Digital Strategies for Heritage (DISH) 2013
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Chefs' Table session

Table Number: 15
Table Session: 01
Table Host: Shaun Osborne
Title: CMS and DAMS: Where API Integration fits in to the bigger picture

Introduction

This chef session will explore work being undertaken to provide API based integration solutions between a Collections Management System (CMS, Adlib) and a Digital Asset Management System (DAMS, Extensis Portfolio) in a museum environment. It offers the opportunity to discuss current technology enablers, what are the benefits of these 'newer' approaches, and how museums can benefit by deploying and integrating 'best of breed' products to solve their particular use cases.

Discussion

What's changing?

- People expect Google
- Products are maturing. Open data standards

The pragmatic Technologist
The hardest part of being a technologist today is keeping up, there are so many systems to solve your particulare ' problem', what is the right one?

Start smal and evolve

The major reason projects fail, is that people want a system that does it all. It NEVER works.
The answer: middleware layer and API's

3 layers: primary stores (Collection management, assets), secondary stores (service indexes, coll information middleware) and services/application/presentation (public services)

You don't want to duplicate things, keep the data in 1 system and connect
example: the Fitzwilliam museum explorer
We've been doing this for 20 years, but tools are now maturing

Workflow changes, but you do have the opportunity to build workflow tools inhouse, based on pre-existing tools

You can create different interfaces for different departments to help people adjust

You can create your own API, but it's easier to put everything in Europeana and use their API.

You don't want to store user generated content in your collection management system, but you do want to store all UGC related to an object. Which is quite easy, since the object has a persistant identifier related to the UGC, getting it together is easy

Important question: can you take out one of the building blocks today and keep the system working. If not, you will have to take a closer look at it, technology never lasts

I am not convinced at all about the value of RDF, or Web 3.0, but we are a player, we can accomodate it because of the layers. Same date, just presented differently. Triple store in the middleware layer
If the API is solid, you can build a collection explorer on top, not on top of collections management system

You can visualy integrate backend systems: drag and drop images directly in the collections management system, but store in DAM, users never notice.

Question: where do you store the copyright data? in all layers? No! But you 'need' them everywhere.