

Digital Library Consulting press release

OLDEST USA COLLEGE DAILY TAKES THE LEAD IN DIGITIZATION

Digital Library Consulting helps Cornell University open archives to the world.

5th August 2008. New York, USA. – Prestigious Ivy League college, Cornell University, is working with Digital Library Consulting to make more than 100 years of its newspaper The Daily Sun available online.

The project has opened up the treasured collection archives to students, staff, researchers, historians and the local community of Ithaca, New York, says Project Co-ordinator Fiona Patrick.

Users are able to browse and search the full text of the entire digitized collection, dating back to 1880. It is even possible to search for photographs based on their captions.

Cornell enlisted the help of open source library software experts, Digital Library Consulting, to deliver a digital collection based on world-renowned open source software, Greenstone, "We liked the idea of working with Digital Library Consulting because they really know Greenstone inside and out," says Fiona.

New Zealand-based Digital Library Consulting determined what would work best for users of the digitization project and helped keep Cornell on track with the project.

As Fiona explains, open source software for the digitization process was crucial, "We knew we wanted to have a very evolved newspaper interface and Greenstone was the only open source software solution that could provide that".

Cornell's project staff did not have a mass of technical expertise that they could rely on internally, so when they wanted to upgrade search functionality through the use of metadata, they turned to the experts at Digital Library Consulting for assistance.

"We have more than 300,000 pages of content, which is a lot to navigate through. It was extremely important to get the metadata functionality right - we needed Digital Library Consulting's help to customize the software so that it would not look so out-of-the-box," says Fiona.

First published in 1880, The Daily Sun is one of America's oldest daily college newspapers and is run entirely by students.

Future plans will see the same federated searching implemented across Cornell's other digitized collections to allow seamless searching across all projects.

As the first University to undertake such a large-scale newspaper digitization

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project in the US, Cornell is now leading the way in the digital preservation of archived collections.

“We’re delighted to be involved with such a prestigious university and enjoyed helping them open their historical collection up to the world”, says Digital Library Consulting’s Managing Director Stefan Boddie.

The Cornell Daily Sun Archives can be accessed at <http://cdsun.library.cornell.edu/>

About Digital Library Consulting

Based in Hamilton, New Zealand, Digital Library Consulting are experts in the field of archive digitization using world-renowned Greenstone software.

They have worked with a number of leading tertiary institutions and libraries throughout the US, New Zealand, Africa and the Pacific.

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