

Redesigning the Portal to Texas History:

A User-centered Design Approach Involving the
Genealogical Community

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The IOGENE Project

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Outline

1. Project Background
2. User Studies: Challenges
3. Current Status

Portal to Texas History

Digital gateway to cultural heritage collections in Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, and private collections.

Contains primary source materials: maps, photographs, books, diaries, letters, postcards.

	2004	2008
Partners	5	91
Collections	4	34
Objects	489	40,089
Files	6,688	324,023
Visitors per month	1,000	105,000

User-Centered Design

- Goal:
Redesign the system to match how users want to interact with the content in the Portal to Texas History
- Users
 - Students and faculty
 - Any web user is our user
- Project Focus: Genealogists

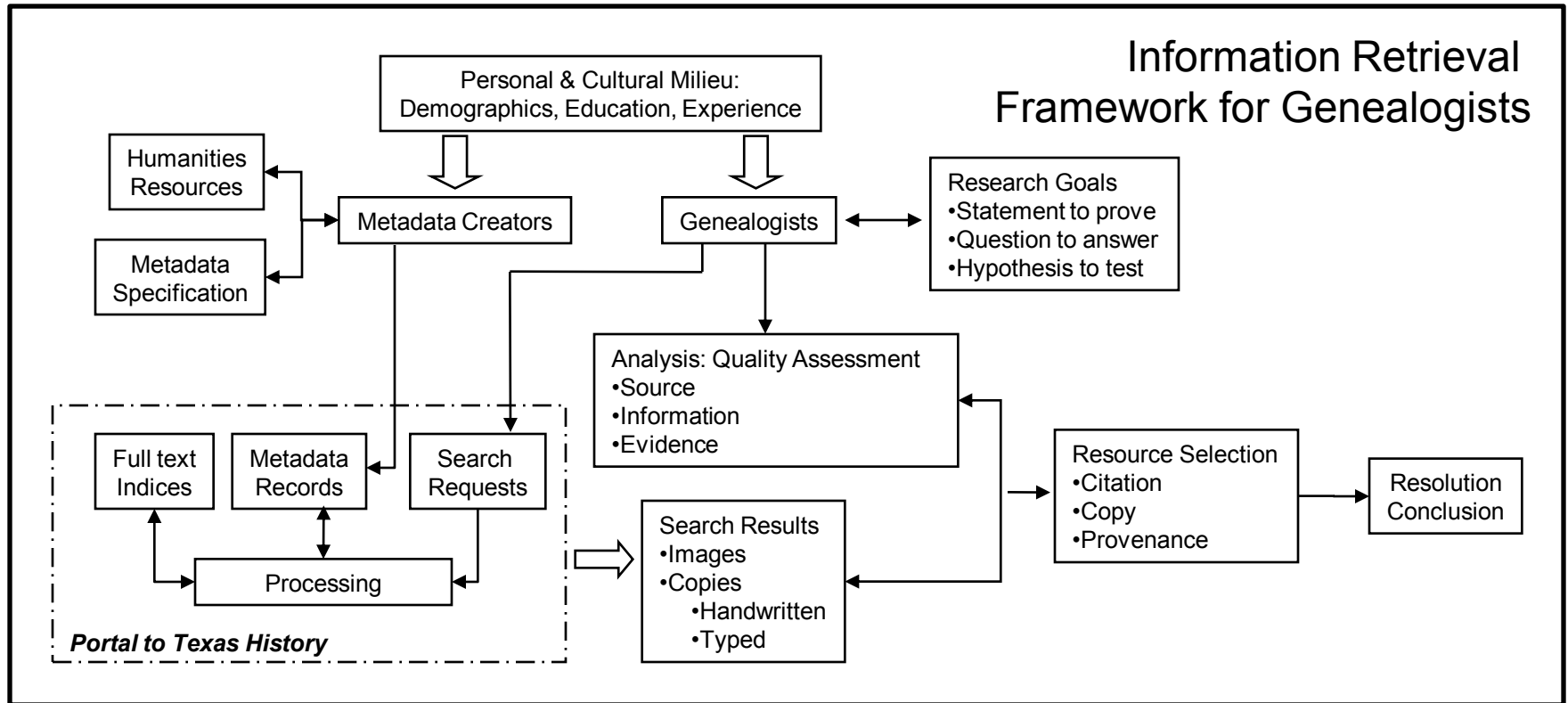
Genealogists

- Increasing interest in genealogical research
 - 73% (2005, USA)
- Increasing number of seniors
 - 2011 – 2031: +10,000 per day
- Increasing use of Internet for genealogical research
 - 24% of all users; 36% of seniors (2004)

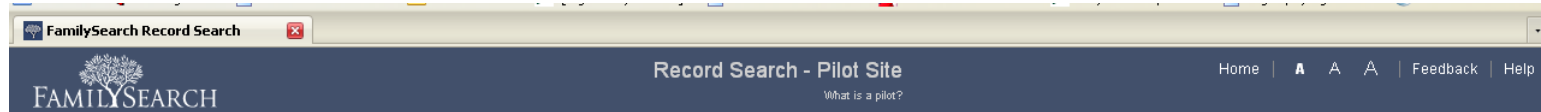
	Other Studies	IOGENE Study
Gender (female)	73%*	88%
Age (>51 years)	87%*	92%
Experience (average)	14 years**	20 years

*Kuglin, 2004, New Zealand; **Drake, 2001, CA State University - Fullerton

Information Retrieval Framework



FamilySearch: Pilot



Search for Your Ancestors

Search all indexed birth, marriage, death, census and other records.

First or middle name(s) Last or family name(s)

Life event Year range to Place

[More >](#)

Find Your Ancestors on Record Search

Search millions of indexed records for your ancestors. Browse through images of records waiting to be indexed. More records are being added every month.

Do Your Part. Become an Indexer.

Join thousands of volunteers around the world who are helping to make more free records available online through FamilySearch Indexing.

[Find out more](#)

Search for Your Ancestors in a Specific Collection By Region

Select a Region



Collection News

29 Apr 2009 - Two new collections have been added to Record Search: Alabama Statewide Deaths 1908-1974 (Indexed data only, no images).

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<http://pilot.familysearch.org>

FamilySearch: Pilot

FAMILYSEARCH

Record Search - Pilot Site

Home | A

What is a pilot?

Search for Your Ancestors

Search all indexed birth, marriage, death, census and other records.

First or middle name(s)

Last or family name(s)

Life event

Year range

Place

All events ▼

 to

More »

Exact & close match ▼

Search

Exact match only

Exact & close match

Exact, close, & partial

Find Your Ancestors on Record Search

Search millions of indexed records for your ancestor records waiting to be indexed. More records are being

Do Your Part. Become an Indexer.

Join thousands of volunteers around the world who make records available online through FamilySearch Indexing.

<http://pilot.familysearch.org>

FamilySearch: Pilot



Record Search - Pilot Site

[What is a pilot?](#)

Search for Your Ancestors

Search all indexed birth, marriage, death, census and other records.

First or middle name(s)	Last or family name(s)	Father		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Mother	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Spouse	<input type="text"/>			
Life event	Year range	Place		
All events ▼	<input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Less <			Exact & close match ▼	Search

FamilySearch: Pilot

Search for Your Ancestors in a Specific Collection

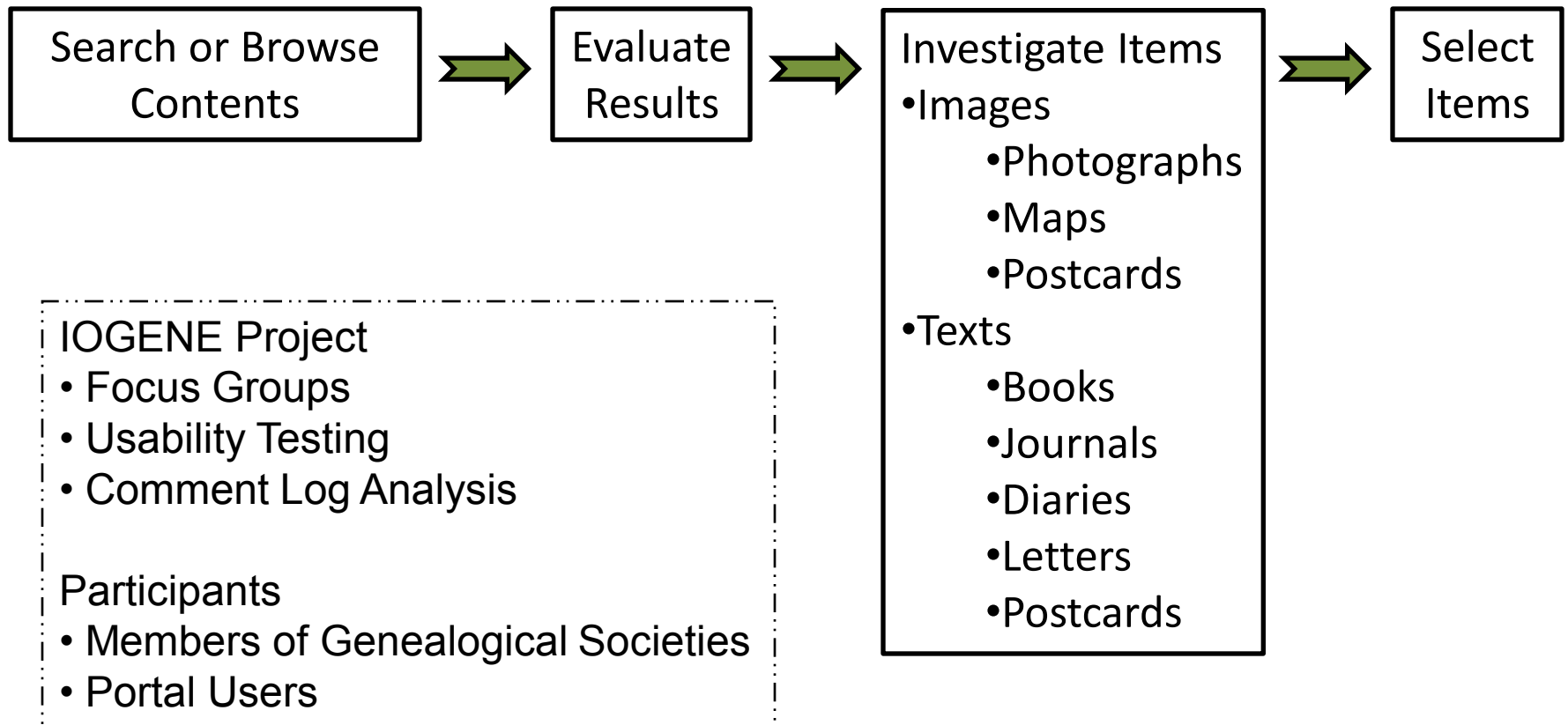
Select a Region:

World Map ▼

or [View all collections](#)



Research Process



[IOGENE](http://iogene.library.unt.edu) <http://iogene.library.unt.edu>

Key Finding

Genealogists

- Name: primarily surname but also full name
- Location: county, city, town, township, community
- Time Period: range of dates

Digital Library

- Title
- Author / Creator
- Subject

Our digital library operations and planned direction require rethinking to enable discovery of collection content in a manner familiar to genealogists.

Challenges

Name Search

- Fielded name search
- Soundex search

Relevance

- Weighting of fields
- Results display

Advanced Search

- Desired search fields
- Familiar object types

Object Record

- Location information
- Format

Challenges

Search Results

- Serial publications
- Ready access to hits
- Limits
 - First name
 - Date range

Citation

- Format
- Save/download

Object Navigation

- Multi-page objects
 - Navigate to sections
 - Describe pages without numbers
 - Navigate among hits

Rights

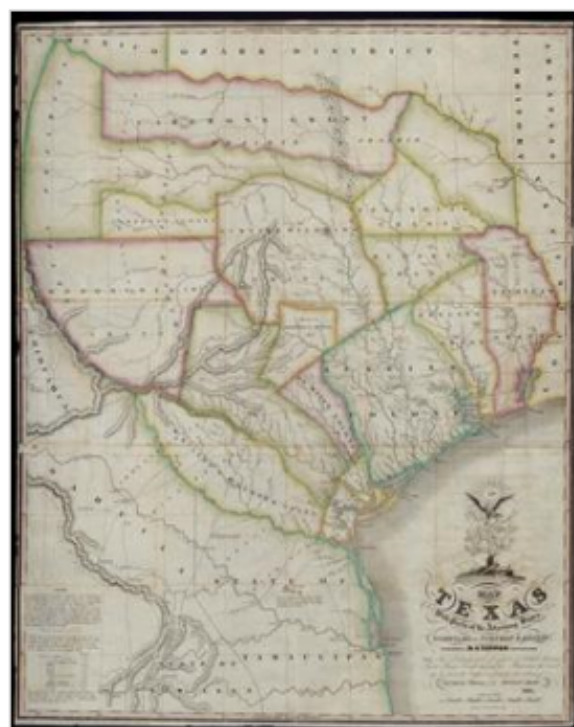
- Partner agreements
- Save/download
- Creative commons licenses

Meeting Requirements

- Some, but not all, requirements are best met by code
- Interface design can meet requirements
 - Search results: list, grid, brief displays
 - Printing: Pages formatted for printing
- Metadata practices can meet requirements
 - Consistent implementation of name data
 - Object types consistent familiar to user class
- Documentation can meet requirements
 - Help Guides: Major features
 - Resource Guides: Key classes of users

"Map of Texas with parts of the Adjoining States. Compiled by Stephen F. Austin."

[View the Full Record](#)



Description: Hand-colored map showing empresario colonies, towns, roads, and physical features

Creator: Unknown

Location:

Creation Date: Unknown

Partner(s): Star of the Republic

Collection(s): Star of the Republic Museum Objects

Use it:

 [Citation](#)

 [Metadata](#)

 [Share](#)

Resources for Educators:

We offer teaching materials that connect your students with primary source historical documents to dramatically enrich their learning. [See all resources](#).

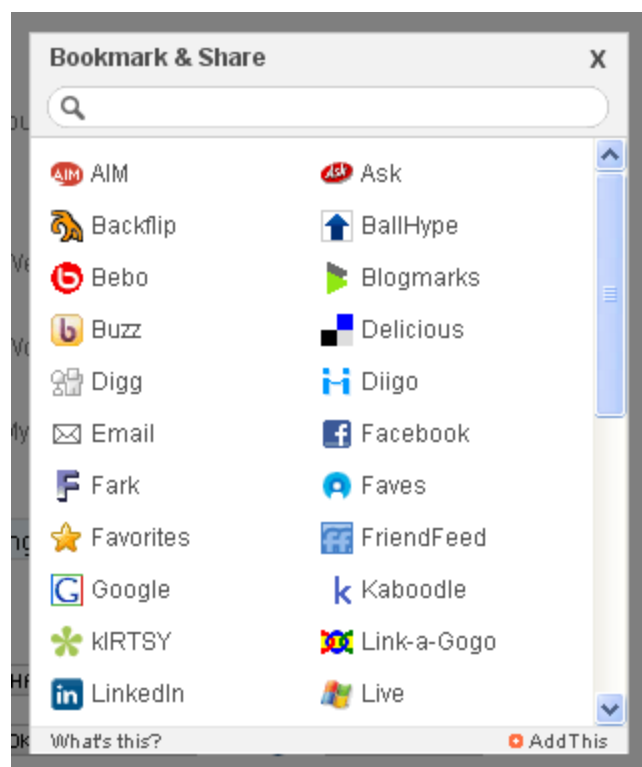
Feedback:

If you are having problems, need to report errors, or have questions or comments for the staff, please use our [Feedback Form](#)

Lesson Learned

- In the 3-4 year interval between project proposal and project completion, much changes
- Supporting the workflows of users means understanding what is best done on your site and what is best done on the sites of others

Collaboration & Sharing

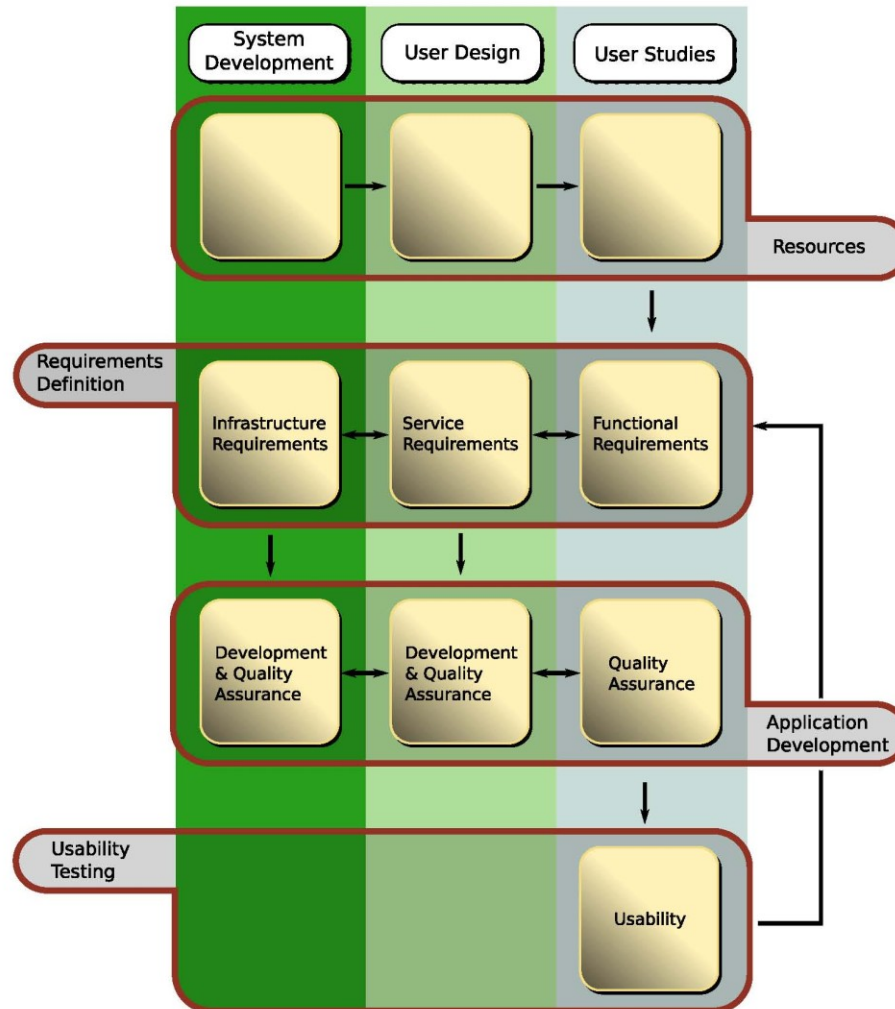


it's about the content

Confirmation

- Open source solutions promote agile application development
- Separating UI design from system infrastructure is good practice and optimizes differential talents

Process Model Draft



Portal to Texas History
<http://texashistory.unt.edu>

IOGENE Project
<http://iogene.library.unt.edu>

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Thank You