

RUcore Team – Meeting Minutes: August 30, 2006 Alexander Library - Pane Room

Grace called the meeting to order at 1:00.

AUL's Report – Grace Agnew

Grace informed the team that Linda Langschied has begun her sabbatical. It is scheduled to end in May 2007. During Linda's absence Grace and Isaiah will be assuming responsibilities for the New Jersey Digital Highway (NJDH). Grace also mentioned the original NJDH grant has been extended to March 2007. Judy Jeng is currently in the midst of an evaluation of NJDH. A survey has been designed, pre-tested and modified based upon the feedback from the pre-test. Grace encouraged the team to complete the revised survey when it is issued.

Among the groups being targeted by the NJDH Steering Committee are "lone arrangers", those folks who assume singular responsibility for their collections and adult independent contributors who populate small, local history organizations.

Grace mentioned that the migration to Fedora 2.1 was successful and she thanked those whose hard work made this possible.

She also mentioned the possibility of creating a Participant Directory for both RUCore and NJDH. One of the objectives would be to use this directory as a marketing tool for museums. If a visitor to the site saw something of interest we would want to be able to seamlessly encourage them to visit the museum where the physical object is housed.

WAAND Demonstration – Nicole Plett

Nicole Plett is the WAAND Project Manager and was invited to the team meeting to give an overview of the project. WAAND is the Women Artists Archives National Directory, "the nation's first online integrated directory of primary source materials on contemporary women visual artists."

She provided a brief history of WAAND outlining its genesis, initial group charges, technical infrastructure, evaluation process and the project's current status.

Nicole gave an online demonstration of WAAND which is due to go live in October 2006. Currently the Search pages are the only ones active. Grace suggested labeling search results with less technical, more user-friendly terms.

Born Digital Still Images Standards – Isaiah Beard

Isaiah spoke about Digital Negative Standards (DNG) which is an industry attempt to create standards for the raw file format of digital photographs. The intent is to ensure the longevity of digital images. Many digital images are not pure. However, digital negatives are pure. The ability also exists to convert older digital images to digital negatives.

DNG was created by Adobe Systems and has been available for two years. They patented the software, but also offer an open standard. The need for a standard is critical since digital is starting to surpass 35mm. Many companies have completely abandoned the production of film and have gone fully digital. Isaiah shared a chart showing the major players in the market and where they stand regarding digital vs. film.

Isaiah also gave a demonstration of Adobe Lightroom. This product allows for the storage of the original raw negative along with the edited master. Isaiah walked through some of the software's basic functionality. This was followed by a discussion about metadata implications, including the ability to document changes made to the original image.

Repository User Interface Specifications – Rhonda Marker

Rhonda shared work done by the User Services and Applications Work Group regarding the layout and use of NJDH. While the discussion focused upon NJDH, Rhonda indicated the theory behind many of the modifications also apply to RUCore.

Rhonda reviewed enhancements to the Search and Browse functions, including "Browse by County" and "Browse by Time Periods". She discussed the sort capability. Dave Hoover said we may wish to limit the volume of the result sets after a search.

Rhonda talked about the addition of "Jump to Record" and "Printer Friendly Option" on the search results page. She also spoke about enhanced, easier navigation instructions for site visitors.

Chad Mills and Jeffrey Triggs provided an online demonstration of some of the enhancements Rhonda discussed. Additional enhancements were suggested by the group, including terminology changes, additional sort options (ie: by earliest/latest date) and a "You Searched" field.

The meeting ended at 3:25.

Minutes submitted by John Brennan