

FACADE2 MARCH 2013 REPORT

PROJECT SUMMARY

The FACADE2 project, a collaboration between the Frances Loeb Library of Harvard Library and MIT Libraries, is a first step in the further development of a shared production tool, workflows, and what we envision as a shared repository for the collecting, archiving, access, and preservation of born-digital architectural files. This first step, which is the object of the FACADE2 study, focuses on upgrading the existing metadata tool Curator's Workbench (CWB) for the tagging of architectural files, along with testing of the tool across two institutions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The software development team has completed development for and debugging of an initial version of the CWB. A local test environment has been installed and was made available for local testing under a berkmancenter.org dedicated site. Several iterations of feedback between the development and curatorial teams have taken place since the last FACADE2 report of December 2012. A larger data set of files (from the Fisherman's Housing in Tyre, a project acquired for the FACADE2 project) has been delivered to the development team, after an analysis of the data set in terms of file types and file counts was accomplished. The software development team is currently working on updating the local test environment to incorporate this larger data set of files (from the Fisherman's Housing in Tyre). Considerable and extremely welcome advance in documenting the work of the development team process is now kept up to date in a Wiki hosted at the berkmancenter.org site.
- In the meantime, the curatorial team has worked with a student, hired for the FACADE2 project, in the development of a platform independent, folder and file sorting tool. The tool essentially takes a simple input - an address for a folder on the computer. The specified folder is then scanned recursively until it accounts for every single file and folder residing within the main folder. Having scanned the folder, the tool performs the following functions: 1. It builds a tree structure with the base folder situated at the top and each sub folder and file forming the rest of the hierarchy. 2. Having recorded all the files in the base folder, it records the different file types that exist in the base folder and keeps a log of the number of files under each file type. This log is displayed in the main window of the tool for a quick cross check before the user decides to export the data into a more readable format. The export function of the tool writes out two pre-formatted excel sheets with both the folder hierarchy and the number of files under each file type.

NEXT STEPS

- Once the local test environment has been updated, the development team is looking forward to incorporating feedback from user testing into an improved version of the application and then releasing a final product. The curatorial team is very optimistic about the final product, particularly given the positive developments of the initial local test environment, both in terms of functionality and clarity of concept and design.