
Digital Libraries

I-ASIST Meeting

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Agenda

- Introduction
 - Redefining Metadata
 - Expanding the Walls
 - Future Directions
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A Definition

"Digital libraries are organizations that provide the resources, including the specialized staff, to select, structure, offer intellectual access to, interpret, distribute, preserve the integrity of, and ensure the persistence over time of collections of digital works so that they are readily and economically available for use by a defined community or set of communities."

A working definition of digital library [1998]
<http://www.diglib.org/about/dldefinition.htm>

Interdisciplinary Domain

- Computer Science
 - Technology
- Library Science
 - Acquisition and Cataloging
- Information Science
 - Information Retrieval, Classification issues
- Topical Specialists
 - Knowledge for specific applications

Redefining Metadata

New expectations...Old limitations

- Heterogeneity
 - Classification
 - Indexing and retrieval
 - Standardization
 - “Standards”
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Redefining Metadata

Metadata is now a digital object

- Annotations
 - Recommender / reviews
 - Social tagging
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Expanding the Walls

- Supporting “knowledge communities”
 - Collaboration
 - Research participants
 - Integration

 - Archiving
 - Libraries as archives
 - Preservation
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Expanding the Walls

- Teaching Support
 - Electronic Resources
 - Specialized digital collections per course
 - Integrating personal collections
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 - Intra- and Inter-institutional Collaboration
 - Museums, Libraries, Archives
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Future Directions

- Usage Issues
 - Who are the users
 - Why do they come to the digital library
 - What do they do when they get there

 - Personalization
 - Referrer services
 - My Digital Library
 - Annotations and comments
 - Metadata by the masses
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Future Directions

- Policy Issues
 - Sustainable funding
 - Dynamic changes in technology

 - Preserving Digital Information
 - Knowledge generated in digital format only
 - Dynamic content
 - Fragility of data formats
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Bearman, D. (2006). Digital libraries. *Annual Review of Information Science and Technology*, 41. (In review).
