Migrating to Islandora

Upper Midwest Digital Collections Conference

August 19th, 2014

Outline

- Introduction to Islandora
- Why Islandora?
- Islandora functionality and live demonstration
- Migration process and experience
- Getting ready to step through the Arch
- What we learned
- Contact us

PALS Digital Repository
your library solutions partner

- PALS – a program of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities since 1978

- Experienced knowledgeable staff: servers, programming, training, support

- Open Source software fits our mission

- Islandora
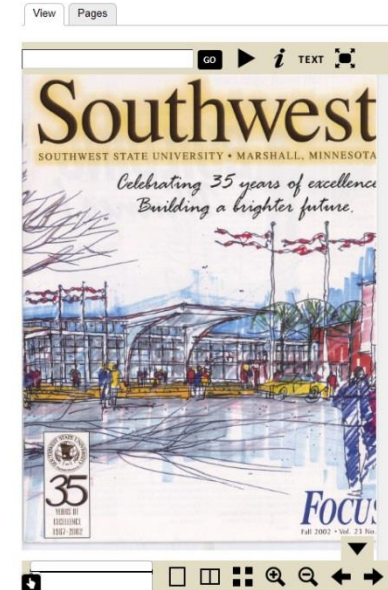
PALS Islandora services

- Host server and application
- Assist with planning repository and metadata
- Create customized ingest forms
- Training and Support

We'll help you go from this . . .

to this!

PALS Digital Repository
your library solutions partner

Hosting and supporting repositories for

- Minnesota State University, Mankato
- Southwest Minnesota State University
- The College of St. Scholastica

- Born at the University of Prince Edward Island
- Islandora makes it possible to create and edit metadata, discover, view, and manage repository assets
- Balance between extensibility and usability
  - ✓ Out of the box support for collections
  - ✓ Architecture that lends itself to customization

Islandora
Open Source Community

- UPEI
- Discovery Garden
- Islandora Foundation
- Google Group
- Interest Groups
- Camps and conferences

Islandora Implementations

green – in production
blue – in development/testing

Core Components

- Best practice open source software
- Powerful
- Popular, widely used
- Very stable

Drupal

Quick Overview of our Digitization Experience

- Began working with MDL in 2000
- Started
  - Digitizing photos in 2006
  - Digitizing student magazine and newspaper in 2010
  - Providing Access to Oral Histories in 2012
- Access
  - Via University Archives Digital Collections via CONTENTdm
  - Minnesota Digital Library (some items)

Old Main with fence, Mankato State Normal School, 1857

Making the Switch to Islandora

A photograph of the construction on Memorial Library addition; Unidentified workers on building; Mankato State University, 1991.

- Increased emphasis on digitization efforts @ MSU
  - Archivist back to full time
  - New Librarian
  - New staff member
- Focus on Institutional Repository
  - Vendor demos
- CONTENTdm Level maxing out
  - Looking @ big financial investment

Making a Change

- **CONTENTdm**
  - Online help/documentation was often frustrating
  - Hosted by MSU
    - Great Library IT support but …
      - Upgrade issues
      - Storage issues
      - Not always a high priority
      - Didn't know the front end of software
    - Customization options limited
  - Cost of upgrade and AMF were not small
  - Project client on each computer

- **Islandora by PALS**
  - Support from people we know and trust
  - Hosted by PALS
    - Secure digital storage
    - Know the front and back end of software
    - We are a priority
    - They handle upgrades
    - Lots of customization options
  - Costs are clear and we think we are getting more for our money
  - Web based ingest form

New features:

- Add Modules or Themes from Drupal.org based on your needs
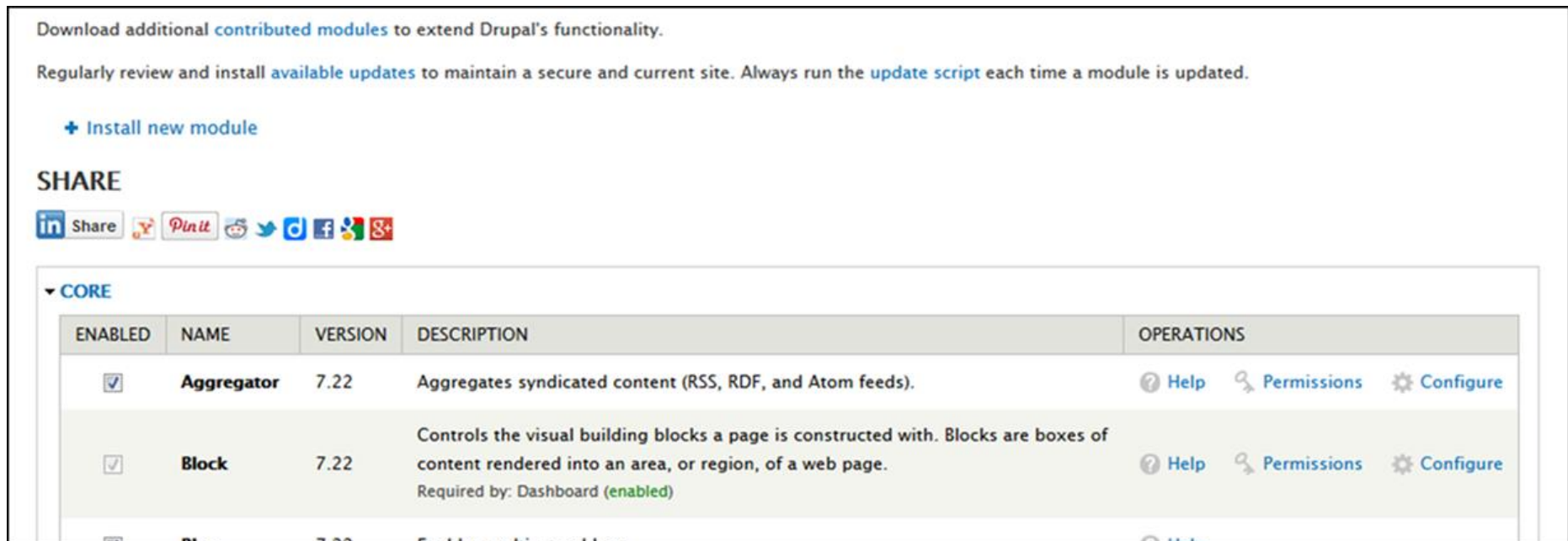
Solution Packs

Automatic Processes
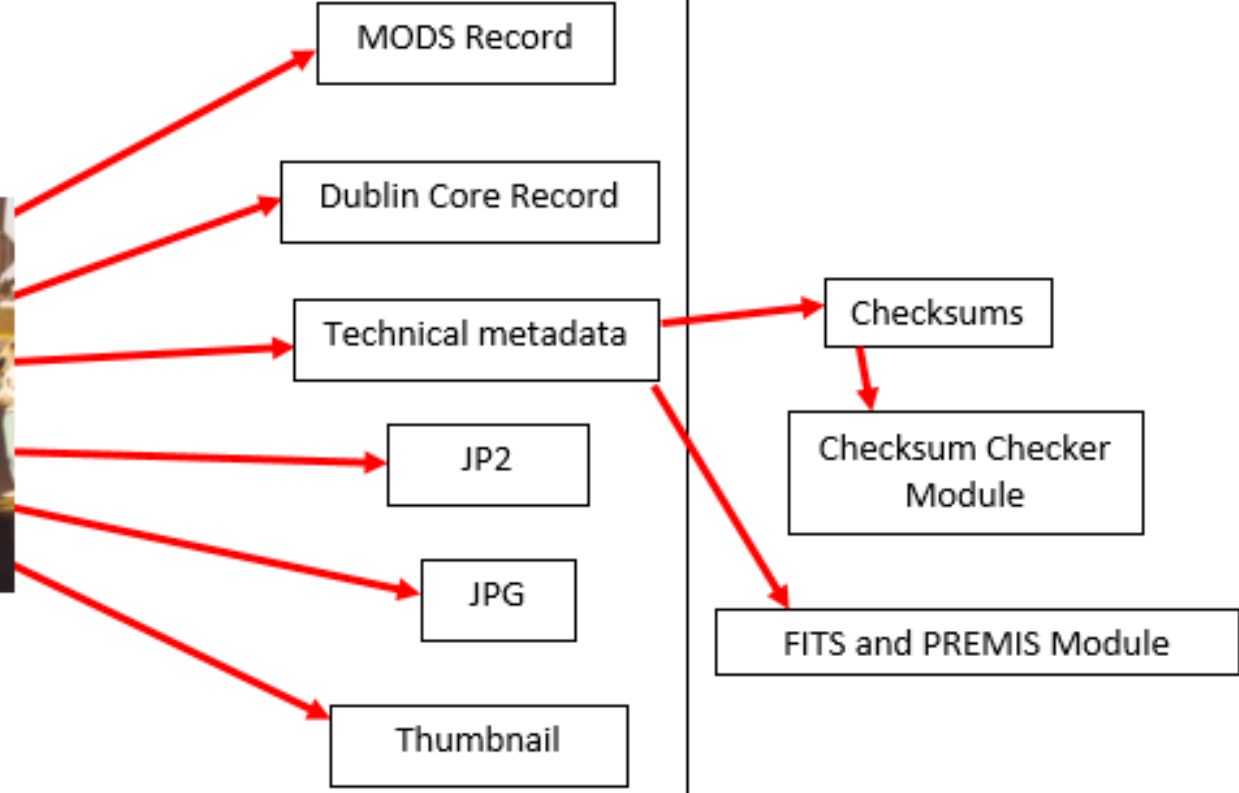
Batch Ingest Options

+ Batch Import Objects

- Automatic processes also occur during batch ingest

- Batch ingest through Fedora repository or web interface

Metadata

- Islandora makes metadata *entry* easy

- Any metadata standard can be used

- Take advantage of controlled vocabulary drop down lists, default text, and custom instructions on ingest forms

Demo Links

- http://Islandora.mnpals.net/smsu

- http://Islandora.mnpals.net/test

- http://arch.lib.mnsu.edu

Migration – the process

- Input tiff images and tab delimited metadata
- Studied MDL metadata
- Created ingest form first
- Wrote PHP script for metadata conversion
- Test 1, then 5, then 25, then more
- Found limit to HTTP file transfer
- Writing script for ingesting large batches

Migration – the metadata script

```
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<mods xmlns="http://www.loc.gov/mods/v3" xmlns:mods="htt
nk="http://www.w3.org/1999/xlink">
<titleInfo>
<title>Class held outside Armstrong and Nelson Hall - Ma
</titleInfo>
<relatedItem type="original">
<titleInfo>
<title>msu10837.tif</title>
</titleInfo>
</relatedItem>
<identifier type = "local">MSU-UA-309-10837</identifier
<identifier type = "MDL">msu10837</identifier>
<name type="contrib org">
<namePart>University Archives and Southern Minnesota Hi:
nkato, MN  56002-8419</namePart>
<role>
```

- Read tab-delimited file

- Create XML file with MODS
   metadata

- Standardize date field (yyyy-mm-dd)

- Did not migrate technical metadata

- Check if field not blank

- Constant data – contributing organization, scan center, rights statement

Migration – the ingest script

- Uncompress compressed tiffs
- Create derivatives and datastreams
- Create Fedora objects

Migration – the experience

- Many date variations (MSU cleaned up)
- Titles too long (max 255 chars)
- XML illegal chars (& < >)
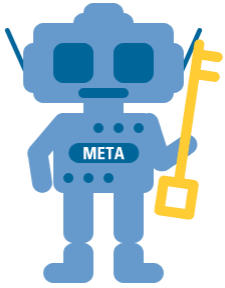- Missing images
- Compressed tiffs

Migration: We're on our Way

- Project Planning
  - Get on same page
  - Expectations
    - Timelines
    - Look and Feel
- Metadata
- Steps to Migration
- Looking Forward

Three females in a canoe in Highland Arena Pool at Mankato State College, 1968

MSU Metadata Expectations

- Customizable to fit our Needs
- Adhere to MDL Minnesota Reflections Metadata Entry Guidelines
  - Descriptive Metadata
  - Administrative/Technical Metadata
- Allow for Constant Data and Controlled Vocabulary
- Ability to Export Metadata to MDL

PALS/Islandora Metadata

- Fully Customized to fit our Needs
- Fully Adhere to MDL Minnesota Reflections Metadata Entry Guidelines
  - Metadata Crosswalk = Map Dublin Core to MODS/METS for Descriptive Metadata
  - Administrative and Technical Metadata via Islandora FITS, PREMIS and Checksum modules
- Constant Data and Controlled Vocab for Easy Metadata Entry
- Two Metadata Records = Brief Dublin Core and Full MODS (Easy to export to MDL)

Metadata Key Messages

- Evaluate and Clean up your Metadata before you Migrate

- Controlled Vocabulary and Constant Data make Entry Easier

- Have Outsiders Review your Metadata and Process for Creation of Metadata

- Set up a Process to Review Metadata and the Process of Metadata Creation

- Importance of Digital Preservation

Migration

- Amount of time required
  - (30+ hours/2 people)
- Fields we cleaned up
  - Date formatting
  - Subject headings
  - Spelling errors

Preparation for ARCH

- Learning the Ingest process
  - New lingo & structure
- Form review & suggestions
  - Ask!
  - 2 separate forms
  - Customize for our needs
    - Default vocabulary
    - Controlled vocabulary

SUBJECT

Locally Assigned Subject Headings *

Click here to display choices. Enter information about people, organizations, events, or themes in the following format: last name, first name, middle initial, life dates. Capitalize the first word of the su

Select the local subject heading

Abraham Lincoln Statue

Academic Computer Center

Academic libraries

Administration

Migration Adjustments

- Workflow
- Customized ingest forms
- Addressing migration problems as opportunities
  - Character limits to title fields

Next Steps/Moving Forward

- Documentation

- Training
  - Individual accounts to optimize each worker's ability

- Modifying/honing training guides

New Physical Workspace

- Staffing
- Much smaller to include face time/increased interaction with each worker
- All scanners in one area
- Web-based rather than work-station based

ARCH Coming Soon!

What we have learned

- Know your data
- Standardization makes things easier
- Planning pays off
- Metadata is important
- Variety of test data smooths the way

What is important

- Data cleanup

- Communication

- Flexibility

- Training and clear documentation early

- Choose appropriate tools

- Track other sites, community activity

hosted by

Check it out at
islandora.mnpals.net
arch.lib.mnsu.edu

Questions and Discussion