Link-o-matic: Automating Linking of Digital Objects in Harvard's Catalogs
Final Report, November 15, 2013

Project Summary
This project sought to automate the process of linking digital resources held by Harvard libraries and archives and stored in the DRS with associated metadata in discovery systems (HOLLIS and OASIS).

Project Accomplishments

- Developed and implemented the following changes to OASIS and Harvard finding aids necessary to support automatic linking of digital objects to finding aid metadata in OASIS:
    - Enhanced all finding aids in OASIS by adding unique identifiers to finding aid components.
    - Implemented OASIS functionality to render a finding aid as a CSV file.

  These enhancements provide the following benefits:
    - Library staff can more efficiently manage initial steps of digitization projects by repurposing data from existing finding aids in CSV form to create manifests that are essential for tracking the process of transforming analog materials to digital objects.
    - Researchers and scholars are empowered to download the finding aid in CSV form and repurpose the metadata in ways that support their research.

- Organized and held an open meeting on 10/29/2013 to announce and explain the upcoming changes to finding aids at Harvard for staff who create finding aids

- Made available dynamically-generated HTML and MODS views of component-level finding aid metadata as a side benefit

- Developed and tested a functional proof-of-concept tool to automate the creation of links between digital objects in the DRS and corresponding description in OASIS.
    - Tool performed a unique identifier search in DRS to obtain corresponding URN for digital object, added appropriate EAD coding, and inserted the coded link into the finding aid in the correct location
    - Harvard University Archives staff successfully piloted the use of component IDs from the OASIS test system as owner-supplied names for images that are to be digitized and deposited by Harvard's Imaging Services to generate links to digitized content

Budget
The budget allocation for this project was $12,000. $6,000 was earmarked to support technical development and implementation by Berkman Center staff. No technical

implementation or development work was completed by the Berkman Center, so those funds remain unspent.

Of the remaining $6,000, $1,561 was paid to LTS for Michael Vandermillen's work on the project in September 2013. The project manager is working with Abigail Bordeaux and Michael Vandermillen to complete billing and payment for any remaining work of his. We expect billing to be completed by November 22, 2013.

There were no other expenses.

Future

The following actions would allow archivists and end-users to take full advantage of the tool and accompanying enhancements:

- Release proof-of-concept link-o-matic tool to production
- Enhance the linking tool with customization features, such as the ability to set link text and to specify the URN of an image for use as a thumbnail
- Provide a public interface to dynamically-generated component-level view of finding aid metadata in HTML and MODS
- Enhance link-o-matic functionality so that it can generate automatic links from a supplied CSV file as well as from the DRS

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