CollectionSpace
Open source collection management system for museums

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Outline

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
What is a museum collection management system?
• 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
• **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

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

Portals: Public, Internal (museum staff), and media-only

Web applications: Inventory, bulk update, media upload
… while remaining committed to:

• The CollectionSpace community and museums generally

• Principles of open source software
• 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)
• 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
Next steps and challenges

• 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!

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