

6-28-2014

Somewhere There's a PLACE for Us: Linking Fedora Digital Collections and Open Geoportal

Eleta Exline

University of New Hampshire - Main Campus

Thelma Thompson


University of New Hampshire - Main Campus

Michael Routhier

University of New Hampshire - Main Campus

PLACE Project Group

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholars.unh.edu/place>

 Part of the [Cataloging and Metadata Commons](#), [Earth Sciences Commons](#), [Geographic Information Sciences Commons](#), and the [Scholarly Communication Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Exline, Eleta; Thompson, Thelma; Routhier, Michael; and PLACE Project Group, "Somewhere There's a PLACE for Us: Linking Fedora Digital Collections and Open Geoportal" (2014). *PLACE Project*. 5.
<https://scholars.unh.edu/place/5>

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the University Library at University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in PLACE Project by an authorized administrator of University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. For more information, please contact nicole.hentz@unh.edu.

Somewhere There's a PLACE for Us: Linking Fedora Digital Collections and Open Geoportal

Eleta Exline, Thelma Thompson, and Michael Routhier, University of New Hampshire

Introduction

PLACE, the **P**osition-based **L**ocation **A**rchive **C**oordinate **E**xplorer, will be a geospatial search interface using embedded geospatial coordinates to enable easier discovery of information that can be difficult to locate through text-based searching. Through PLACE, via a click or delineation of a search polygon on a web map, users will zoom to a region and locate all UNH Digital Library collections whose geographic extents intersect. The project will integrate Fedora Commons and Open Geoportal (OGP) open source software to enhance geospatial-ready collections.

Collections

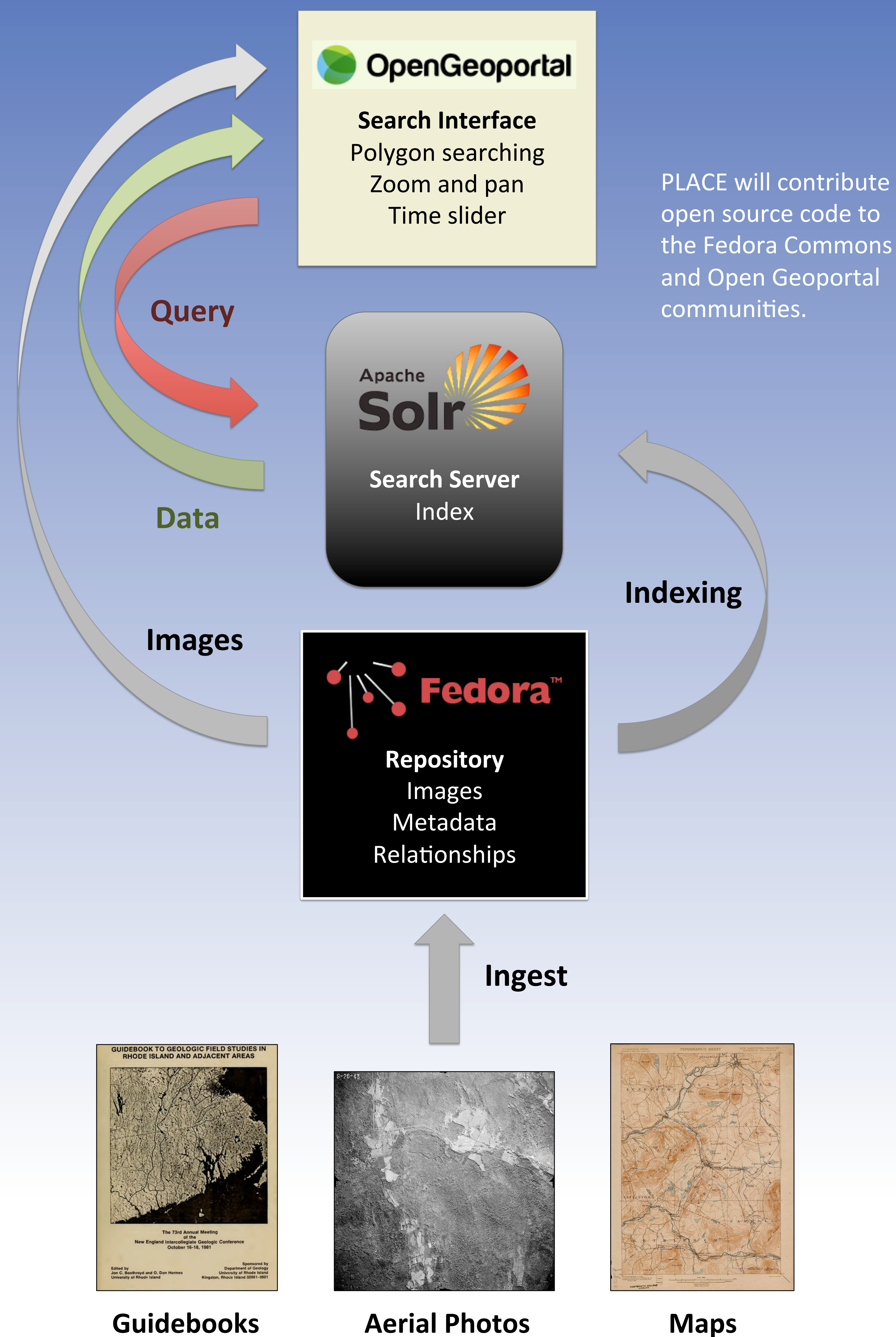
The collections chosen for initial implementation represent a variety of New Hampshire materials of interest to our users:

1. **Topographic maps** USGS 15' maps for NH, c. 1880-1950
2. **Air photos** Brown Co. photos of northern NH, c. 1942-1943
3. **Field trip guidebooks** from New England Intercollegiate Geological Conference (NEIGC), c. 1920-1989
4. **Geologic maps** from Hitchcock, *Atlas accompanying the Geology of New Hampshire*, 1878
5. **Maps of counties and towns** from Hurd, *Town and city atlas of New Hampshire*, 1892

Audience

For this project we have developed four personas to guide our work: a student, a local citizen, a faculty member, and a non-university professional. For each we have devised a typical information need based on our knowledge of actual library users and initial user survey results, and we have outlined the geospatial products that would help meet that need. Our advisory board includes members of the Fedora and OGP communities, and representatives from primary user groups.

Project Team: Thelma Thompson (PI), Eleta Exline (Co-PI), Michael Routhier (Co-PI), Ilya Atkin, Betsy Coleman, Val Harper, Meredith Ricker, Sherry Vellucci, and Rob Wolff.



Universal Gazetteer Search

Currently OGP users can search metadata via a geospatial zoom extent search. The gazetteer tool will extend and refine OGP search functionality by allowing users to search the border extent of a polygon, such as a county polygon, for all collections that intersect it. The construction of this tool incorporates creation of a common library of polygons for states, counties, and municipalities/towns to use via a pull down list.

Time Series Collection Capabilities

Time series information is very important to assess changes at a location over time. For instance, the USGS topographic quadrangle maps may range four or more dates for the same location, with each map showing different stages of development. A time series cross reference table will establish time series linkages between datasets. A time slider tool will be integrated into the OGP interface to facilitate time series access.

Usability Improvements

The UNH Library conducts regular usability testing of its web sites and applications. The PLACE interface will be tested at various stages of the project with expert and novice users in mind. Tasks will be chosen based on our personas and interactions with users. The first test of the project was conducted in May 2014 using the Tufts University implementation of OGP.

Toolkit

Throughout this project we will document our planning processes, assessment methods, any best practices developed, technical and staffing requirements, and recommended resources in order to provide a roadmap for other institutions to make geospatial-ready collections accessible, regardless of platform. This information will be published in the form of an online toolkit, and presented via workshops held in the third year of the project.