DAM This Metadata Migration!

System to System
Schema to Schema
On the Cheap

Heather Gilbert
Head of Digital Scholarship & Services
College of Charleston Libraries

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circa 2011
What’s the Problem?

• 48,000+ items
  • Rapidly approaching our license limit
  • Unlimited license = 50K
• CONTENTdm Trouble
  • No faceted browsing
  • Inadequate technical support (for a paid support package)
  • Not the best search results...
What Did We Consider?

omeka

DSpace

CONTENTdm®
Digital Collection Management Software

?
Lowcountry Digital Library

today
There Were Problems...

- OpenWMS - Only Ingestion Client We Could Find That Allowed Batch Tab-delimited Text File Importation
- Still in Beta (Public version now available)
- Only Maps From Marc, Mods, In-house Text to METS or MODS
- 49,898 DC Records To Migrate
- Correction:
  49,898 Very Messy, Poorly Formed DC Records To Migrate
And More Problems...

This was my project budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOFTWARE</td>
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<tr>
<td>HARDWARE</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRAINING</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIGRATION</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I did have (some) time, interns, and volunteers
My Game Plan

✓ Assessment
✓ Documentation
✓ Training
✓ Communication & Shared Migration Plans

Having both a clear end goal and a good understanding of what resources you have is critical for any project’s success.

✓ What Needs To Be Done?
  Metadata Migration
  Metadata Rectification
  Training Materials & Workflows

✓ What Resources Do You Already Have?
  CONTENTdm Batch Edit

✓ If You Don’t Have It, Can You Find It For Free?
  No Excel? OpenOffice (which is better!!)
  Can’t Script Your Clean Up? OpenRefine
  No BaseCamp?
    TeamBox, GoogleDrive, DropBox
Write It Down!

I know it’s time consuming, but DOCUMENT EVERYTHING!

✓ Workflows
  Graphics Help!

✓ Make Your Own Manual
  New Software? Include Screen Shots
  Is It Easy To Follow? Have A Newbie Test It

✓ Crosswalk It Out!
  Not Just Schema To Schema
  Make It Hyper Specific
  Keep It Easy On The Workers
Training Day

✓ Have Training Packets & Technology Ready
✓ Be There For Your Workers
✓ Keep them Motivated
✓ Prepare Yourself For The Worst
✓ Flexibility Is Everything
✓ Deal With What You’ve Got
Communication is Critical

- Google Spreadsheets
  Color Coded
  Use To Chart Progress

- Shared To Do Lists
  (Hello, Trello!)

- Keep Management Informed

- Keep Project Partners Informed
Lessons Learned

Use Every Tool In Your Arsenal
We should have batch edited everything in CONTENTdm prior to export. Almost everything.

Keep Your Expectations Realistic
Our ingestion solution didn’t fully meet our needs and we decided to ride it out in the hopes that it would get better. That didn’t happen.
But we could have easily “out-schema-ed” our own partners.
More complexity isn’t always better.

Don’t Break Off More Than You Can Chew
Even if you can do something, that doesn’t mean you should. We have an excellent partner base who were willing to adapt to the new, more structure metadata schema.

Budget Extra Time
This project took us almost double the anticipated time. Yup.
TOOLS USED

PROJECT MANAGEMENT & COMMUNICATION
✓ Trello  https://trello.com/
✓ TeamBox  https://teambox.com/
✓ Google Drive  https://drive.google.com

METADATA RECTIFICATION
✓ OpenRefine  http://openrefine.org/
  So many tutorials available now
  ALCTS has a good YouTube video
✓ OpenOffice
  http://www.openoffice.org/
Questions?

Heather Gilbert
gilberthj@cofc.edu
http://lcdl.library.cofc.edu

Thank You!!