Finding Digital Collections on the Web*

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Monday, February 2, 2004 ■ 10:00-11:30 am ■ Electronic Classroom, Level 2

*Please note that, due to time constraints, this workshop covers only a small sample of digital collections available online. If you would like assistance finding digital collections that focus on a specific topic or digital format, please contact Heidi N. Abbey or the appropriate liaison librarian for the subject area.

Website for the Workshop
If you would like to follow along with the website during class, or for future reference, please visit: http://www.lib.uconn.edu/~habbey/presentations/digitalcollections.htm

Introduction

- Goals of the Workshop: 1) to familiarize users with locating and navigating digital collections, including those that are meta-resources for e-texts, images, multimedia formats (audio, video, etc.); 2) to promote awareness of digital collections developed by the UConn Libraries and its partners.

- UConn Libraries’ Digital Collections Program [http://digitalcollections.uconn.edu]

Definitions

- What is a digital collection?
- What is a digital library?
- Why are these useful research tools?

Tools for Finding Digital Collections

- Search Engines & Directories
  1. “Google” [http://www.google.com]
  3. “Libweb: Library Servers via the WWW,” [http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Libweb/]

- Digital Collection Databases

- “Digital Collections Online (DCO),” a database, developed by staff at the UConn Libraries, with information about 200 digital collections [http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/DigitalCollections]

Digital Collections: E-texts

- What are E-texts? Texts that are transformed into electronic formats (HTML, PDF, etc.) and made available online and/or offline to users. Note that e-texts are not always freely available on the Web.
- “Directory of Electronic Text Centers,” compiled by Rutgers University’s Center for Electronic Texts in the Humanities [http://harvest.rutgers.edu/ceth/etext_directory]
“Electronic Text Center (ETC),” based at the University of Virginia Library, contains approximately 70,000 humanities texts in thirteen languages [http://etext.lib.virginia.edu]

“International Children’s Digital Library,” based at the University of Maryland and will include 10,000+ free books in over 100 languages [http://www.icdlbooks.org/]

“Making of America (MOA),” a joint project between the University of Michigan and Cornell University, which makes available primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction [University of Michigan: http://moa.umdl.umich.edu; Cornell University: http://moa.cit.cornell.edu/moa]

“Networked Digital Library of Theses & Dissertations (NDLTD),” provides access to over 20,000 electronic theses and dissertations throughout the world [http://www.theses.org]

“Online Books Page,” from the University of Pennsylvania, with links to over 20,000 texts [http://digital.library.upenn.edu/books]

“Online Medieval & Classical Library (OMACL),” based at the University of California, Berkeley Digital Library SunSITE [http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/OMACL]

“Project Gutenberg,” founded at the University of Illinois in 1971 and now supported by the Project Gutenberg Literary Archive Foundation. Includes 3,500+ publications [http://promo.net/pg]

“Colonial Connecticut Records (CCR),” created by the UConn Libraries and its partners, offers access to the 15 volumes of the Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, 1636-1776 [http://www.colonialct.uconn.edu]

Digital Collections: Images

“Finding Images Online,” includes categorized and comprehensive image resources online [http://www.berinsteinresearch.com/fiolinks.htm]

“Picture Australia,” provides access to nearly 1 million images from 32 different libraries, galleries, museums, and archives in Australia and abroad [http://www.pictureaustralia.org]

“Thinker ImageBase,” a searchable image and text database of objects from the collections of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; includes 82,000+ images [http://www.thinker.org]

“Benthic Marine Algal Herbarium of Long Island Sound,” a project of the UConn Libraries at Stamford and the Northeast Algal Society (NEAS), which serves as an identification database of collected, pressed algae specimens from Long Island Sound [http://www.algae.uconn.edu]

“Connecticut History Online (CHO),” created by UConn’s Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, the Connecticut Historical Society, and Mystic Seaport, CHO is a searchable database that contains approximately 14,000 historical images of Connecticut from 1800 to 1950 [http://cthistoryonline.org]


“Map and Geographic Information Center (MAGIC),” an online library of digital geo-spatial data on the geography of the State of Connecticut [http://magic.lib.uconn.edu]

“Steam & Electric Locomotives of the New Haven Railroad,” a collection of 460+ black-and-white photographs that document steam and electric locomotives owned and operated by the New York, New Haven, & Hartford Railroad [http://railroads.uconn.edu/locomotives]

Digital Collections: Multimedia (Audio, Video, Etc.)

“American Memory: Historical Collections for the National Digital Library,” from the Library of Congress. Includes primary source materials about U.S. history and culture; 7 million digital items in various formats from 100+ collections [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/amhome.html]

“Internet Moving Images Archive,” contains over2,500 digitized films donated to the Internet Archive from various sources [http://www.archive.org/movies]

“Oyez: U.S. Supreme Court Multimedia,” at Northwestern University, provides abstracts and other materials for cases in constitutional law decided by the Supreme Court of the United States. Database contains 2,000 hours of Supreme Court audio [http://www.oyez.org/oyez/frontpage]

“Performing Arts in America, 1875-1923,” created by the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, this collection is a searchable database of 16,000 objects, including books, photographs, moving images, and recorded sound [http://digital.nypl.org/lpa/nypl/lpa_home4.html]