You Got Your Social Media in My Collection Data!

#SocialData  #ARCSCConf

Association of Registrars and Collections Specialists
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Tracey Berg-Fulton, Carnegie Museum of Art
Anne M. Young, Indianapolis Museum of Art
Mark B. Schlemmer, New-York Historical Society Museum & Library
Be Excellent to Each Other
Tracey Berg-Fulton
Collections Database Associate
traceybergfulton@gmail.com | @BergFulton
I HATE EVERYTHING
I HATE EVERYTHING
I’ve got 99 problems...
How can I get access?
When you say "access"...
Access Needs Spectrum

• Hands on
• Image
• Transcription/Description
• Digital presentation
• People
Barriers

- Money
- Staff time
- Distance
- Access restrictions
- Uncatalogued/undescribed collections
- Lack of contact info
Access barriers keep us all from moving forward.
The future will not be digitized.
The immediate future will not be digitized.

(No, seriously. Keep digitizing stuff.)
Museums who are excellent to each other.
What does excellent look like?

• Continued publishing of collections and collections data.
• Continued movement towards transparency in collections practices.
• Building a culture of collaboration, internally and externally.
• Building a relay network to shorten the distances between people & data.
Channel your inner library.

- Reason for being = give away information
- Our secret sauce is equal parts people, documentation, and knowledge.
- Share the recipe, and the product.
- We’re stronger through connections.
A museum Erdős number?

- Paul Erdős (1913-1996), Hungarian mathematician, published over 1,500 papers, world traveler, world collaborator.
- Calculates the "collaborative distance."
- Turned into a "tool to study how mathematicians cooperate to find answers to unsolved problems."
- What if collaborative distance was a metric for accreditation?
“Put it on GitHub!”
Carnegie Museum of Art

Repositories

Repositories

Find a repository...

museum_provenance_website

A website for hosting content about the Art Tracks Project

Updated 5 days ago

museum_provenance

A library for extracting structured data from museum provenance records

Updated 15 days ago

cmoa-app-cms

A content management system for CMOA mobile applications

Updated 20 days ago

elysa

JavaScript: ★ 5 | ⬇ 2
Yeah, GitHub!

• The place where code lives.
• No need to reinvent the wheel.
• “Social coding”
• Version control (aka the “Do-Over” button)
• So. Many. People.
“Put it on GitHub!”
Don’t put it on GitHub?

- Learning curve.
- Bias user sample.
- “Is this authorized?”
Data: a dish best served...

- JSON-LD
- JSON
- CSV
- Excel...(sure, why not)
“We can give them a PDF!”
“We can give them a PDF!”

NOPE NOPE NOPE NOPE NOPE
“We can give them a PDF!”
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NOPE NOPE NOPE NOPE NOPE
That’s cool and all, buuuuuut...
What do we give them?
Data Liberation

• What could possibly go wrong? (no, really...)
• Who needs protection?
• What needs protection?
• Do no harm to people and/or things.
Examples:

- Money
- Object movement
- Donor wishes
What isn’t withheld

• Incomplete data.
• Erroneous data.
How will they use it?

• You don’t know until you give it to them.
• How does this play out in your galleries?
• It has already happened.
But... what if we’re WRONG?
I REGRET NOTHING
I REGRET NOTHING
I REGRET NOTHING
I REGRET NOTHING
Then

FIX

It.
Who does this data belong to?

• Who does your collection belong to?
• Does the duty to public trust include data and metadata?
• For whom do we do our work? And who has the privilege of accessing it?
• Why do it, if we don’t share it?
The Challenge.

• Where does your data live?
• What barriers are between people and your data?
  – Why do they exist?
  – Who do they serve?
• Can you remove them, and still protect people and objects?
Data as a Doorway

- Make sure people know where it is.
- It works better when it is open.
- Friends don’t need to knock.
- It opens both ways.
- It occasionally needs repair.
Results!

• Data exported daily...and the unintended consequences.
• Seeing deeper connections across a collections ecosystem.
• Asking more of our data, and our database.
BE EXCELLENT TO EACH OTHER
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PARTY ON DUDES