Collaborations, Best Practices, & Collection Development

Born-Digital and Digitized Materials

DigCCurr 2007- Chapel Hill, NC

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Digital Projects Unit

- Collections & Collaborations
  - CyberCemetery
    - GPO
    - NARA – Affiliated Archive
  - Texas Register
    - Secretary of State's Office
  - The Portal to Texas History
    - 45 Libraries & Museums
  - Web-at-Risk Project
    - California Digital Library
    - New York University

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Needs Assessment Activities

Project Curators

Survey: 22 Participants

Survey Findings →

Librarians & Archivists

National: 2 ALA - FDLC
                 17 Participants

Partners: 3 UNT - CDL - NYU
                 26 Participants

Focus Group Findings →

Content Producers & End Users

Content Producers: 3 Labor Unions
                              4 State Gov't. Agencies
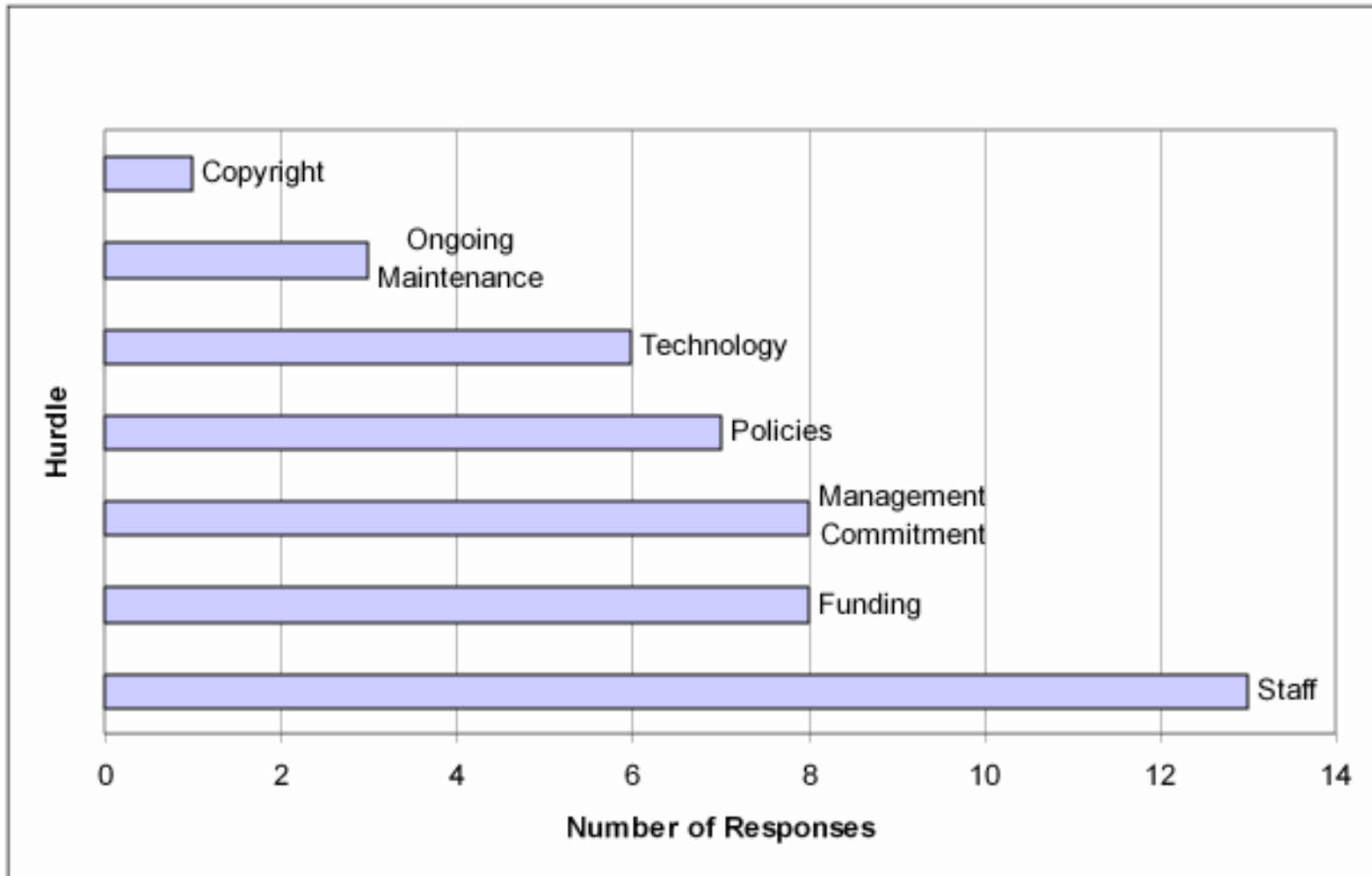
End Users: 7 Academic Researchers

Interview Findings →

REQUIREMENTS

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Web Collection Development

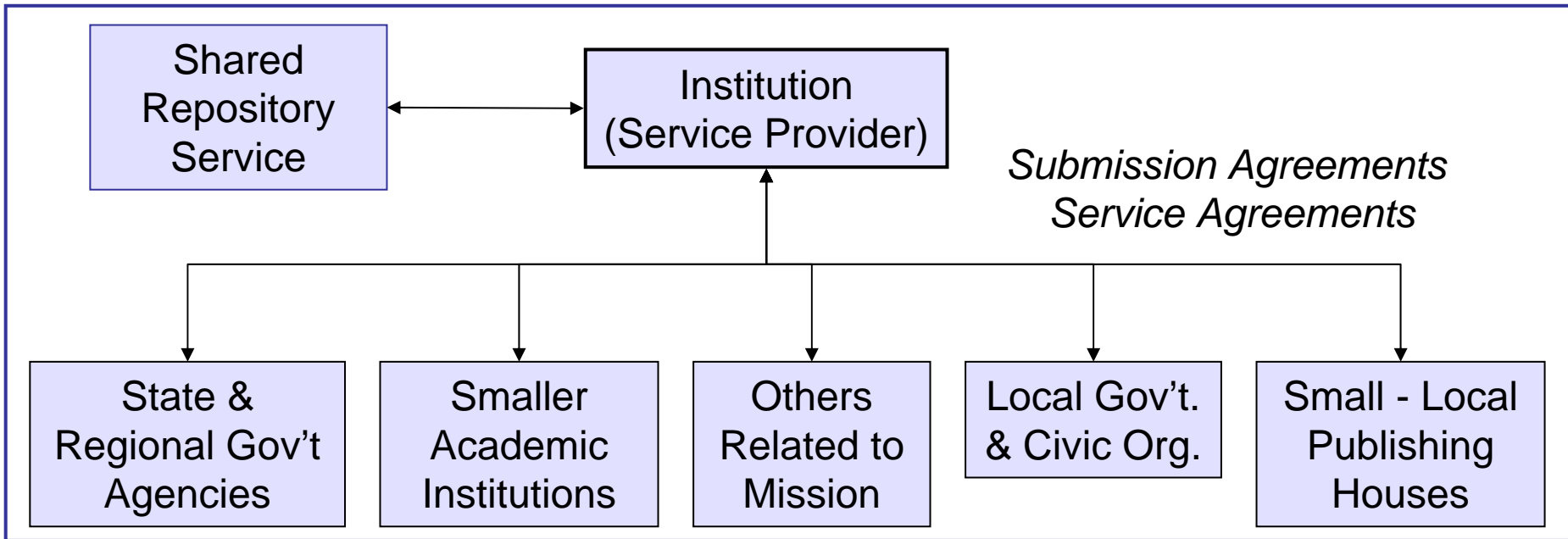| PHASES		
SELECTION ⇨	CURATION ⇨	PRESERVATION
Selection	Description	Preservation
Acquisition	Organization	
	Presentation	
	Maintenance	
	Deselection	

Web Archives: Current Challenges

Transitional Times

- Stewardship unclear or non-existent
- Collection development models transfer at great expense in resources
  - Expensive to select
  - Expensive to capture
  - Expensive to create metadata
- Preservation practices are not readily available
- Consortial efforts are not yet established
- Existing policies & practices lack scope

External Partnerships

Motivation

Web materials are disappearing and universities have both a self-serving and an altruistic interest in preserving them.

Shared Repository Service	←→	Institution (Service Provider)

Submission Agreements
Service Agreements

State & Regional Gov't Agencies	Smaller Academic Institutions	Others Related to Mission	Local Gov't. & Civic Org.	Small - Local Publishing Houses

Benefits   *"A Community of Creators"*

- Preserve historical record in areas of interest
- Fulfill mission to serve community
- Foster a sustainable business model

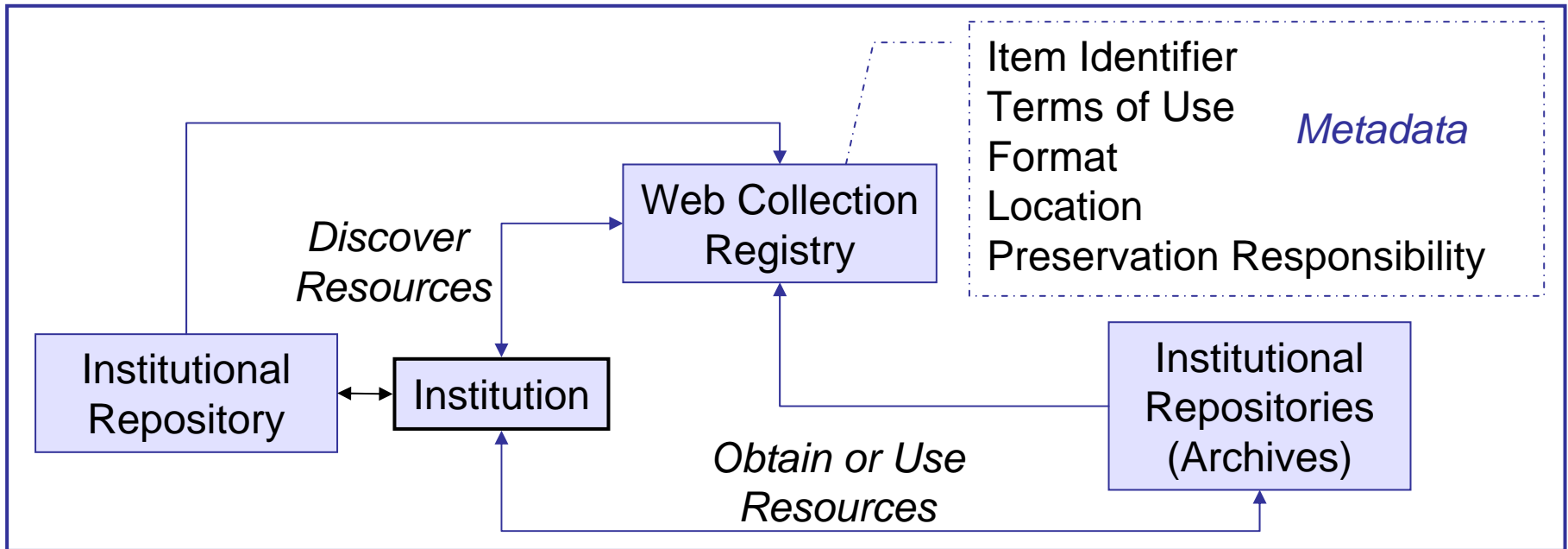UNIVERSITY of NORTH TEXAS
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Collection Development: Selection

- Librarians: Discipline-Related Web Content
  - Relative newness of a discipline
  - Demand for current information
- Researchers: Key Content Genres
  - Journals, periodicals; databases
  - Government records or documents; Newspapers

Selection & Collaboration

Question

Is some organization already archiving these materials in a manner that meets the needs of my user groups?

Web Collection Registry

Item Identifier
Terms of Use
Format
Location
Preservation Responsibility

Metadata

Institutional Repository

Discover Resources

Institution

Institutional Repositories (Archives)

Obtain or Use Resources

Benefits
- Expand access to materials
- Eliminate redundancy of effort
- Control preservation costs

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Selection: Content v. Context

- Depends on the discipline
  - Social Science v. History
- The website becomes 'evidence' for those who study it
  - Web site as "document" or "digital object"
- Depends on the research purpose
  - Comparison of images within ads over time v. Comparison of the role of images in publications over time
- Related curatorial decision
  - Unit of description needed for discovery
  - Metadata application

What Curators Need to Know

Web-published materials

- Importance of understanding the needs of the designated community
- Implications for metadata, presentation, preservation
- Policy issues & rights issues
- Acquisition considerations
  - Scope of capture
  - Deposit or capture

Digital Projects Unit

- Provides leadership & services to digital collection librarians

- Provides support for the Libraries' digital library initiatives

- Champions access as well as preservation

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Preparing the Groundwork

- Wide view of "what is digital library content"
- Focused on optimizing commonalities across digital initiatives

1. Designed common infrastructure for digital collections within the Libraries
2. Common metadata element set with input rules and examples
3. Positioned digital collection librarians external to the DPU & in close proximity to the users

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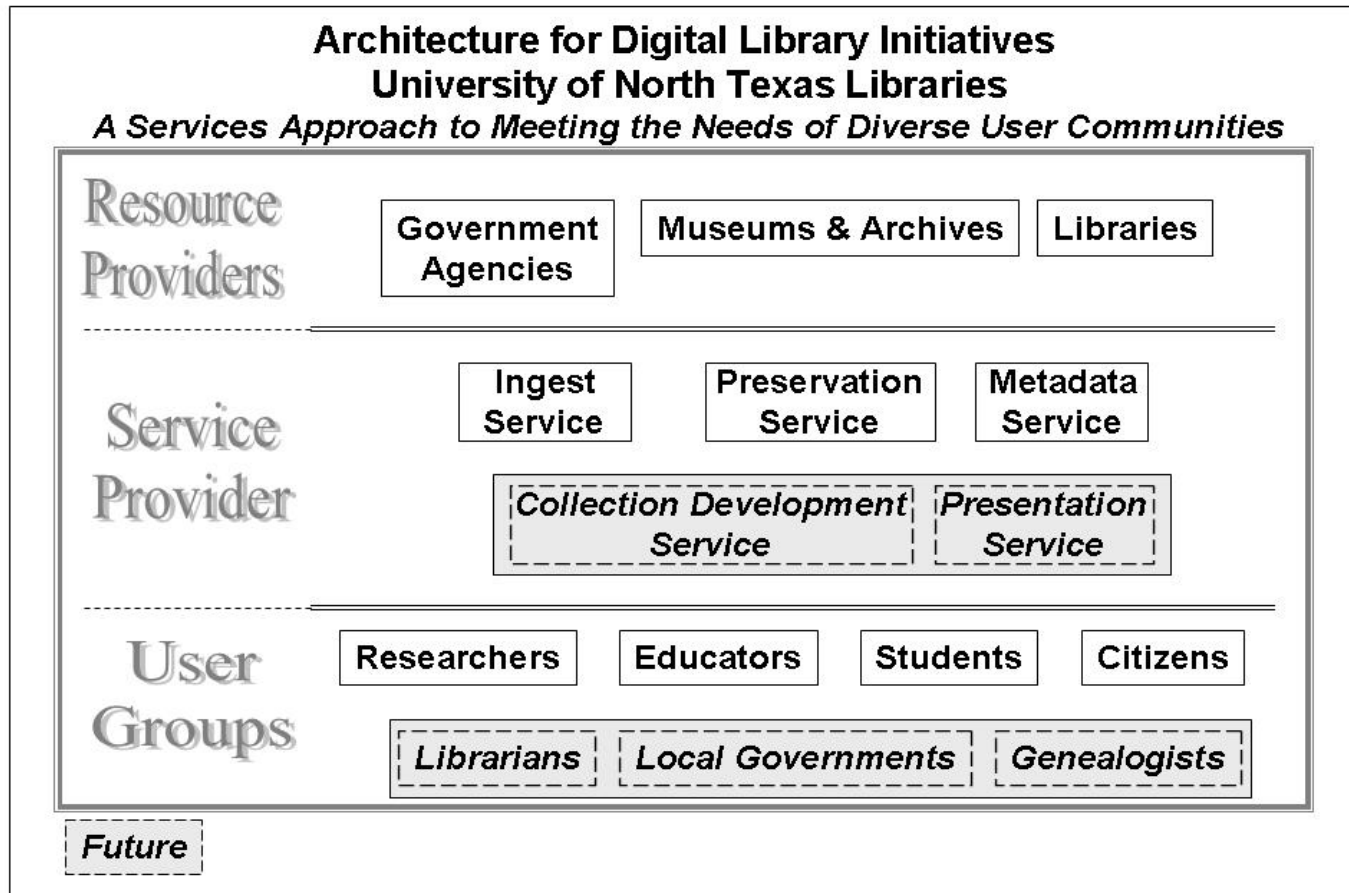LIBRARIES

Expansion of Digital Collections

- Infrastructure & practices promote increased digital collection development
- Hurdles to digital collection initiatives have been removed → fostered growth

Infrastructure & success have resulted in a new environment that promotes digital collection development

Surprising Results

- Digital collections create new partnerships and avenues of scholarship within the institution

- Web-accessible digital collections attract users from everywhere
  - Focus remains on user communities we serve
  - Identified significant, underserved communities

- To meet the needs of targeted user communities, we need the ability to deliver services tailored to these communities

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Future Directions

Architecture for Digital Library Initiatives
University of North Texas Libraries
A Services Approach to Meeting the Needs of Diverse User Communities

Resource Providers

- Government Agencies
- Museums & Archives
- Libraries

Service Provider

- Ingest Service
- Preservation Service
- Metadata Service
- *Collection Development Service*
- *Presentation Service*

User Groups

- Researchers
- Educators
- Students
- Citizens
- *Librarians*
- *Local Governments*
- *Genealogists*

Future

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What Curators Need to Know

- Management Skills
  - Business case construction & marketing internally and externally
  - RFP creation for both service providers and systems
  - Adapting to change: technology, project itself, standards & practices
- Collaboration Skills
  - Internal: IT and curators
  - External: Partners
- Negotiation Skills
  - Submission agreements
  - Service agreements
  - Interpreting needs & requirements among stakeholders
- Technical Knowledge: Standards, Best Practices, Emerging Trends
  - Metadata
  - Infrastructure
  - Digital preservation

Thank You

Digital Projects Unit:
http://www.library.unt.edu/digitalprojects/

Web-at-Risk:
http://web3.unt.edu/webatrisk/
http://wiki.cdlib.org/WebAtRisk/

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