Texas Digital Library Collaboration: Pooling Resources to Avoid Drowning

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Courtney Mumma, Services Manager

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The **Texas Digital Library** is a consortium of Texas higher education institutions that **builds capacity** for preserving, managing, and providing access to unique digital collections of enduring value.

- 2005 - ARL’s scale shared infrastructure
- 2007 - IMLS grant for ETD tool
- 2012-13 - from software development to service orientation
Connecting people to a pool of OSS software resources
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Technology hosting, support & development
Working groups, committees & annual meeting
Training & resource sharing

From The Abyss. Full citation in alt-text.
TDL has tried to mitigate *some* of the problems caused by *excess technological needs* and *diminishing resources*
Technology problems
From Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. Full citation in alt-text.
Drowning in Technology

So many:

● systems, even if you limit it to OSS
  ○ SLAs and contracts
  ○ tech support level variance
  ○ upgrades and versioning
  ○ dependencies

● functional overlaps
  ○ workflow connections
  ○ system of record decisions

● tightly bound integrations
Drowning in Technology Costs

- We all know by now that OSS is not free
- Resource-heavy to install, train, store and maintain ANY software
- Reduced budgets
- Limited local infrastructure
- Community participation is labor
Systems interactions

Community, member and internal input
Systems interactions

Keeping integrations lightweight
(high-fives between systems)

Chronopolis for Dataverse preservation
DSpace to DuraCloud@TDL
Vireo ETDs to Dataverse
tdl.org
Bridging local and shared systems

Consulting

- Workflows, policies and procedures
- Ex. U of Houston Digital Preservation Services Visit

Integration with local systems
Technological cluster

Managing a whole mess of

- Software and code
- Versions and updates
- Hardware and cloud storage
- Scattered and limited documentation
AWS Lifestyle Change

Improvements
● greater security and internal transparency
● enforce standardization of TDL services (beneath the hood)
● deployment of systems and upgrades to systems
● cost management of operational systems (longterm)
● management of test, dev, stage and derelict systems

Documentation
● Unification in Confluence
People problems
Not enough people

Minimal staff at TDL and at some member institutions

Empower our members
Work with FOSS software communities

From Cast Away. Full citation in alt-text.
Not enough influence

Large, research libraries dominate

New membership model
Elevate smaller members

From Jaws. Full citation in alt-text.
Not enough knowledge

Varied levels of knowledge/experience

Collect and share ideas and resources

Document
Train

DPMW, Fedora camp, Archivematica camp and Texas user group, DPN AVPreserve workshops, TDR Data Symposium and DM webinars, TCDL workshops, one-on-one

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Setting priorities together

Committees and user groups

- TDR Steering Committee & working groups
- Vireo Users Group
- Metadata Community
- DSpace working groups

Annual meeting

TCDL 2018
Commons Learning Center
Austin, TX
May 15 – 17, 2018

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Pool resources where it makes sense

Texas Levels of Preservation

- access*
- information security
- metadata
- storage & geographic location
- file fixity & data integrity
- file formats
- physical media*

workflows
auditing & monitoring inventories
preservation planning (formats and migration)
distribution
emulation and dependencies

COLLABORATION & RESOURCE SHARING

Findings based on Spring 2017 interviews conducted with 15 Texas Digital Library member institutions, 3 of which were active users of TDL Digital Preservation Services.


References upon request.

*proposed functional areas
Branded silos

Erase the labor of the collective by failing to mention systems and communities in favor of institutional self-promotion