Less Code, More Product:
Leveraging Open Source Technologies to
Develop Digital Library Collections

Robert Cartolano, Stephen Davis, Carole Ann Fabian
Columbia University
April 13, 2015
Digital Preservation & Access

“Digital preservation is the active management of digital content over time to ensure ongoing access.”

Library of Congress

“Digital preservation is a challenge for all of society because we all benefit from reliable, authentic information now and into the future. Done well, all of society will reap the benefits of digital stewardship.”

Distributed Preservation & Access, Radical Collaboration

“Long-term preservation of digital information on a scale adequate for the demands of future research and scholarship will require a **deep infrastructure** capable of supporting a **distributed system** of digital archives.”

"Preserving Digital Information “

"Conditions in technology, economics, and expanding service requirements demand a more **radical approach to collaboration.**"

"Advancing From Kumbaya to Radical Collaboration: Redefining the Future Research Library"
Strategic Challenges

• **Organization** – local and distributed
• **Technical Infrastructure** – durable, interoperable, flexible
• **Collections** – collect, aggregate, manage, discover and deliver, over time
Approach

• **Close Partnerships** – develop and sustain technology platforms over time

• **Strategic Investment** – local and shared staff, infrastructure, services
The Five Opens

• **Open Code** – sustainable platforms
• **Open Data Standards** – manage over time
• **Open API/Protocols** – foster interoperability
• **Open Communities** – go further together
• **Open License** – share knowledge broadly

Based on Mara Hancock’s Three Opens
“Open” Fosters Preservation & Access

Digital preservation and access is greatly fostered by adopting the “Five Opens” and partnering to develop local and distributed systems.
Key Benefits of Open

• **Less Code** – Reduce local efforts, leverage community development
• **More Product** – build better services for today
• **Contribute** – local development, support entire community over time
• **Work together** – solve hard problems (e.g. interoperability, migration)
Columbia Strategic Investments

- **Fedora** – durable object repository
- **Blacklight** – common discovery layer
- **Hydra** – building, sharing apps & tools
- Multiple data centers
- Columbia private network
- Risk-averse vendor technologies
Implementing

…. Less Code MORE PRODUCT!
Columbia Digital Collections Scope

- Digitized special & archival collections
- Born-digital content
- Institutional repository content
- Research data sets
- Numeric data files
- *Learning objects (to come)*
Some Pre-2014 Standalone Special Collections Projects

- Papers of John Jay
- Architectural Vignettes
- Japanese Bunraku Puppet Theater
- NYC Real Estate Brochures
- Omeka Online Exhibitions
- NYC Oral Histories
- Human Rights Web Archive
- Herbert Lehman Papers
- Lindquist Native American Photos
- Community Service Society Photos
- Chinese Paper Gods
- Joseph Urban Stage Models
But under the surface ...
Challenges

• Unique, custom code for each project
• Deprecated and unsupported software versions
• No longer best “best practices”
• Passé “state of the art”
• Divergent metadata and content models
• Maintenance and security problems
Consolidated Digital Collections Infrastructure

- SOLR 4.7
- Hydra 7
- Blacklight 5.5

FEDORA 3.8.1

- 4-Node EMC Isilon Cluster (on campus) 384 TB
- EMC Isilon Cluster (Syracuse, NY) 384 TB
- Off-site Tape System (Indiana U.)

Digital Collections Viewer

- Durst Subsite
- Ford IFP Subsite
- Other Subsites
- Exhibitions

Staff Collections Viewer

Columbia University Libraries / Information Services
Consolidated Digital Collections Infrastructure

- SOLR 4.7
- Hydra 7
- Blacklight
- FEDORA 3.8.1

Legacy Content

**Digital Collections Viewer**
- Durst Subsite
- Ford IFP Subsite
- Other Subsites
- Exhibitions
- Staff Collections Viewer

- 4-Node EMC Isilon Cluster (on campus) 384 TB
- EMC Isilon Cluster (Syracuse, NY) 384 TB
- Off-site Tape System (Indiana U.)
Benefits

• Common code base, release versions
• Easier software upgrades and bug fixes
• Faster implementation of new projects
• New features shared across projects
• Better asset management
• Easier metadata curation
• Ability to benefit from - and contribute to - other institutions’ work
Less Code

Result of moving Columbia DL applications from custom code to Hydra framework:

ca. 10,000 lines of local code removed so far

And many 10s of thousands as we retire legacy sites
More Product

Sample DL project development time, 1.5 FTE developers:

5-6 weeks

New DL project development time for comparable project, 1.5 FTE developers:

2-3 days
Staff Collection Viewer, 300,000+ items

Fedora Staff Collection Viewer 1.1

You may browse via the facets on the left or enter keywords above to search the entire repository.

The Fedora Staff Collection Viewer (SCV) provides an administrative window into CUL's digital library and preservation assets. Its primary purpose is to allow technical and curatorial staff to identify and view preserved content.

The SCV serves up content from our Fedora Digital Repository using the Blacklight open source software product, which has been configured to accommodate searching of MODS-formatted metadata and the display of single and multipart digital items.

For more information, see:
- Fedora Staff Collection Viewer Wiki

For questions not answered here, please email: scv@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

The Fedora Staff Collection Viewer was developed by Libraries Digital Program Division. A beta version was launched in March 2011; version 1.0 in April 2011.
dlc.library.columbia.edu
The IFP program began in November 2000 with four pilot sites. In Asia, the program was initiated in Vietnam. In Africa, the first competition was held in West Africa (Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal). In Latin America, IFP began in the Andean Region as Southern Cone (Chile and Peru). Brazil was the final pilot site. The first 96 Fellows from these countries were named in 2001. In February 2002, 173 new Fellows from the pilot site countries and from India, China, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Mexico and Guatemala were announced. During 2002, the program expanded to seven additional countries and territories: Brazil, Egypt, Indonesia, Mozambique, Palestine, Philippines and South Africa. For the selections in 2003, the program expanded to Thailand.
Less Code, More Graph
“I don’t collect books out of nostalgia, but out of a love of information and history”

Seymour B. Durst
The Collection

• Book-like materials
  • Books & Pamphlets 8,676
  • Landbooks 30
  • Serials 519

• Visual materials
  • Photographs 3,000
  • Thomas Nast Collection 1,200
  • Lantern & 35mm slides 75
  • Postcards 22,594

• Maps
  • Oversize maps 450
  • Bound & folded maps, and guides 150

• Ephemeral materials
  • Brochures, programs, menus, etc 1,091

TOTAL OBJECTS: 36,592
Durst project goals

1. Support **planning**
2. Add **capacity**
3. Implement **projects** to ensure broad access:

   - Catalog & house the collection
   - Digitize the public domain content
   - Provide digital access
# Support planning

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Add capacity

SOLR 4.7
Hydra 7
Blacklight 5.5

FEDORA 3.8.1

Digital Collections Viewer

Durst Subsite
Ford IFP Subsite
Other Subsites
Exhibitions

Staff Collections Viewer

4-Node EMC Isilon Cluster (on campus) 384 TB
EMC Isilon Cluster (Syracuse, NY) 384 TB
Off-site Tape System (Indiana U.)

OVERALL WORKFLOW

Legend:

- Curatorial Team (Chris Sals)
- Cataloging/Metadata Team (Kate Hornour)
- Digitization Team (Janet Gerd)
- Avery Classics (Carolyn Votieres)
- Drawings & Archives (Janet Parks)
- Collection Management Team (Kitty Chinink)

Inventory Workflow

- Is it a new or existing collection?
- Yes: NEED TO ADD W/DR

Digitization Workflow

- Is it an internal item?
- Yes: Digitization Workflow

- Is it an external item?
- Yes: Need to add metadata

- Is it a digitized item?
- Yes: Digitization Workflow

- Is it an internal item?
- Yes: Need to add metadata

- Is it an external item?
- Yes: Need to add metadata

- Is it digitized?
- Yes: Digitization Workflow

- Is it an internal item?
- Yes: Need to add metadata

- Is it an external item?
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- Is it digitized?
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- Is it an internal item?
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- Is it an external item?
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- Is it an internal item?
- Yes: Need to add metadata

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- Is it an external item?
- Yes: Need to add metadata

- Is it digitized?
- Yes: Digitization Workflow

- Is it an internal item?
- Yes: Need to add metadata

- Is it an external item?
- Yes: Need to add metadata

- Is it digitized?
- Yes: Digitization Workflow
Project: data development

9,839 bibliographic records
- 3,151 copy
- 6,688 original

23,780 metadata records
- 23,780 geo-location
- 15,153 subject headings
Project: digitization

- Acceptable copy: 1,559
- Internet Archive: 2,997
- Backstage: 843
- CUL-PRD: 368
- Avery contract photographer: 87

CUL Project digitized: 5,852
CUNY digitized 14,559

TOTAL digitized objects 20,421
LETTER
FROM THE
Secretary of War,
TO THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE,
Appointed on the 9th of December last,
ON SO MUCH OF THE
SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT,
AS RELATES TO
"A System of National Defence, Commensurate with our Resources, and the situation of our Country."

13th February, 1800.
Ordered to lie on the Table.
THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING is the tallest structure in the world. Standing on the site of the famous old Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, at Fifth Avenue and 34th Street, it rises 1,250 feet from the street to the top of the mounding mast. In its construction, 60,000 tons of steel, 300,000,000 bricks and 17,000,000 feet of communication wire were used. Less than 20 months were required to erect this superstructure. A magnificent tribute to modern engineering, the glassed-in area from the windows of the twin observatories 1,052 feet high, makes it possible to see the entire city of New York at a glance.
FIFTH AVENUE AND 44TH STREET
1905

Save The Stores
Stop The Rent Increases

COMMERCIAL RENT CONTROL LAWS
COULD HAVE SAVED TYSON'S FIFTH AVENUE MARKET
AND LOST THE CITY'S TAX REVENUES
AND PLACES TO WORK

SITE OF 521 & 529 FIFTH AVENUE

Fig. 4. Grand Central Depot, c. 1886. This photograph of the 42nd Street facade also shows the annex of 1885 along the western flank of the building.

Fig. 5. Train shed, Grand Central Depot, R.G. Hatfield, engineer. This 1873 view shows the arched ribbed shed shortly after opening. Note the horse-drawn car at the right and the glass-and-metal curtain wall at the northern end.
Project: ensure broad access
Discovery pathways
Search result

Showing results for: central park ✗ Format ➤ Books ✗ Format ➤ Postcards ✗

1. The 1890-... New York Lif... books
2. 250th anni... books
3. 30 years of... New York [N.... books
4. 42nd Str. a... postcards
5. 42nd Street... postcards
6. 42nd Street... postcards
7. 42nd Stree... postcards
8. 42nd Street... postcards
9. Address at... Depew, Chau... books
10. An Aftern... postcards
11. Air-vista ... postcards
12. The Amer... postcards
13. American... postcards
14. American... postcards
15. American... postcards
16. American... postcards
17. American... postcards
18. American... postcards

Title: The National City Bank of New York, Banking Room, Looking West.
Physical Description: Monochromatic
Subjects: Interiors
       Wall Street (New York, N.Y.)
       National City Bank of New York
Format: postcards
Image palette

Pan/Zoom    Full Screen    Data Display    Citation
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<th>Title</th>
<th>The 1890-1891 New York calendar</th>
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<tr>
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<td>New York Life Insurance Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>G.H. Buek &amp; Co</td>
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<tr>
<td>Published</td>
<td>New York : New York Life Insurance Co, 1899</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Description</td>
<td>[12] p., 1 leaf : chiefly col. ill. ; 13 x 18 cm.</td>
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<td>Lith. by G.H. Buek &amp; Co., N.Y.</td>
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<td>Includes watercolor illustrations of the Statue of Liberty, Trinity Church, New York Post Office, New York Life Insurance Building, Washington Memorial Arch, Union Square, Obelisk in Central Park, St. Patricks Cathedral, Union League Club, Washington Bridge, and Grant's Tomb</td>
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Related content
Place-Based Discovery

- Biggert Architectural Vignettes
- New York Real Estate Brochure Collection
- Seymour B. Durst Old York Library
- Built Works Registry
The Robert Biggert Collection of Architectural Vignettes on Commercial Stationery was donated to the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library by Robert Biggert in honor of Lisa Ann Riveaux. This unique collection of printed ephemera contains over 1,300 items with architectural imagery spanning the dates 1850 to 1920, in more than 350 cities and towns in forty-five states, as well as the District of Columbia and U.S. possessions. The collection's billheads, letterheads, envelopes, checks, and business cards document the rise of the United States as an industrial nation, in often elaborate vignettes of factories, warehouses, mines, offices, stores, banks, and hotels.
Your search for Lancaster and "Pennsylvania" (state) returned 4 hit(s)

1. **D. P. Locher & Son, Bankers (Check)**
   - Company: D. P. Locher & Son, Bankers
   - Medium: Check
   - City/state: Lancaster, PA
   - Date: 1870 - 1879
   - Side: Recto
   - Call no.: ava_biggett_01374

2. **Reilly Bros. & Raub (Letter)**
   - Company: Reilly Bros. & Raub
   - Medium: Letter
   - City/state: Lancaster, PA
   - Date: 1936
   - Side: Recto
   - Call no.: ava_biggett_01375

3. **Downey Bros. Spoke & Bending Co. (Bill)**
   - Company: Downey Bros. Spoke & Bending Co.
   - Medium: Bill
   - City/state: Lancaster, PA
   - Date: 1912
   - Side: Recto
   - Call no.: ava_biggett_01697

4. **Reilly Bros. & Raub (Bill)**
   - Company: Reilly Bros. & Raub

LIMIT RESULTS

- **Cities/States**
  - Lancaster, PA (4)

- **Companies**
  - Reilly Bros. & Raub (2)
  - D. P. Locher & Son, Bankers (1)
  - Downey Bros. Spoke & Bending Co. (1)

- **States**
  - Pennsylvania (4)

- **Media**
  - Bill (2)
  - Check (1)
  - Letter (1)

- **Date**
  - 1870-1879 (1)
  - 1910-1919 (2)
  - 1930-1939 (1)
The New York Real Estate Brochure Collection

Search the collection

Find building information, architects, floorplans, and more.

Search:  All Locations  Go

advanced search >

About the Collection

The New York Real Estate Brochure Collection was donated to Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library by Yale Robbins, Henry Robbins, and David Magier in 1986. The collection consists of over 9,200 advertising brochures, floor plans, price lists, and related materials that document the real estate development in New York City from the 1950s to the 1980s.

News

Christopher Gray in the New York Times' Streetscapes writes about the NYRE Brochure Collection (August 26, 2010).

Read the article >

NYRE Brochure Collection site receives the Worldwide Books Award for Electronic Resources

Read more >

Browse the collection

The Real Estate Brochure Collection is divided into places, such as buildings or neighborhoods.
locational data
Brooklyn Heights - Cobble Hill

Neighborhood information

**Name:** Brooklyn Heights - Cobble Hill  
**Borough:** Brooklyn  
**City:** New York

Buildings in this neighborhood (38)

Displaying neighborhoods 1 - 38 of 38

**Address(es)**

- 100 Clark St.
- 100 Clinton St.
- 100 Remsen St.
- 111 Livingston St.
- 130 Hicks St.
- **135 Willow St.**
- 139-153 Hicks St.
ABOUT THE OLD YORK COLLECTION
The Seymour B. Durst Old York Library collection at the Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library consists of more than 40,000 objects including historic photographs, maps, pamphlets, postcards, books, and New York City memorabilia from the 18th century to the 1980s. Learn More »

RECENT NEWS
Exciting News Post Title 1
MM/DD/YYYY
More New Content added..

News Post Title 2
MM/DD/YYYY
New Content added..
Discovery: mapping interface
Discovery: neighborhood facet
Course integration

“History of Real Estate Development in New York City”

GSAPP – RED program
Summer session: 2012, 2013, 2014
~100 grad students each year

2014 summer course interactions:
- basic instruction session (90 students)
- reference interaction (67 students)
- research consultation (35 students)
Symposia

GSAPP CURE: The Center for Urban Real Estate

May 11, 2012
Megaprojects:
An Urban Planning and Development Conference

April 11, 2013
Mind the Gap:
Transit Lessons from New York and London

April 25, 2014
From Port to People:
Reinventing Urban Waterfronts
Publications

Plan of Lower Manhattan.
A plan of the city of New York from an actual survey made by James Lyne.
New York: Charles Magnus, ca. 1800.
Seymour B. Durst Old York Library
Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University

Bird's eye perspective over Long Island City, Queens, Roosevelt Island, to midtown Manhattan.
Seymour B. Durst Old York Library
Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University

South Street Seaport: a plan for a vital new historic center in Lower Manhattan. New York: South Street Seaport Museum, ca. 1969.
Seymour B. Durst Old York Library
Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University

Seymour B. Durst Old York Library
Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University

Aerial view of the future site of Battery Park City.
Seymour B. Durst Old York Library
Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University
References


