

## **LDP Update 1: The New LDP Web Site**

May 5, 2005

Sayed began by displaying the LDP web site to the 17 non-LDP/DKC staff attending. The Plone content management system was selected in part because several JHU departments use it. Cynthia York is the in-house developer/designer of the portal.

### **LDP/DKC Distinction**

Sayed explained the distinction between the Library Digital Programs and Digital Knowledge Center, a unit within the LDP. He explained as follows:

- The **DKC** is the research and development unit within the Libraries
- Since the DKC was established, a paradigm shift has taken place. The focus of DKC projects formerly was **access**, and now a major focus has become **preservation**.
- Cases in point illustrating this shift are manifest in the **CAPM** project, which was originally about robotic access to print materials and is now dealing with matters of how to encase and label books with RFIDs as a preservation strategy. In addition, the newest DKC endeavor is the **Digital Data Curation** project; the DKC is working with Alex Szalay in the Department of Physics and Astronomy and the National Virtual Observatory to maintain, and possibly make accessible, large-scale, digital astronomy datasets.
- Three **staff** members are LDP-only, one is DKC only as part of a grant agreement and the remainder has both LDP/DKC responsibilities.

### **LDP Prioritization Criteria**

Sayed spoke about the prioritization criteria as the result of M-Team and Executive Committee discussions. He emphasized that the criteria were not exhaustive of all the criteria relevant to considering whether to pursue digital projects, and that staff should not limit themselves to the list if they wish to propose, with alternative criteria, an activity they feel of merit. The group discussed the ways that the LDP supports 1) JHU teaching, or e-learning cited in item 3 (e.g.'s, Sakai and VRC), 2) the "Schools" cited in item 4, which primarily encompasses the Homewood Schools, with consideration given to other schools as possible or strategic, 3) JHU faculty cited in item 2. On the last point, Sayeed said that project activity to support faculty have resulted from existing relationships with faculty who approach the LDP for support of their teaching/research goals, such as Stephen Nichols regarding Roman de la Rose, Alex Szalay regarding Digital Data Curation and faculty generally who benefit from LDP usability services and research.

### **Repository / Interface Applications**

Sayed answered an inquiry about using different systems 1) to preserve and 2) to present data, saying that the LDP is pursuing an evaluation of various repository applications with the intent that the Libraries could choose various interface applications to present the repository content based on the particular needs of the project or collection, i.e., in a modular approach.

### **Services, Collections, Projects**

Sayed oriented the group to the activities page of the web site, highlighting the service for **Electronic Theses and Dissertations** for which the LDP hopes to form working groups consisting of JHU library and university colleagues, and the DKC project called **A Technology Analysis of Repositories and Services** through which formal use cases would be generated from informal scenarios as a means to develop a functionality list on which to base an evaluation of various repository applications.

### **Web Site Communication Features**

- **Events:** A calendar and listing of digital library events, along with LDP involvement in them as applicable, which persists on the left side throughout all pages within the site. **RSS** is available for this feature.
- **News:** Highlights regarding projects awarded, digital library news and conference/meeting highlights as well as other LDP news. **RSS** is available for this feature.
- **Forums:** Informal postings are encouraged here; anonymous postings are welcome. Conversations with JHU and external collaborators are expected to take place within the forums, so stay tuned.
- **Documents:** Presentations, press releases, project proposals.
- **Publications:** Formal, scholarly, academic, peer- or editorial board-reviewed papers.

Folks wishing to contact someone within the LDP about the web site or about LDP activities can either use the forums or contact Jacque Gourley as the point of contact ([jgourley@jhu.edu](mailto:jgourley@jhu.edu)), x67236. She will respond or route comments and questions to LDP staff as appropriate.