiences with other users
• Communicate with AMICO members
  – functional requirements
  – content needs
  – discoveries about content
• Become authors and a source of expertise for repositories
• Exploit and create knowledge

Bridging Diversity?

• Recognise conceptual frameworks and management practices
  – common, open, explicit, knowledge models
• Fit applications to process and enable use
  – appropriate metadata to the task at hand
• Enable different institutions to play distinct roles
  – each committed to jobs it can do

Further Details

• Art Museum Image Consortium
  www.amico.net
• Archives & Museum Informatics
  www.archimuse.com
• David Bearman and Jennifer Trant
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