**Digital Content in Marmot Libraries**

**Project Proposal 2014-2015**

24 October 2014

**Executive Summary**

In June 2014, 17 of 24 library directors expressed support for a database of historical documents or special collections. While member libraries implement Marmot VuFind 2014 thru the fall of 2014, the next major development project could be to setup a framework to digitize unique local content and make it readily available via VuFind.

Project activities would include selecting software for scanning and storing photos and documents; copying and storing music and video; and creating appropriate metadata. Infrastructure at Marmot might include an Internet upgrade as well as server and storage facilities suitable for large digital objects. For libraries unable to afford special equipment or staff dedicated to creating metadata, a central facility would be identified or set up to perform digitization tasks.

This project would build on the success of a genealogy database currently maintained by Mesa County PLD, Eagle Valley LD, and Bud Werner ML. Since 2011 these library districts have entered 150,426 obituaries and cemetery records, many with photographs stored on a Marmot content server.

We should look into Colorado services such as the Alliance Digital Repository (ADR), and statewide projects that might eventually make Western Slope content discoverable in online services such as the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA).

**Project Outline**

* Set up Digital repository (software, hardware, training).
* Evaluate and purchase hardware to digitize physical materials (photographs, documents, and possibly books).
* Evaluate and purchase hardware for audio recording or determine that audio recordings are out of scope.
* Evaluate and purchase hardware for recording 3D objects or determine this is out of scope.
* Create cataloging standards for digital objects
* Digitize and catalog a sample of documents for each Marmot Library.  These could be from the library’s own collection or from historical societies, museums, etc that are in the same district as the library.
* Integrate digital repository into VuFind (or separate instance for digital repository).
* Set up infrastructure to support ongoing efforts to add documents to the repository (including pricing and process).

**Background**

On June 12 Nancy Gauss (WSCU) suggested Marmot apply for an LSTA grant to, “Create a database for storing and accessing the historical documents or special collections that many of us have in our libraries.”

By June 21 twelve member libraries had responded with enthusiastic support.

On June 23 ten Marmot directors participated in a web meeting to describe local materials that could be digitized as well as local funding and staff that could be applied to digital content.

On June 25 Jimmy Thomas and Joseph Sanchez attended a meeting of Colorado library stakeholders to consider whether Colorado should participate in the Digital Public Library of America.

On June 26 Mark Noble met with Joseph Sanchez and Shana Wade to outline a digital content project for MCPLD. (See “Content Discovery Ecosystem”.)

By June 30 it was apparent that Marmot should build a content database for all Marmot libraries; that we should enable early adopters to start the project; and defer grant applications until we have a foundation worthy of being expanded.

**Member survey**

| **Member** | **Comments** | **Local Resources** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ASU | “… we have so much historical material and would love to be able to make it more accessible.”  –Carol Smith | * Historical material * **Oral histories (audio files)** |
| Aspen Schools | [Interested only if print materials could be sent out in small batches and paid for piece by piece (UCD Digitization CU Heritage Center).]  –Lauren Cassatt | * Local history |
| Basalt | [Interested in what could be done.]  –Barb Milnor |  |
| Bud Werner | “Keenly interested.” [No specific budget, but money could be found for a good project.]  –Chris Painter | * Local history * Print materials in book format * **Local Newspapers** * **Obits** |
| CCU | “Terrific idea!  The LSTA grants for CCU alone aren’t a real good match but LSTA grants that include us, such as Prospector and this idea, are wonderful.” [100th anniversary of CCU might enable special funding.]  –Gayle Gunderson | * Yearbooks already digitized with LYRASIS * Lots more * One student curating 20 hrs/week |
| CMC | “… I would love to see a digital repository for Marmot libraries; either as a standalone or as a partnership with the Alliance.” [Faculty asking about digitizing.]  –Kevin Williams | * Each campus has unique pre-CMC history * Capstone projects |
| CMU | “I recommend expanding Nancy’s great idea.  Those documents should be digitized and made available to people who live beyond your immediate region.  These historical documents, many of them unique documents, are gold to researchers.”  –Sarah Cron |  |
| Eagle Valley |  | * **Historical docs** * **Photos** * **Library admin records (board reports, meeting minutes, etc.)** * **Maps** * **VHS tapes now on DVD.** |
| Englewood | “In order to target our proposal to the grant parameters, it might make sense to work with a couple of strong local history organizations and suggest pilot projects that focus on helping them record/preserve/digitize local information.  We would be promoting digital literacy in support of local history as well as developing stronger partnerships.  The Marmot-wide benefit would be, presumably, sharing the information and technology, and developing a model for that could be adapted for all of our library communities.” [Little time to identify partners for this grant cycle. Better for a few libraries to start the project now, and apply for grant later.]  –Dorothy Hargrove | * Photo collection now in Webify * Money in operating budget since 2004 |
| Englewood Schools |  |  |
| Garfield County | “Yes. We've tried and failed several times to get NEH preservation grants and would love to get something moving. … Just a logistical question. If we applied for this grant consortially, how would the money be expended? Would we apply for sub-grants? Would we come up with a way to prorate based on size? Based on need? Would everyone get X to support any projects they may have?  First come, first served? Just curious.”  –Amelia Shelley | * Collection of documents from Rulison Blast Site. * Local History Collection at New Castle branch. * Arts community materials. * Born-digital content (looking ahead). |
| Grand County |  |  |
| Gunnison County | “I also support Nancy G's idea. We have many valuable local history files that would be so much more accessible if digitized.”  –Nancy Trimm | * Local history |
| Mesa County | [MCPLD team is now creating content; building partnerships with local cultural organizations; and working with Marmot to develop infrastructure.]  -Joseph Sanchez | * Photos * Music * **Videos** |
| MCVSD51 |  |  |
| Pitkin County | [Plenty of local resources; interested, but not ready for this project until after building project; concerned about whether grant proposal will succeed.]  –Kathy Chandler | * Local historical society * Music Associates of Aspen * Aspen Institute * Rocky Mountain Institute * Local TV Grass Roots |
| PVSD50 |  |  |
| Rampart | “I totally agree!” –Anne Knowles |  |
| Salida | [Interested.]  -Jeff Donlan | * Salidaarchive.org already has hundreds of photos |
| SSSD |  |  |
| Summit County |  |  |
| Town of Vail | “Vail Public is interested in this project, as well.  I would lean towards sharing the grant $$ based on need, first, then size.  Great ‘food for thought’ for the Executive Board .... Thx!”  –Lori Barnes | * Library history * Town history * Oral history (20 disks by Town Doctor) |
| Wilkinson | “Yes. This would be a great project.”  –Sarah Landeryou | * Cemetery Map * Oral histories on CD * Museum photo collection * Boxes of ephemera (news clippings about the ski area) |
| WSCU | “I just met with Western’s grants coordinator about an NEH grant titled Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants.  The description seems like it could complement a LSTA grant and Marmot’s interest in coordinating a digital project for members (<http://www.neh.gov/grants/odh/digital-humanities-start-grants>).” [Concerned about sustainability. bepress contacted Western after initial contact with UGWCD.]  –Nancy Gauss | * Historic photos scanned by volunteers into Past Perfect * Oral histories * Student data * Upper Gunnison Water Conservancy District * DVD |