

Polar Bear Expedition Digital Collections: Enhancing Online Use through Digital Curation

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Abstract

In this paper, we evaluate the first year (January 2006-February 2007) of operation of the "Polar Bear Expedition Digital Collections" focusing specifically on documenting visitor use of the site, the creation of online communities around records, and the reuse of digital objects. This site is part of a larger research project investigating the ways in which archival finding aids can be re-envisioned and redesigned to increase access to primary sources, particularly through the incorporation and use of social navigation features.