



Content Evaluation

Professor Derek Law,
Centre for Digital Library Research
(and University Librarian)
University of Strathclyde

Overview

- The Vesalius Conundrum
- Content selection criteria
 - Content typology
 - Collection building
- Content maintenance
 - Accessibility, usability, support and training
- Content use evaluation

DLF Collection typology

- ❑ local digitization projects that produce surrogates for analogue information objects;
- ❑ data creation projects that produce information resources that have no analogue equivalent and are in this respect "born digital";
- ❑ the selection of existing third-party data resources for inclusion in a collection either through their outright acquisition or by acquiring access under some licensing arrangement; and
- ❑ the development of Internet gateways comprising locally maintained pages or databases of web-links to third-party networked information

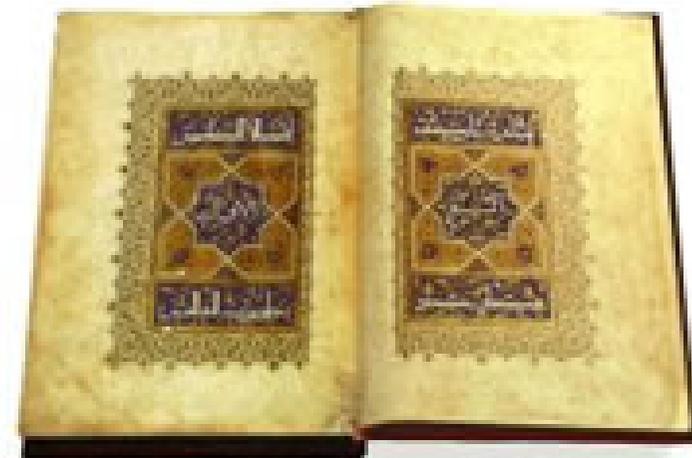
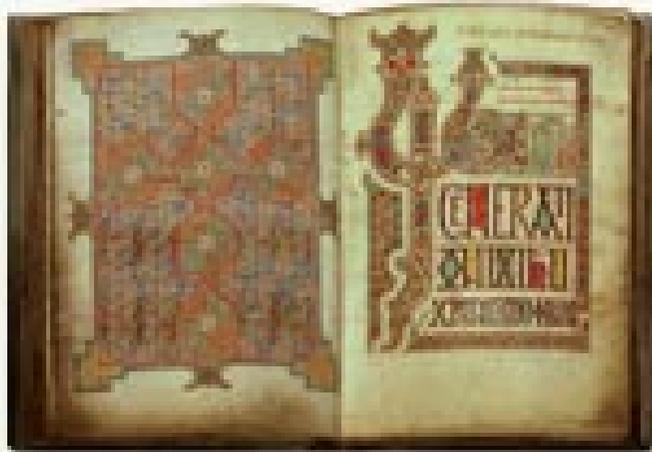
(Greenstein)

Collection types expanded by motivation



- Surrogates of rare items
 - The British Library
- Surrogates for whole or part collections
 - The Springburn Virtual Library
- Digitised surrogate collections assembled from multiple repositories
 - The Valley of the Shadow, Red Clydeside
- Collections assembled specifically to be digitised
 - ASPECT; CAIN
- Involuntary miscellanea (Never mind the quality....)
 - Brewster Kahle's Universal Internet Library
- Born Digital Resources
 - Institutional or Disciplinary Repositories
 - Data Repositories – biological, chemical etc

Display of Treasures: the British Library



Springburn Public Library



THE EVE OF WAR
VALLEY
OF THE
SHADOW

TWO COMMUNITIES IN THE
AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

EDWARD L. AYERS

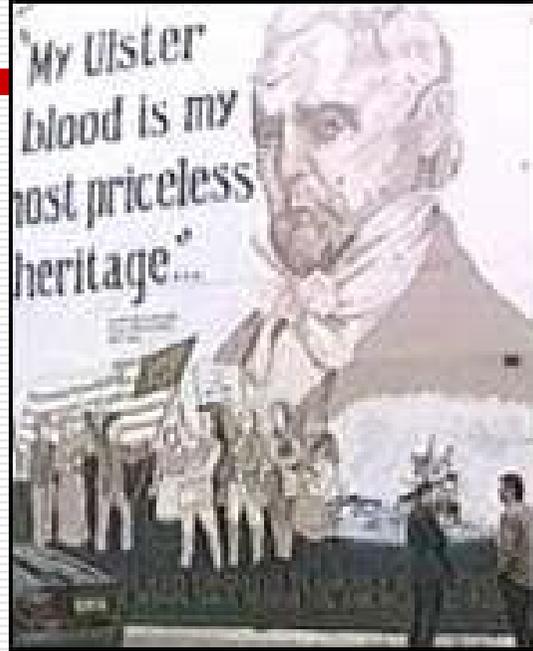
ANNE S. RUBIN



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CAIN: Conflict Archive on the Internet



Red Clydeside: belatedly creating a collection



Glasgow Digital Library

ASPECT

PARTIES

CONSTITUENCIES

REGIONS

CANDIDATES

ASPECT: Access to Scottish Parliamentary Election Candidate Materials 1999

A digital archive of leaflets and newsletters produced by candidates and political parties for the first Scottish parliamentary election in May 1999.

[Background](#) | [Bibliography](#)
[Devolution Campaigns](#)
[Election Statistics](#) | [Links](#)



Constituency Candidates



Electoral Regions



Political Parties

Glasgow Digital Library

ASPECT

PARTIES

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CANDIDATES



Institutional repositories

- Theses
- Internal documents
- Institutional records
- Archives
- Publications and ISBN assignation
- Academic articles
- Curricular materials and lectures
- Oral history

Third Party Data and Information Arbitrage



- Identifying products
- Identifying value for money: arbitrage
- Is it all or nothing
 - The best is the enemy of the good?
 - Weighing availability against comprehensiveness
- Mirroring heavily used content
 - The Virtual Human
- Caching: network costs v storage costs
- Independent, authoritative and right

Content Building

- The Dead Professor's Study
- Standing on the shoulders of pygmies
- Building research collections for the future
 - Present users a poor guide
 - The 32 long-lived European Institutions
 - Exercising professional judgement
- EVERY Library has something to contribute
 - Development of a free trade economy
- Library e-Collection Development Plans at best rudimentary

The Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, 1902



Data preservation and trusted repositories



- Digital Asset Management and Curation
 - More than rights management
 - More than user control
 - Dislike of usage monitoring
 - E-endangered content
 - Mail
 - Laboratory results
 - Documents on hard drives
 - Changing formats and media
 - E-science
 - Absence of Trusted Repository standards
-

Trusted Repositories: the five Maori tests

- Receive the information with accuracy
- Store the information with integrity beyond doubt
- Retrieve the information without amendment
- Apply appropriate judgement in the use of the information
- Pass the information on appropriately

Glasgow Digital Library

Organised digital collections to support teaching, learning and research



Aspect

Access to Scottish Parliamentary Election Candidate Materials 1999



Red Clydeside

Political History of the Scottish Left 1910-1922



Springburn Virtual Museum

Photographs from Springburn Community Museum 1880-1987



Voyage of the Scotia

Scottish National Antarctic Expedition 1902-04



GlasgowInfo

Directory information for and about Glasgow 2002



100 Glasgow Men

Memoirs and Portraits of 100 Glasgow Men 1855-1885



Virtual Mitchell

Images of Glasgow by area, street or subject 1860-1980



Victorian Times

Social, political, and economic conditions 1837-1901

[Overview](#) | [Contacts](#) | [Reports](#) | [Policies](#)

The Glasgow Digital Library is based at the [Centre for Digital Library Research](#) in the [University of Strathclyde](#). It was set up as part of the [Research Support Libraries Programme](#), supplemented by funding from [SCRAN](#) for specific digitisation projects.

Glasgow Digital Library

- ❑ Identifying Resources for Digitisation
- ❑ Encouraging Electronic Content Creation
- ❑ Cost-cutting by City-wide Licences
- ❑ Setting and Implementing Standards
- ❑ Linking a distributed regional resource -
ScoDiDiLi

Law's Laws

1. Good Information systems will drive out bad

Law's Laws

1. Good Information systems will drive out bad
2. User Friendly systems aren't

Accessibility

- Integration with other university systems
 - The Miss Havisham effect
 - Computer Centres as a barrier to progress
- Technology footprint
 - Social make-up of student body: is the technology widely available?
 - French laptops at 1 Euro a week
- 24 hour library access
- Worldwide access

Usability

- Interface design and content presentation
 - Google is the benchmark
 - Users want enough not everything
 - Naive and experienced users
- Metadata
- Object formats
- Collection description as a route to interlinking

Support and training

- User friendly systems aren't
- Library web pages
 - Strathclyde maintains 1400
 - Mainly user guides to tools and collections
- 24x7 Helpdesk with University of technology, Sydney
- Compulsory skills training for students AND Staff

Content Use Evaluation Tools

- ❑ Statistical data on use
- ❑ Statistical data on plagiarism
- ❑ On-line questionnaires
- ❑ Interface design and usability
 - Watching users
- ❑ Conflict between building for the future and present usage – i.e. potential versus actual
- ❑ We know the cost of everything and the value of nothing

Conclusion

- ❑ Content evaluation is about more than content
- ❑ Content evaluation requires an understanding of the physical and operational environment
- ❑ Content evaluation requires an understanding of the user
- ❑ These are complex systems