Outline

• Overview of existing digital collections architecture
• Highlight some of the challenges/issues
• Potential solution = digital library
Digital Collections Homepage

Digital Collections
Digitized archival fonds and special collections

Unique materials from several of Dalhousie's archival fonds and a number of special collections have been digitized to make them more accessible to students, faculty, and the general public. The collections are eclectic and wide ranging in subject and format, from Stephen Parrish sketches to the contents of the university's first medical library. Some are DalSpace and the Electronic Text Centre, feature online academic study by Dalhousie faculty.

University Archives and Special Collections
Dalhousiana, local history, visual arts, literary and photographic collections, more

W. K. Kellogg Health Sciences Library
History of medicine, Nova Scotia Medical Register/Bulletin, Cogswell Library, more

Electronic Text Centre
Full-text documents, research projects, Dalhousie-published scholarly journals

Divided into three “categories”
List of DUASC Digital Collections

Digital Special Collections
Digital projects from Archives & Special Collections

Dalhousie University Calendars 1865-1951
• This collection contains calendars spanning the 1865-1866 academic year to 1950-1951.
  - View collection

The Bay of Fundy in 1881: The Art of Stephen Parrish and Charles Platt
• An exhibition showcasing 58 preparatory drawings and 13 etchings by Stephen Parrish and 4 etchings by Charles Platt.
  - View collection

Rudyard Kipling's If
• An exhibition showing 1 manuscript typescript and 19 versions of If published between 1910 and 1913 from Dalhousie's collection. Includes 5 multimedia interpretations of the Kipling classic presented.
  - View collection

Listed in random order
Titles aren't hyperlinked
Example of DUASC Landing Page

Dalhousie University

Calendars

1865 - 1951
List of Kellogg Digital Collections

Kellogg Library Digital Collections
Digitized special collections in the health sciences

The Anatomy Professor
- Dr. Baghdadi has been teaching anatomy for 61 years. In this audio file, Dr. Baghdadi talks about his experiences teaching anatomy at the Dalhousie medical school (via CBC Maritime Magazine).

The Cape Breton Coal Miners' Check-Off System of Healthcare
- The "check-off" was a healthcare insurance system where the miners paid a certain dollar amount from Cape Breton Coal Miners miners' wages for a subscription to physician services, medications and hospital care. The checks remained in the Cape Breton mining town until 1969, when it was replaced by a national plan of medical care insurance in Nova Scotia, Medicare, administered by Maritime Medical Care.

Dr. Charles Cogswell's Medical Library 1864
- Illustrated online catalogue of this 19th century physician's personal medical library. Many books listed in this catalogue may be found in Special Collections, Killam Library.
Example of Kellogg Landing Page

Inconsistent breadcrumbs
Example of Kellogg Landing Page

The Cape Breton Coal Miners' Check-Off System of Healthcare Insurance

- Abstract
- The Check-Off: A precursor of medicare in Canada? - Article by Dr. Chryssa McAlister and Dr. Peter Twohig. CMAJ. December 6, 2005; 173 (12).
- Radio Documentary (Interviews with miners and doctors - 17 min.)

The Check-Off: The First Mandatory Healthcare Insurance System in Canada: Introduction

by Dr. Chryssa McAlister
List of ETC Digital Collections

Electronic Text Centre

Scholarly digital projects hosted by Dal Libraries

The ETC is a service that provides online access to full-text documents (e-texts), research projects, and Dalhousie-published scholarly electronic journals, enabling users to access the available texts at any time, and from any location.

The Kuzmin Collection
- Created by John Barnstead of Dalhousie University, makes available a growing collection of works by the twentieth century Russian poet and author Mikhail Kuzmin, in the original Russian and in English translation, along with critical works and other related resources.

The Lyrical Ballads Bicentenary Project
- Created by Ronald Tetreault of Dalhousie University and Bruce Graver of Providence College and published at the Dalhousie ETC to celebrate the two hundredth anniversary of the first publication of Lyrical Ballads by Samuel Taylor Coleridge and William Wordsworth. The second version of this project is published by Cambridge University Press Online and is available as an Electronic Edition at the Romantic Circles archive at the University of Maryland.
The Kuzmin Collection

The Electronic Text Centre
§ Dalhousie University
§ Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
etc@dal.ca
http://etc.dal.ca/
902-494-2319 (fax)

About the Kuzmin Collection

The Kuzmin Collection presents a set of works by the Russian writer and composer Mikhail Kuzmin, together with translations, related materials, and critical commentary.

The purpose of the Kuzmin Collection project is to preserve and present the complete works of Russian poet, novelist, playwright, composer and critic Mikhail Alekseevich Kuzmin (1872-1936), both in Russian and in English translation, in permanent electronic form; to provide bibliographic access to international Kuzmin scholarship; and to develop institutional mechanisms to ensure continuing investigation, translation,
Challenges/Issues

• Collections are not searchable
• Collections are divided into locations
  – This makes it difficult to browse
• Collections are not clearly defined
  – Some “collections” contain one object
  – All digital objects are treated the same way (e.g., image files and pdf documents are not distinguished)
  – Descriptions are sometimes inadequate
Challenges/Issues

- We don’t distinguish between content type and/or subject
- Digital objects are stored in many locations
- It is difficult to “retire” a collection and still provide access to the scanned images
- Breadcrumbs are inconsistent
  - When you enter a collection the path back to the Digital Collections page is lost
Possible solution?

• Instead of “Digital Collections” think “Digital Library”

• A Digital Library would allow us to sub-divide collections based on their content type (e.g., image galleries, printed collections, printed items, sound recordings, etc.) rather than their location

• It would give us a clear idea of how to organize existing and new digital projects

• It would allow us to develop library-wide procedures for storing digital objects in DalSpace and building webpages in CQ5
Possible solution?

• A Digital Library could be broken into categories
  – Sound Recordings (audio files)
  – Videos (do we have any?)
  – Exhibits (will we need this?)
  – Galleries (distinct groups of images)
  – Images (individual images – e.g., posters)
  – Printed Collections (distinct groups of documents)
  – Printed Items (individual documents)
Possible solution?

• A digital library would allow us to improve search and browse capabilities
• It would allow us to standardize important aspects of our digital projects
  – Storage of digital objects
  – Architecture of web pages
  – Indexing and abstracting?
Instead of...

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Digital Library

Dalhousie University professors conduct research that matters: to the economy, to the environment, and to people in their daily lives.

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Research News

• The influence of Cuban medical internationalism
  John Kirk explores how Cubans view international medicine as cooperation rather than aid.
• A changing Arctic landscape
The Irish Traditional Music Archive regularly publishes here selections of digitised materials from its collections. The materials selected are presented in four sections: Sound Recordings, Visual Materials, Printed Items, and Interactive Music Scores. You can search the entire library for separate items by using the search function, or you can browse each section individually.