CollectionSpace

Open source collection management system for museums

Chris Hoffman
UC Berkeley (Research Information Technologies)

collectionspace

LYRASIS

Outline
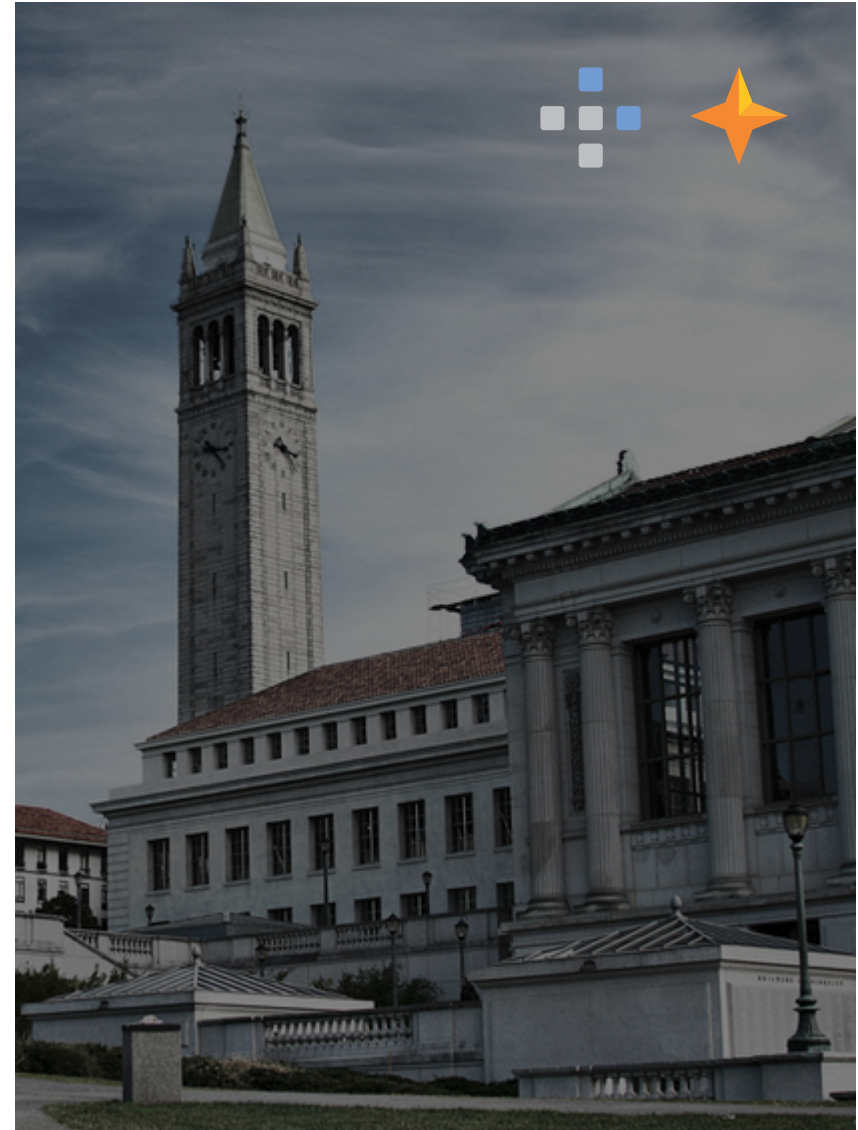
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1. **CollectionSpace: History and Background**
   a. Motivations and goals
   b. CollectionSpace at UC Berkeley
   c. The CollectionSpace community

2. **From project to product while remaining a community**
   a. The LYRASIS organizational home
   b. Governance and community
   c. Development
   d. Funding and resources

3. **Next steps and challenges**

CollectionSpace OSS Platform

What is a museum collection management system?

CollectionSpace

- Open source, web-based technical platform for collections information management in use at over twenty-five organizations

- Current focus on building long-term sustainability

- Community-source governance enables resource sharing at the institution, domain, or regional level

- Supports system extension and connection with applications that are essential for researchers and public access via APIs, custom web-apps, and more - all of which enable the mobilization of collections for aggregation and sharing

- Domain-specific profiles allow for use of CollectionSpace with minimal configuration across disparate domains such as art, material culture, and the natural sciences

UC Berkeley

- Context (2008)
  - 12+ campus museums and collections, using 6+ collections management systems, failing to meet new needs
  - Long history of collaboration between IT and museums.

- Campus goals
  - Drive down costs of managing individual collections
  - Use systems that are stable, secure, protect data, and are professionally managed
  - Facilitate innovations in research, teaching, and public service
  - Leverage investment across institutions and research grants

Five museum partners @ UCB

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	Objects	Images
University and Jepson Herbaria	515,555	236,410
Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology	706,946	361,758*
UC Botanical Garden	52,374	290
CineFiles	56,592	136,655
BAM/PFA	22,344	9,147**

NB: Counts as of 4/1/2016

*   Not including 418,582 catalog card images and "not-for-public" images

** Approx. number in rapid flux

Using the CollectionSpace API

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Portals: Public, Internal (museum staff), and media-only
Web applications: Inventory, bulk update, media upload

The Community

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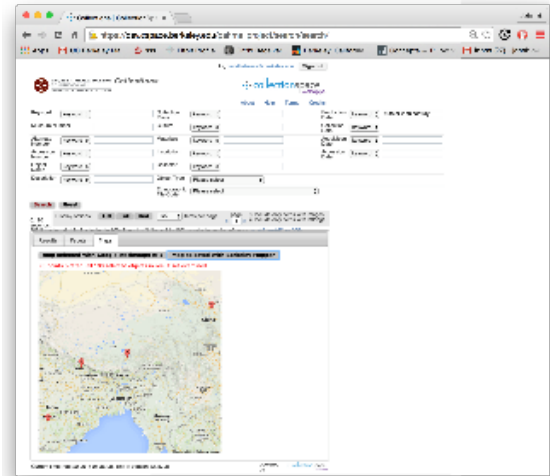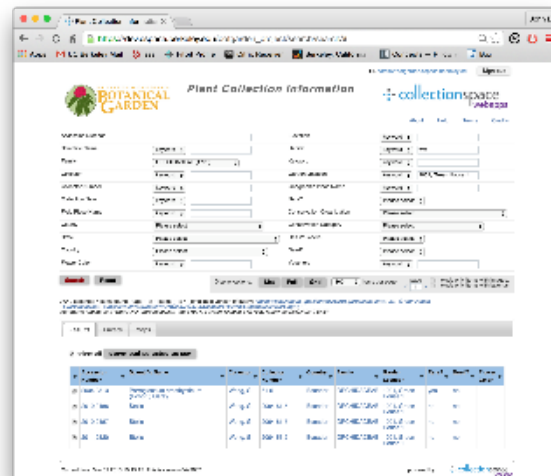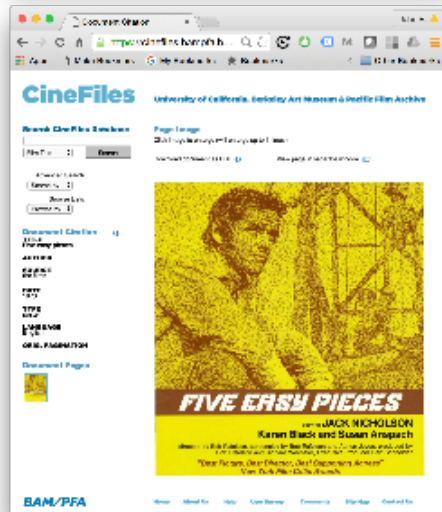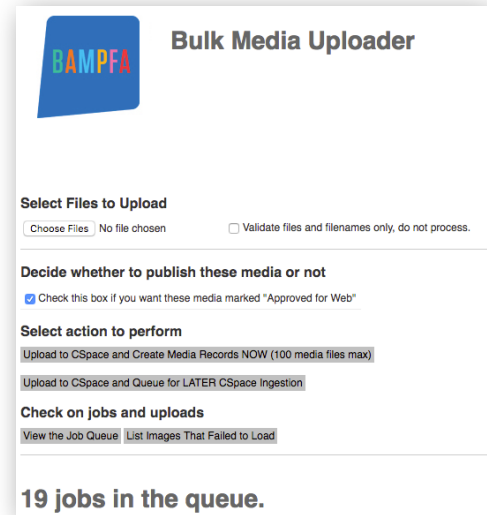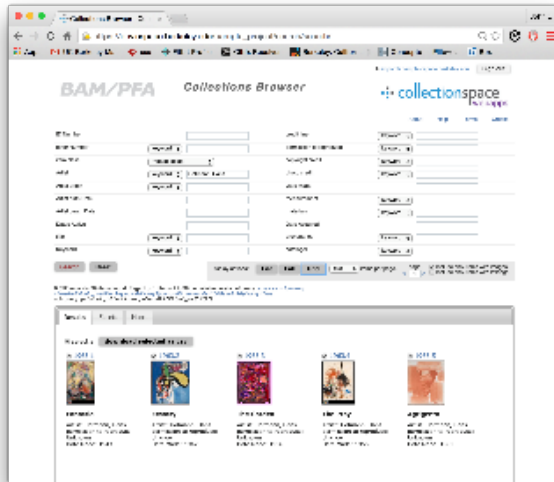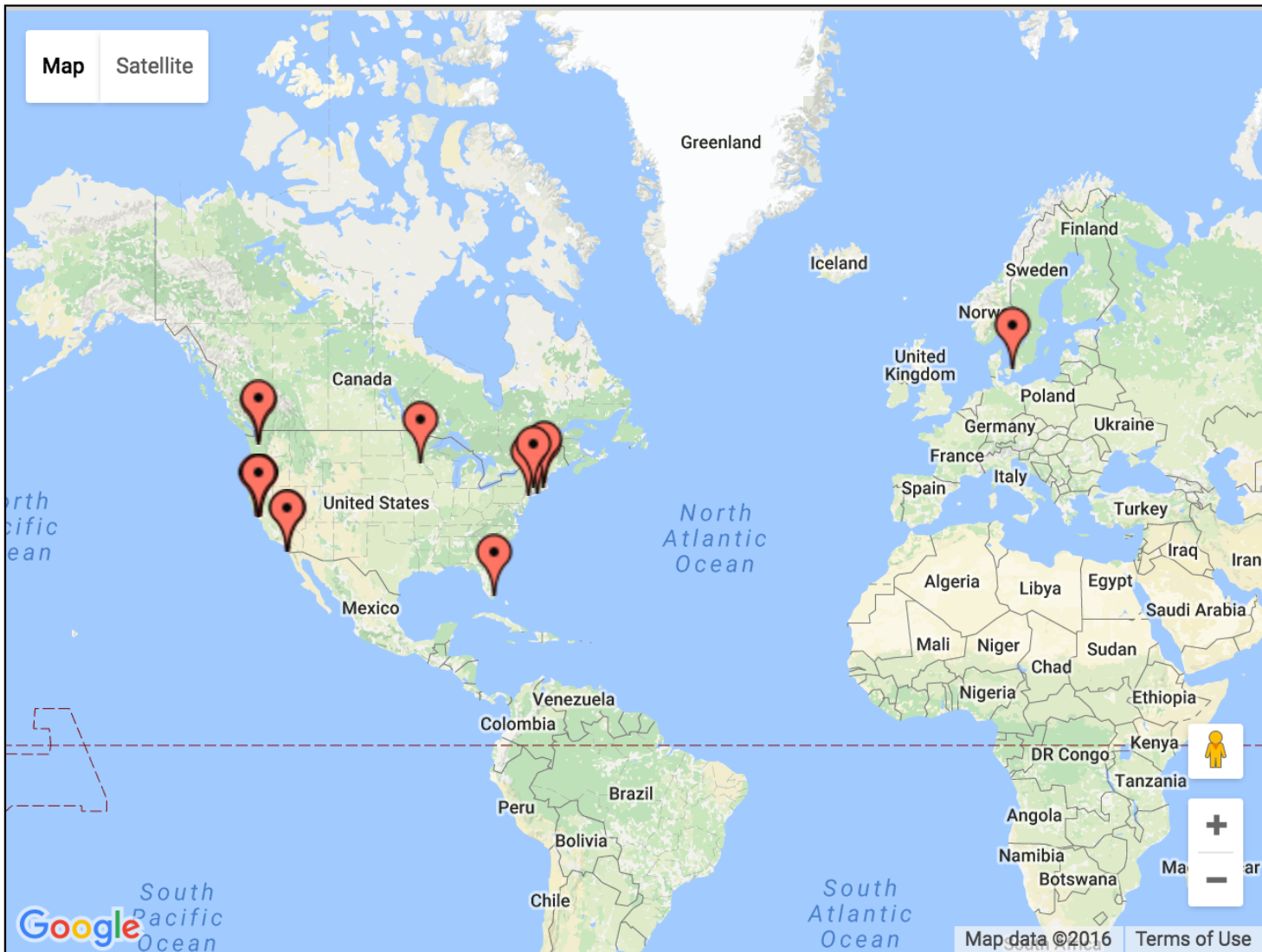
lyrasis.org

… while remaining committed to:

- The CollectionSpace community and museums generally
- Principles of open source software

CS Organizational Home

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- Trusted name - LYRASIS provides organizational home support for the application and program team

- Commitment - member-based Board supporting Technical and Functional Working Groups

- Brand building, promotion and awareness - via conferences, webinars, social media and networking

- Fiscal stewardship - full time attention to detail

- End-to-end thinking - implementation, migration, and service provider support throughout adoption and implementation lifecycle

- Identify and facilitate the creation of strategic partnerships with consortia, universities, and arts organizations

- Funding - Grant writing and grant making (Mellon, Kress, NEH, mini-grants)

From project to product

- Governance and community

  - Three Working Groups: Leadership, Functional and Technical

  - Community outreach – within LYRASIS and by partners

- Development

  - At LYRASIS

  - At UC Berkeley and other community members

- Funding and resources

  - At LYRASIS

  - At UC Berkeley and other community members

- Growing our membership and the community of museums and collecting institutions using CollectionSpace
  - Deciding where to focus
- Addressing technical challenges
  - Rewriting the user interface (to attract more developers and simplify the stack)
  - Simplifying installation, configuration and data migration
  - Hosting and service providers
- Leveraging the power and potential of museum collections
  - Addressing the strategic goals of museums and our broader community
  - Content sharing and integration in support of research, teaching and learning, and public service
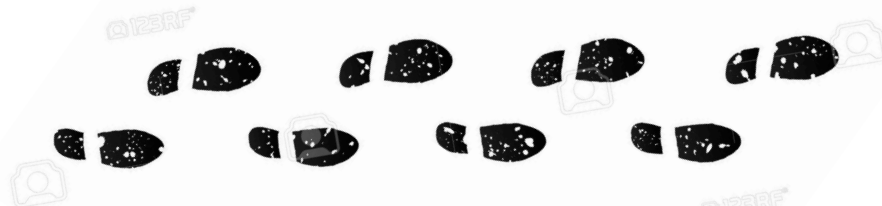
Thank you for listening!

- Chris Hoffman
- Research Information Technologies, UC Berkeley
- chris.hoffman@berkeley.edu