Library of Congress Case

INLS 818
Context

• 1995 LoC initiated the NDL
• 1995 2 year contract with UMD to collaborate on interface development
• University team to drive near-term design through prototypes, LoC team to implement within current constraints.
LoC ACCESS Team and Process

1. Design team: analysts, programmers, librarians, and interface designers.

2. Strong perspective based on short courses
   - occasional users, touch screen, discrete and continuous buttons

3. Regular meetings with brainstorming encouraged

4. Prototype subtasks assigned

5. Preliminary designs critiqued

6. Revision and continued critique

7. User testing

8. Revision

9. Continued extension
LC NDL Project Plan

1. Needs Assessment
   - Current Users (RR librarians, patrons, online)
   - Potential Users (scholars, teachers/SLMS, public)

2. Structure Analysis
   - Current Content & Organization (e.g., collection/item record)
   - Future Content & Organization

3. Develop feature space (collect, analyze exemplars)
4. Agree on first principles, metaphor, outline guidelines
5. Sketch designs, group critique
6. Prototypes, “discount” user tests (3 iterations planned)
7. Final prototype(s) and extended user tests
8. Reflection and evaluation of process, final guidelines
Needs Assessment

- 9 Reading Rooms
- 3 part structured interview (in teams)
  - Content, users, strategies
  - Yielded lists of special interface challenges
- Day care center questionnaire
- Key issues
  - Novelty (DLs were new)
  - Diversity in experience (domain, technology)
  - Diversity in platforms
  - Volume, diversity, formats, granularities of materials (digital+analog, finding aids+collections+primary, lack of common metadata)
Design Goals

- Minimize disorientation by reducing navigation (e.g., minimize scrolling and jumping, flattening hierarchy) and anchoring users in a consistent context;
- Provide primary information at the earliest point in the interaction as possible;
- Support rapid relevance decisions through overviews and previews.
Technical Decisions

• Use dynamic query interactions
• To cope with limitations of HTML display and cgi interaction, use Java and JavaScript
• To cope with metadata issues, divide into across collection browser and within collection browser (overview and preview distinctions)
Visualizations for Overviews and Previews

• Aim for user-manipulable VIEWS rather than alchemy
• Overviews are constructed from, and represent COLLECTIONS
• Previews are extracted from and are surrogates for OBJECTS
• Dynamic query approach with starfield and barfield displays
• Visualization widgets are embedded in larger user tasks
Entry Mockup #1

American Memory

Welcome

American Memory is the Library of Congress offering of primary-source and archival collections relating to American culture and history. These collections are the Library of Congress's key contribution to the national digital library. Most of these collections have been drawn from the holdings of the Library's special collections divisions. Each collection is accompanied by introductory material, user's guides, and bibliographies for further research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Browse Collections by:</th>
<th>Search all Items in all Collections</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formats [Text, Image, Sound, Map, Motion Picture]</td>
<td>Examples: Whitman, Alabama, Civil War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Period [16th century, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Virtual Information Desk

- Quick Audio Tour (0.5Mb)
- Virtual Reality Tour
- Other Tours [scholar, student, teacher]
- Guided Search
- Technical Requirements
- Questions [FAQ, survey, comments]
- Tips [visitors, researchers]
- Recommendations for Educators (Learning Page)

Hot Topics

- Top Ten [Brady, Learning, ...]
- Current Interest Small Exhibits
- Exhibits [Texas, Edison, War, ...]

New Arrivals

- [Baseball Cards, Pulp Fiction, ...]

Library of Congress, American Memory

Comments: platform@loc.gov

June 6, 1996
American Memory
Introduction

Historical Collections for the National Digital Library

Collection Samples
American Memory is the Library of Congress offering of primary-source and archival collections relating to American culture and history. These collections are the Library of Congress's key contribution to the national digital library. Most of these collections have been drawn from the holdings of the Library's special collections divisions. Each collection is accompanied by introductory material, users' guides, and bibliographies for further research. Only a small portion of the huge collections of the Library of Congress is digitized. The Digital Collections mainly include historical and uncopyrighted or out-of-copyright materials. It is a constantly growing collection that contains both primary materials and secondary materials (e.g. indexes, finding aids).

The available services are listed on the left side of the screen. We recommend that you browse and select collections of interest. The Information Desk provides special tours and answers frequently asked questions. A particular effort has been made to provide information for educators and life-long learners (the "learning pages") to help use the collections.

Sample Special Presentations

- The Progress of a People: Special Presentation from the African-American Pamphlets from the Daniel A. P. Murray Collection, 1880-1920
- Become a Historical Detective
- The Nineteenth Century, Special Presentation (only in 3rd and 4th grades)
The Coolidge-Consumerism collection assembles a wide array of LC primary-source materials from the 1920s, some 17,000 pages reflecting the prosperity of the Coolidge years, the nation's transition to a mass-consumer economy, and the role of government in this transition. The selective thematic focus and range of formats in this collection represent an effort to assemble topical bodies of material as opposed to reproducing preestablished collection entities.
Immediate Access to Primary Material
(Treasures to the Surface)

The Coolidge Era and the Consumer Economy, 1921-1929

Samples from the collection:

Introduction

The Coolidge-Consumerism collection assembles a wide array of Library of Congress primary-source materials from the 1920s, reflecting the prosperity of the Coolidge years, the nation's transition to a mass-consumer economy, and the role of government at this transition. The multi-media materials include rare and hard-to-find items from the General Collections, both books and magazines, as well as documents from personal and organizational papers in the Manuscript Division, photographs from the Prints and Photographs Division, and a modest sampling of motion picture footage and radio excerpts of speeches by President Coolidge from the Motion Picture and Recorded Sound Division. The Preface by Carren Kasten provides Credits and describes access methods to the materials.

Samples from the collection
Dynamic Queries: Close coupling of queries and results in overviews
Hierarchical Overview Tool: WebToc

American Variety Stage: Vaudeville and Popular Entertainment 1870-1920

Selected Materials from the Library of Congress

Search by Keyword | Browse the Subject or Author Index
WebToc details
Results: Giving the user more information

![Image of Library of Congress American Memory search results]

**Detailed results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Descriptive information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High school girls learn the art of automobile mechanics, 1927.</td>
<td>Photo</td>
<td>Catalog record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some things new in orange paint. Miss Grace Wagner, a student at Central High, Wash., D.C., is learning the art of automobile mechanics, 1927.</td>
<td>Photo</td>
<td>Catalog record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motion Papers, Motor Correspondence with the Dutch National Bank of New York City, 1928-29.</td>
<td>Manuscript</td>
<td>Catalog record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvin Coolidge Speech, Law and order, 1923.</td>
<td>Sound</td>
<td>Catalog record with transcript</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Search**

**The Coolidge Era & the Consumer Economy 1921-1929**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEARCH</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope</td>
<td>Coolidge Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1923-1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Format</td>
<td>All</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attributes</td>
<td>Word(s) or Phrase(s) in ALL fields: automobile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESULTS</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Results</td>
<td>19 lists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preview</td>
<td>All, 12 photos, 2 motion pictures, 1 periodical, 1 manuscript, 1 sound recording, 2 notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Order by</td>
<td>Relevance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Library of Congress American Memory**

**Introduction**

**Browse**

**Search**

**Quick**

Enter phrases below

**Quick search**

**Enhanced**

**Information**

**Information for Life-long Learners**

**Special Presentations**
Gathering tool to create personal collections

Catherine's Collection

My great grandfather.

Enter your text here.

Comments:

Here is an example of what you can do with Netscape Gold's built-in editing features. Using the Edit feature in Netscape Gold 3.0 enables the user to locally edit the collection, including the image thumbnails. The user can then customize it to his/her liking.
Video browser with animated display of key frames

What happened on Twenty-third Street, New York City

[View this film.][AVI Format...15,293,814 bytes]...To download the film for future viewing, be sure to set your browser to the "load to disk" or "retrieve to disk" option.


NOTES

H7985 U.S. Copyright Office

Copyright: Thomas A. Edison, 21Aug1901, H7985

Duration: 1:22 at 15 fps.

A street level view from the sidewalk, looking along the length of 23rd Street. Following actuality footage of pedestrians and street
Here is the description for Columbia Race Record.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table of Contents</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page 0</td>
<td>Page 1</td>
<td>Page 2</td>
<td>Page 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Page 4</td>
<td>Page 5</td>
<td>Page 6</td>
<td>Page 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page 8</td>
<td>Page 9</td>
<td>Page 10</td>
<td>Page 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coolidge Collection: Columbia Race Record

Bibliographic Record | Thumbnails | Notes