

Link-o-matic: Automating Linking of Digital Objects in Harvard's Catalogs

Third Progress Report, September 1, 2013

Project Summary

This project seeks 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 Activities

Since June, the project team has taken a back seat as work at the systems level was undertaken by Michael Vandermillen. Michael developed and implemented the changes necessary to support automatic linking functionality in OASIS. His work has made it possible to provide each component of a finding aid with a system-generated unique identifier. All finding aids in the test OASIS system now have unique component IDs.

At the end of July, Michael Vandermillen met with the Link-o-matic team to demonstrate the work he had done on component IDs and the finding aid CSV function he had incorporated into the test system. The CSV functionality will allow users to more easily create manifests for digitization from existing finding aids. The group was impressed with what they saw and some people have already put the CSV functionality to use. Recently, HUA staff used the 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. When the deposit is complete, Michael will work with HUA staff to test the work he has done on the system with component IDs and live data.

On June 4, 2013, Sebastian Diaz, Library Lab's Berkman Center contact, met with the Link-o-matic team to learn about the project and to begin discussion of the final piece of the project, the development of the Link-o-matic tool itself. The tool would make it possible for users to add links for digital objects in the DRS by pulling the deposited objects' URNs from the DRS based on the unique identifier for the object and combining it with user input to create an actionable link in the appropriate discovery system. Team members submitted use cases, system requirements, and other documents via Redmine and email at the request of Sebastian. Nothing further was heard from Berkman Center staff.

Next Steps

Michael Vandermillen will meet with the project team on October 1, 2013 to summarize his work on the project so far, show a mockup for the Link-o-matic tool he create, and outline the steps necessary to move the elements of the system into production. The final report will be written and submitted by 10/31/2013.

Budget

To date, \$1,561.31 of the \$6,000 allotted to the project has been paid to LTS for Michael Vandermillen's work on the project so far. No other funds have been spent.

Project Team Members

Paula Aloisio, Schlesinger Library

Amy Benson, Schlesinger Library

Kate Bowers, Harvard University Archives

Joanne Donovan, Schlesinger Library

Emilie Hardman, Houghton Library

Benjamin Johnson, Baker Library

Juliana Kuipers, Harvard University Archives

Robin McElheny, Harvard University Archives

Jennifer Pelose, Harvard University Archives

Susan Pyzynski, Houghton Library