I have to do what, with who and why?

Minerva Symposium
October 4, 2001
Liz Bishoff, Presenter
Colorado Digitization Project
Organization of the Project
Steps to Success

Select Materials
Conduct Research
Photograph Objects (?)
Scan Materials
Create Web Pages
Construct Metadata
Cultural heritage collaboration on digital content

- CHI share common missions, common values, common public
- Share common functions
- Share public purpose
- Share common concern for succeeding in the digital and physical world
- All operating in a competitive environment
CHI Collaboration brings:

- Magnificent collections
- New audiences
- New appreciation for community’s cultural heritage collections
- Capitalize on professional traditions—museum exhibits, library catalogs—both being used on the web
- Solve problems presented by the digital environment.
- Develop value added product allowing us to compete with the dot coms
Where are our differences

- Libraries provide open access to collections
- *Museums show only a small portion*
- Libraries have catalogs for public access
- *Museum inventory systems are designed for staff use*
- Librarians guide users to collections
- *Museums interpret collections*
- Libraries have a strong history of collaboration
- *Museum are expanding collaborative initiatives*
- Political and interpersonal matters are critical at local and state level
- *Issues of security, ownership and copyright come into play*
Challenges to collaboration

- Lack of a common vocabulary
- Lack of common standards
- Lack of systems that interoperate
- New materials, new formats, new technological environments
- Varying purposes for digitizing collections
- Competitive environment
- Limited expertise in digitization
Models for collaboration

- **Political models for collaboration**
  - Independent entity—CDP
  - Lead by state library, university library--North Carolina
  - Lead by an existing consortia—Missouri, Southeast New York Regional Library Consorita; Illinois, North Suburban Library System
  - Funding varies in these models, with many getting started with LSTA funds
Models for Interoperability

- Centralized site/single standard/centralized digital objects--Galileo
- Centralized metadata/decentralized digital objects/single standard—CDL/Online Archive of California
- Centralized metadata/crosswalks from various standards/decentralized objects--CDP
- Decentralized metadata/decentralized digital objects—OAI Harvesting or Z39.50
- Database of collections/single standard/link to images—North Carolina ECHO, Virtually Missouri
- Web searching
Minnesota Digital Library:
Some helpful hints

- Build consensus—everyone at the table at the start, don’t worry about those who aren’t ready to participate
- Think expansively about who may hold content
- Explore standards
  - Look for opportunities to present quality content and access
  - Look for approaches that incorporate national/international metadata standards, thesauri
  - Recognize that you aren’t going to get everyone to switch to one system; capitalize on work that they’re already doing
- Build a quality program—build consensus on quality
- Build program on common values, benefits for all participants
Managing collaborative digitization projects

- Leadership
- Technological expertise
- Local vs. collaborative concerns
- Cost effective digitization through Infrastructure
  - Scan centers -- Standards
  - Digital Archiving -- Training
- Interoperability
- Monitoring of national/international initiatives
- Funding
  - LSTA, DOT, Natural resources agencies
  - IMLS, NSF, NEH, NEA, DOE, NHPRC
  - Private Sector—Mellon
What are the benefits to collaboration?

- Access to magnificent collections
- Attract new audiences
- Attract new funding sources
- Greater community appreciation of CHI
- Expand professional traditions; adopt one another traditions
- Learn new options for solving problems.
Some examples of statewide digitization projects

- California Digital Library
  - Online Archive of California
  - California Heritage
- North Carolina ECHO
- Colorado Digitization Project and Colorado Virtual Library
- Galileo (Georgia)
- Washington State Library
- Florida Heritage
Local and institution type projects

- Amico—Art museum initiative
- Minnesota Art and Walker Art
- Brooklyn Expedition—Brooklyn PL, Brooklyn Children’s Museum, Brooklyn Museum of Art
- Nebraska Historical Society and University of Nebraska
If there’s time

✦ Tour some sites
  - CDP
  - Galileo
  - NC ECHO
  - CDL
✦ Visit CDP—Related projects
Questions