DIY Archives: Enhancing Access to Collections via Free, Open-Source Platforms

MARAC/NEA Spring 2015 Meeting March 20, 2015

Introductions

Elizabeth Surles, Rutgers University CollectiveAccess

Rachel Moloshok, Historical Society of Pennsylvania CollectiveAccess

Renee DesRoberts, McArthur Public Library *WordPress*

Eugenia Kim, Emerson College *AtoM: Access to Memory*

Moderator: Rosalie Gartner, Emerson College

"Exploring" CollectiveAccess at the AAC



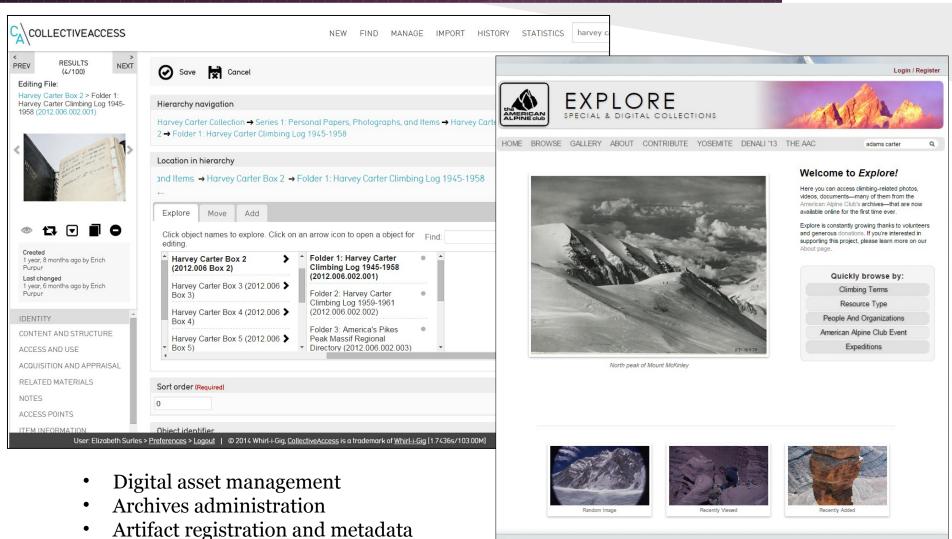


H. Adams Carter Yukon 1935 scrapbook scan, CollectiveAccess image viewer detail, Providence

- Providence (back-end): all metadata, digital object upload, search, customization
- Pawtucket (front-end): object display, tagging, galleries, search, browse

"Exploring" CollectiveAccess at the AAC





Get alerted to newly added items by RSS





BROWSE OBJECTS	Browse by					
SEARCH	TITLE OR NAME	0	CLIMBING SIGNIFICANCE	0	AAC DIVISION	0
ADVANCED SEARCH	AAC SECTION	0	AAC REGION	0	GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION	0
BROWSE	HAS MEDIA	0	ENTITIES	0	PLACES	0
	COLLECTIONS	0	AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB E	EVENT •	AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB NATIONAL EVENT	•
	EVENT	0	EXPEDITIONS	0	STORAGE LOCATIONS	0
	TERMS	0	TYPES	•	STATUSES	•
	ACCESS STATUSES	_				
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	CLIMBING SIGNIFICA			V W	Ascent	
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	CLIMBING SIGNIFICA A Accident Attempt B Big Wall C	Aid Boulder	C F H I M N O S T U Alpine	V W	Ascent	

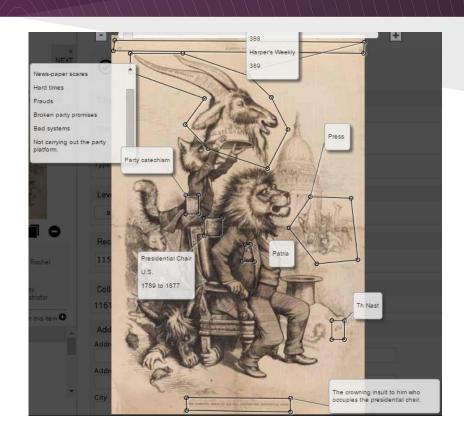
explore.americanalpineclub.org collectiveaccess.org



Historic Images, New Technologies

Two-year project to enhance description and discovery of Historical Society of Pennsylvania's graphic materials and promote the linking and sharing of content among institutions and scholars

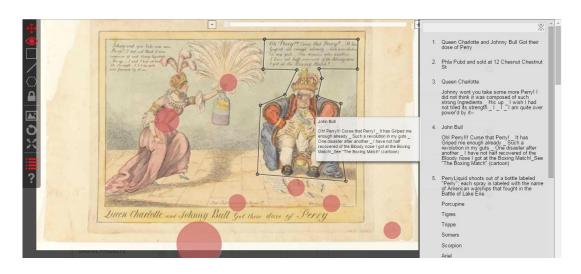
http://hsp.org/HINT





Historic Images, New Technologies

- •Update to HSP's image viewer in *Collective Access* to allow image annotation and support TEI markup
- •Publication of *Drupal*-based exhibit of annotated political cartoons





Historic Images, New Technologies

Learn more:

http://hsp.org/HINT



Rachel Moloshok, Project Associate (rmoloshok@hsp.org)

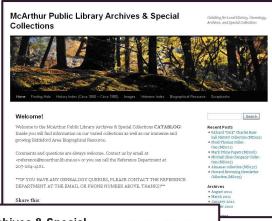


This digital history project has been made possible by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's Innovation in Archives and Documentary Editing program.

WordPress for Collection Access



2010





- Created October 2010
- THEN: share indexes, finding aids and other collection documentation
- NOW: also a "one stop" portal to dispersed digital collections

Today

WordPress for Collection Access



Advantages...

- No in-house hosting/infrastructure needed
- No coding expertise needed (unless...)
- No cost (unless...)
- Simple, user-friendly interface
- Built-in statistical analysis tools for metrics
- Lots of opportunity to expand/upgrade
- Lots of documentation about the product and how to use it!

WordPress for Collection Access



Disadvantages...???



Renée DesRoberts, Archivist

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AtoM: An Alternative



Our story...

- Lone Arranger until October 2013; added Digital Archivist and Archives/Records Management Associate
- Finding aids were/are pdfs on the website; hard to edit and search
- Finding aids were/are being contributed to ArchiveGrid
- Also needed something with **records management** capabilities
- No money or IT infrastructure for something like Archivist's Toolkit, Archon, or Archivesspace

atom.emerson.edu

AtoM: An Alternative



How and Why?

- Did an environmental scan:
 - AtoM ("Access to Memory") (open-source, "free like kittens")
 - AXAEM (proprietary, subscription)
 - Collective Access (open-source, "free like kittens")
 - Lyrasis-hosted Archivesspace (open-source, subscription)
- AXAEM was the best fit for our needs but too costly
- AtoM had just enough features with flexible hosting options
- Originally developed under the International Council on Archives, currently maintained by Artefactual (makers of Archivematica)

AtoM: An Alternative



Our Process

- Decided to host AtoM on an Amazon EC2 instance even though it is **not** an officially supported set-up
- Applied for and received the 2014 Richard L. Haas Award from the New England Archivists to fund hosting costs until we can prove value
- Digital Archivist acts as systems administrator, Archives/Records Management Associate acts as content administrator ("Prime Minister and Queen")
- Student interns entering both finding aids and guides to records groups; box lists will be added later in 2015
- Still no additional funding, IT infrastructure, or additional personnel time