The Digital Library Federation’s Aquifer initiative & American Social History Online

Enterprise Repositories & Federated Archives Working Group
Sun PASIG
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Brief background

• Digital Library Federation interested in sponsoring “distributed open digital library”
• Aquifer initiative selected and developed schemas and best practices for aggregation
• *American Social History Online* project provides sandbox and production service to test
Basic architecture

• Ruby on Rails 1.2.6
• Principles
  – Agile
  – Open standards based
  – Flexible
    • Metadata handling
    • Tools integration
What is it good for?

- Drawing topical material in a variety of formats together across repositories
- Exposing dark objects
- Generating previews (asset actions)
- Integrating existing tools
  - Simile timeline
  - Date normalization
  - Zotero
  - Collectus
View search results as a timeline
Use Zotero in Firefox to capture and manage citations, annotate objects.
Right click on image icon to open Collectus tool to collect images, create slide shows
Highlights

- Geo reference generator
- Google maps mashup
- Tagging
- Open ID login
- Hide recently viewed
Applications for this community

• Open source software available for use in local or collaborative environments (SourceForge and RubyForge)
• Agile development process for quick results
• Lightweight organization for innovation
  – Modeled on Collaborative Entrepreneurship
  – Pools resources to address shared issues
Questions?

Thanks!

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