International Collaboration and Digital Archives: The Guatemalan National Police Historical Archive Project at UT Austin
Overview

- Background on the (AHPN)
- Live demo of the site
- Discussion of the process and lessons learned
- Significance of the project
- Video
AHPN at a Glance: the physical archive

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- Investigators from Attorney General’s office assigned full time at AHPN
- Reading room open to the public in 2009
AHPN at a Glance: the digital archive

- 10 million pages of scanned images
- Archival processing, digitization, and metadata creation
- At least 2 million new scanned images per year will be added
Demo

- ahpn.lib.utexas.edu
Collaborative Initiative at various levels

- Within UT Austin
- Within UT Libraries
- Between UT and Guatemala
The Technology

- Apache, Solr, PHP/SQL
- Drupal
- Internet Archive open source page viewer
- TACC’s super computers used to generate access derivatives
TIS Process

• Stakeholder meetings
• Requirements
• Information Architecture
• Graphic Design
• Front end development and theming
• Testing
Design Challenges

• Sparse and inconsistent metadata
  – OCR not an option

• How to integrate search, how much to emphasize
  – User expectations

• Feedback/approval process
  – Set expectations at outset
  – Meet to review major milestones
Development Challenges

- Massive scale
- Bilingual
- Evaluating and integrating a page viewer
Project Challenges

- Short timeline + hard deadline
- Insufficient time for planning/initiating
- Collaborative nature
- Lost lead programmer halfway through
- Bilingual
Lessons Learned

• Projects of this size and scope will:
  – Have a project plan outlining each person’s role
  – Have a project communications plan
  – Involve the right people at the right time
  – Document what’s out of scope
  – Have a coordination plan for creating/editing/translating/populating content
Ceremonial Site Launch

- International Conference at UT Dec 2, 2011
- Elections in Guatemala
- Site usage since launch
Project Significance

• Digital libraries as tools for real people
• Uses of AHPN
• Role of Digital Archive

The New York Times
Accused of Atrocities, Guatemala’s Ex-Dictator Chooses Silence
Questions or Comments?

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