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Making Connections with Digital Projects

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Making Connections with Digital Projects

IPFW’s Digital Partnerships

Cheryl Truesdell, Dean, IPFW Helmke Library

Indiana Library Federation Annual Conference
October 20, 2009
Grand Wayne Center
Fort Wayne, Indiana
IPFW’s Digital Partnerships

Mastodon Digital Object Network

In the beginning there was one...

- Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society
  - Supplement outreach programs to K-12
  - Preserve materials for posterity
  - Improve visibility of the History Center
  - Model for future collaborative initiatives
IPFW’s Digital Partnerships

Mastodon Digital Object Network

Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society

Artifact Trunks

Arts
Education
Government
Innovation

Athletics
Faith
Immigration
Location

Native Americans
IPFW’s Digital Partnerships

That Glorious Gate*

- Created a loan agreement for each item removed from the History Center collection
- Created a portfolio case to transport large maps and documents
- Created a Web site for the History Center, mirrored at IPFW
- Developed watermarking for all History Center images

*Miami Indian Chief Little Turtle referred to the nine-mile portage between the confluence of the three rivers in Fort Wayne and the Wabash River as “That Glorious Gate”
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Miami Indians
IPFW’s Digital Partnerships

Miami Indians of Northeast Indiana

- Experimented with using the new overhead Scanner for three-dimensional object
- Developed procedures to accommodate new escort service requirement
And then there were two…

- Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society
- Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics
  - Primary source materials for student and faculty research
  - Internship opportunity for Political Science Interns
  - Valuable resource for historians and others
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Making of a People – 150 years of Civic Growth in Allen County, Indiana

- Used IUPUI’s new digital camera studio equipment to create images of fragile election books, 1852, 1884-1967 without destroying the original books
- Began digitizing full monographs including the Fort Wayne City Annual Reports, 1894-1915 and Fort Wayne City Ordinances, 1874, 1901, 1912, 1946
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And then there were three…

- Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society
- IPFW Archaeological Survey
  - Dissemination of archaeological information on the Northeastern Indiana Paleodindian Project
  - Improved access to map data for archaeological digs
- WFWA PBS39 in conjunction with a community coalition, including Allen County Public Library, Miami Indian Tribe of Indiana, Science Central, IPFW Center for Endangered Languages,
  - Archive programs and activities associated with PBS “We Shall Remain” American Experience series on Native history and contemporary experiences
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Thirteen Millennia: Native American Life in Northeastern Indiana

- Developing skills with creating digital images from microfilm
- Experiencing cultural reluctance to photographic or video exposure of Native American storytelling
- Obtaining experience in archiving a Web site
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Mastodon Digital Object Network

Project Outputs and Outcomes

- Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society
  - 233% increase in usage of the Web site from 2007-2008 to 2008-2009
  - 77% of teachers surveyed agreed that online materials enhanced the education experience of the History Center
  - 54% of online users lived outside a 100 mile radius of Fort Wayne & 46% said that they would not travel to use these items if they had not been online
  - Receiving requests for reproductions found online
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Project Outputs and Outcomes

- Mike Downs Center for Indiana Politics
  - Political Science interns provided 100% accurate summary election data and name access for 34 November general elections
  - Political Science Y307 Indiana State Government and Politics course scheduled to be offered spring 2010 taught by Dr. Andrew Downs, and using election data
  - 46% of online users reported working on historical research, 23% on genealogy research
The IPFW Archaeological Survey Historian reported in a glowing testimonial to the use of maps digitized through the LSTA grant projects. She said that they were required to prepare extensive land-use histories of the parcels they survey. Previously to do this when a question came up, they had to go to the History Center and ask that they pull the physical City Plan Commission maps. Now she said that they can access them at any time and enlarge the detail of the map if needed. She said that by using the digital maps they were able to find a “feeder canal” that wasn’t located on other historical maps. Using the detail on the City Plan Commission map they were “not only able to pinpoint exactly where the dam had been, but identified in the field remnants of the old canal sluice gates.”
Project Outputs and Outcomes

- IPFW Walter E. Helmke Library
  - Developing a controlled vocabulary of personal names, including variant names of persons and early businesses in Fort Wayne that are now being used with other collections to identify individuals in photographs and/or establish signatures in early handwritten documents