



Undertaking a Digital Collection Platform Evaluation at a Health Science Library

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Overview of Oregon Health & Science University

- 4,726 students in OHSU degree or certificate programs, including joint programs with other universities.

Health care facilities:

- OHSU Hospital
- OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital
- Hillsboro Medical Center (formerly Tuality Healthcare) and Adventist Health Portland
- Clinics across Oregon



Digital Collections

- ETDs
- Historical Collections & Archives
- OERs (IMPACT Hospital-Based Addiction Care Resources)
- Starting to include other kinds of student work (Research Week)



Needs and Wants

- Spreadsheet listing 77 different needs/wants
- Maintain author order
- Program specific collections
- Easily add new work/resource types
- Deposit and view video content in the repository



OHSU Historical Collections & Archives

- Documents the history of OHSU and health sciences in the Pacific Northwest
- Includes photographs, archival material, rare books, artifacts, and more
- Serves the OHSU community and the general public
- Supports education and research using unique collections



Special Collections / Special Considerations

- Formats – many and varied
- Dates
- Collections within collections within collections
- Exhibits option?

Our Process



Identifying Stakeholders

- Who are the staff members or roles who will engage with the system?
- Who are the users who might submit materials?
- Who are the users who might seek materials?



Collecting Data

- Surveys
- Interviews
- Reference interactions

A vertical decorative image on the left side of the slide. It shows a close-up of vibrant green moss growing between smooth, dark grey and black stones. Some of the stones are covered in small, clear water droplets, suggesting a damp or rainy environment. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the moss and the smooth surfaces of the rocks.

Collating Data

Develop a list of questions about your use cases and requirements:

- Synthesize
- Tally
- Categorize
- Prioritize



Evaluating Platforms

- Make a list of candidate platforms
- Create a matrix: questions vs candidates
- Consider how to balance the labor of evaluating each platform
- Consider focusing on top priorities first and saving others for a second round



Finding Answers

Places to look:

- Websites
- Documentation
- Marketing Materials
- Demo Servers
- Source Code Repositories

Enter the answers into your matrix as you find them



Ranking Platforms

Which candidates best meet your needs?

- Categorize and tally answers as Yes/No/Maybe
- Consider assigning and tallying scores
- Identify top 3-5 candidates



Eliminating Platforms

- Don't meet must-have requirements
- Evaluators think it's unpleasant to use
- Remaining candidates advance to second round
 - Evaluate lower priority requirements
 - Set up demos from vendors
 - Cost considerations



Final Steps

- Communicating with internal stakeholders
- Budget!
- Implementation (never really done)



Thank You