Databases

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Caveats

• The landscape of tools for VR collections is extremely complex
• The framework presented here is just one way to think about these tools
• Most systems fulfill more than one function
• Information about some of these systems is difficult to find if you’re not an implementer
• The tools discussed today do not present a comprehensive list of all available options
Choose the right tool for the job

- All systems are designed with particular needs in mind
- Art images have distinctive needs
- Art image *users* have distinctive needs
- You need tools that both meet your needs and are supportable in your institution
Tradeoffs

• But your needs and supportability may be at odds
  ▫ Specialized vs. “enterprise” systems
  ▫ VR community is a small one and tools are not very mature
  ▫ VR repositories tend to lack technical support
• Systems that perform multiple functions may meet your needs in some areas but not in others
Some terms you might hear

• Enterprise content management system
• Digital asset management system
• Digital library system

There is a disconcerting lack of common definition of these terms.
Considering systems by function

- VR Workflow Management
- Cataloging
- Discovery
- Data Sharing
- Presentation
VR workflow management
Workflow for VRs

• All systems support some workflow management

• Here we care about VR-specific workflows
  ▫ “Orders” from faculty
  ▫ Digitization process

• Don’t have to manage inside an integrated system, but it can help
  ▫ No duplicate data entry
  ▫ Information is backed up and preserved
  ▫ No need to learn a separate workflow
Some options

- Snapdragon
- Plus...
Iris order
VCat order
VCat source
Cataloging Tools
Client vs. web-based

- Web technologies have developed to the point where advanced features previously only available in client software are possible
  - ...but only recently
- Clients can be difficult to manage
  - Install issues
  - Permissions issues
  - Upgrade issues
VR-specific vs. general

- Metadata is perhaps the area in which we most need VR-specific support
  - VRA Core/CDWA Lite
  - CCO
  - Relevant authorities
- Work/Image distinction difficult for general tools to support
Work vs. image distinction

• Fundamental to the understanding of visual resources
• Requires linked records
  ▫ Shouldn’t have to duplicate work information in multiple image records
  ▫ You’d think library-influenced systems (bib vs. authority) would be set up to do this, but they largely aren’t!
• Is this a deal-breaker for you?
Authority control

• Surprisingly few of these systems make it easy to put a field under authority control
• None do it well, especially for large vocabularies
• Need access to relevant vocabularies
  ▫ Form/genre/medium
  ▫ Topical subject
  ▫ Names
  ▫ Geographic place
  ▫ Work type
  ▫ Style/period
Controlled vocabulary integration

• Moving terminologies “to the network level”
• What we really need is integration
• Access to entire authority record rather than just the heading
• For short vocabularies, provide a combo box
• For longer vocabularies
  ▫ Auto-complete
  ▫ Ajax-y interactions with hierarchical and alphabetical views
• Similar features could be used to perform maintenance of vocabularies
Other useful features

- Data type validation (while entering data in that field!)
- Auto-complete
- Record-level validation
- Spell check
- Integration of metadata creation guidelines into software tools
Some options

- Artesia DAM
- DSpace
- Fedora
- OPACs
- DigiTool
- Plus...
Canto Cumulus metadata (1)
Canto Cumulus metadata (2)
Extensis Portfolio (1)
Extensis Portfolio (2)
CONTENTdm metadata

Click an image to view it or edit text in a new window.
Iris metadata (1)
Iris metadata (2)
Snapdragon metadata
MDID metadata
Almagest metadata
VCat work
VCat image
Insight metadata

- **Identifier:** All About Your Canary Centerfold.TIF
- **Title:** All About Your Canary - detail (centerfold)
- **Creator:** Dilger
- **Subject:** Colored Norwich Plain
- **Description:** lithograph
- **Publisher:** The R. T. French Company

Speed Search:
- Still-life
- Variegated Yellow Roller in Song
- Wing-Marked Dark Crested Norwich...
- Yellow Chopper in Song
For end-users

- These are for our users; cataloging tools generally provide staff with the means to locate records

- Some decisions to make:
  - Search indexes
  - Browse indexes
  - Fields in brief and long displays
  - User-friendly labels
Client vs. web-based

- Similar issues apply as to cataloging/metadata creation tools
- But client download/install can be a significant barrier for our end-users
- Client interaction can also make it more difficult for users to get content *out* of the system and into environments where they perform other tasks
VR-specific vs. general

• Desired search/browse indexes and labeling can be different for VR materials than other types of material
• Who are your users and what other resources do they regularly use?
Some options

- ARTstor hosting
- Artesia DAM
- Fedora
- Plus...
OPAC example

Demo: http://roger.ucsd.edu/screens/mainmenu.html
Canto Cumulus web interface (1)
Canto Cumulus web interface (2)
DSpace

Demo: http://dspace.sunyconnect.suny.edu/handle/1951/6640
CONTENTdm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art Images</th>
<th>WU Login</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>preferences favorites help</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>back to results add to favorites reference url</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="http://libmedia.willamette.edu/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=/art" alt="Image" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Title**: Icon depicting the Crucifixion with the Virgin, Mary Magdalene, St. John and the Centurion Longinus
- **Style/Period**: Byzantine
- **Notes**: Novgorod School
- **Subject**: Paintings; paintings
- **Materials / Techniques**: tempera; panel
- **Measurements**: 71 x 57 cm
- **Height**: 71
- **Width**: 57
- **Units**: cm
- **Repository**: Musée du Louvre
- **Source**: XIP-201653; Bridgeman Art Library
- **Identifier**: x:201653
- **Rights**: (C) Bridgeman Art Library
- **Use**: This image is licensed to Willamette University authorized users for personal study, research, and teaching. The image may not be distributed or published in print, electronic, or other formats for access outside of the educational institution.
- **Order Number**: SR-8639

DigiTool

Demo: http://tinyurl.com/3wrf2d
Almagest search
Luna Insight image viewer

Descriptive Data

Collection: Hoover Institution Poster Collection

Record Type: Work

Type: Posters

Title: Verkhovnyi glavnokomanduushchi Ego Imperatoske Vyechestvo Velikii Knia' Nikolai Nikolaevich.

Measurements: 17 x 13 in.

Material: Paper (fiber product)

Hoover Institution Archives Posters

- 5-iya tipografii a "I. Dar ameri kansko RU/SU 502A 1921-1923?"
- 5-iya tipografii a "I. Dar ameri kansko RU/SU 502B 1921-1923?"
- Deni, Viktor N. (Artis) Oklabrez'ski uragan. RU/SU 1813 1932.
- Gospudarstvennoe Iz Vrag u verot. Vse n RU/SU 1320.
- Gospudarstvennoe Iz Vrag u verot. Vse n RU/SU 1320.
Data sharing
Shareable metadata isn’t just about OAI-PMH

- Some other options:
  - Lightweight APIs (e.g., OpenLibrary)
  - Google SiteMaps
  - OpenSearch
  - OpenURL
  - SRU
  - OAI-ORE
  - Linked data

- Jim Michalko, RLG: library data sharing mechanisms are “high value and low participation”

Notice Z39.50 isn’t on this list.
Sharing VR data

• This community doesn’t have a strong tradition of sharing
  ▫ Rights to content have been one big barrier
  ▫ Relatively recent development of descriptive standards is another

• Can’t we share work data?
  ▫ UCAI tried to do this
  ▫ Is it time to try again?

• What if we took the plunge to share and just waited to see what would happen?
Presentation Tools
Generally client applications

- Highly interactive nature makes these the last tools to move to the web
- Often requires a time investment on the part of the user
  - But can pay off with significant benefits
- Both general and VR-specific tools exist
Some options

• Powerpoint
• CONTENTdm Powerpoint plugin
• Plus...
Keynote
Almagest presentation tools
MDID image viewer
Insight presentation tool
ARTstor Offline Image Viewer
Collectus

Demo: http://www.dlfaquifer.org
Whew.

- And these aren’t even all the choices!
- Start by outlining in detail your requirements
  - Metadata
  - Discovery functions
  - Image use
- You’ll need to compromise...

...but at least then you’ll be making an informed decision
Thank you!

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