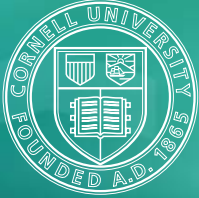


History at your fingertips



Cornell University



CUSTOMER

The Daily Sun newspaper, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

BUSINESS ISSUES

Fragile nature of the paper collection and limited research access due to size of collection

SOLUTION

Digital Library Consulting's assistance with Greenstone software to deliver The Daily Sun archives

OUTCOME

Better access to the wealth of history for students, staff, researchers and historians

CUSTOMER

Cornell University is located in Ithaca, New York, U.S. and is a member of the prestigious Ivy League.

The Cornell Daily Sun was founded in 1880 and is one of America's oldest daily college newspapers. In its early days, the paper was published six days a week and was known as the Ithaca newspaper. The Sun is now published Monday through Friday during the academic year and is run entirely by students. It serves the Cornell University campus as well as Alumni subscribers and the surrounding community in Ithaca, New York.

"We love the idea that we can have information at the article level... this project has really reinforced the value of the Greenstone system and its power over other options."

Fiona Patrick, *Project Co-ordinator, Cornell University.*



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Document



Microfilming



Digitization



OCR



Delivery to users

BUSINESS ISSUES

With hundreds of thousands of pages filed within the University's library, trying to find information contained in this treasured collection was an arduous task. Although The Sun was converted to microfilm in the 1970's, the bitonal scans resulted in some loss of text clarity and grainy photographs.

In 2002, Cornell University decided to preserve its vast collection of Daily Sun archives - a digitization process funded by alumni donations that would be managed by staff within the library. They began to digitize a small sample of the University's collection working with OCLC - based on their Olive system, from Preservation Resources.

As the project gained momentum however, it became clear to those involved that due to the huge amount of materials requiring digitization and the associated limitations in doing so, they would need to find an alternative open source solution.

SOLUTION

After searching for a delivery solution, project staff chose Greenstone software for the collection, creation and distribution of more than 125 years of The Daily Sun newspaper archives. Project co-ordinator Fiona Patrick explains the reasons why Greenstone was chosen over other software, "We knew we wanted to have a very evolved newspaper interface and Greenstone was the only open source software solution that could provide that. We did look at OCLC, but that would mean we wouldn't own the files and we were also concerned about ongoing external storage costs."

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 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 determine what would work best for users and to help keep us on track with the project. We also wanted help to customize the software so that it would not look so out-of-the-box," says Fiona.

Digital Library Consulting's close ties with the creators of Greenstone and their expertise with the software also appealed, "We liked the idea of working with Digital Library Consulting because they really know Greenstone inside and out" adds Fiona. The upgrade was implemented by Digital Library Consulting, which allowed the system to import data using the METS/

ALTO standard, as well as the proprietary data that was used in the earlier digitization work. Digital Library Consulting's Stefan Boddie explains, "METS/ALTO is more flexible than the older format. The system was implemented so that both old and new data formats are displayed similarly."

OUTCOME

As a result of the upgrade, people can now browse and search across the entire digitized collection and photographs can be searched for based on their caption. Alumni graduates use the search function to look for specific news during the years they were attending Cornell, previous writers and staff of The Sun look up articles in which they were involved, students read past newspaper copies and historians explore the University's abundant history. Fiona says that the search function has been invaluable, "We love the idea that we can have search results displayed at the article level. With more than 100 years of content, this allows users to drill down and more easily focus in on their specific search terms. We feel that other archiving systems can deliver digitized newspapers but not to the same extent - this project has really reinforced the value of the Greenstone system and its power over other options."

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

The implementation of the solution has proven popular with students, University staff and historians and Cornell is now seen as a leader in the digitization of University newspaper collections. Fiona says the help of Digital Library Consulting throughout the digitization process was invaluable and ensured efficient delivery of the project. "They were able to quickly articulate what would or wouldn't work and what was a good return on our time and investment, so that we were then able to make more informed decisions."

"From an IT and project management point of view, working with Digital Library Consulting has been really efficient for us as we didn't have to start from scratch - they gave us a great head start on the project."

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



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