Special Collections Curation

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Strategic Planning Task Force Open Meeting
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Major Accomplishments

Many to list, but . . .

• RBML Quick and Clean
• Archon/IHLC
• EUI/Student Life and Culture Initiatives
• Increasing use and teaching (on site and digital)
• Facilities issues: progress being made

Behind it all: Developed locally, nationally, and internationally respected leaders

Focus on efficiency and access!
Impact

• Quick and Clean Project
  – cataloged Over 70,000 items
  – Models our low cost/high value standard

• Archon/ArchivesSpace
  – poised to influence archival descriptive practice worldwide
  – Facilitates description of ‘born-digital’ materials as a systematic archival function

• Digital Curation Leadership

• Increasing Use and Scholarship
Opportunities

• Build tools to acquire, preserve, make useful the next generation of special collections (cyberinfrastructure)
• Provide appropriate stewardship and enhanced access to “hidden” materials
• Strengthen ties to other library units and campus faculty
• Embed special collections into users’ daily lives
  – Exploit partnerships and emerging technologies to help students, faculty, and members of the public produce knowledge
  – Engagement as a two way street
Initiatives

• **Build** a digital processing, preservation, discovery and use infrastructure.

• **Process** special collections backlogs to appropriate standards (More Product, Less Process)

• **Transform** use through collaboration:
  – Engage public service librarians in special collections work
  – Promote partnerships with teaching faculty, as means to reach students
  – Implement tools to that allow users to add value (The Atlantic: “What the big media can learn from NYPL")
Resources Needed

- **Building** digital infrastructure:
  - Shared research programmer position to ensure alignment of Library systems with existing special collections systems and emerging curation processes (1 FTE)
  - Critical to support of grant opportunities and national leadership

- **Processing** hidden collections:
  - Shared ‘processing coordinator’ position, and GA support, for three year period; assigned projects division wide. (1 FTE)

- **Transforming** use through collaboration:
  - ‘In-kind’ support from other library faculty and staff
  - Implementing and building best of breed, ‘simple’ reuse tools
  - 2 half-time GAs to support in-reach, out reach, and development of embedded digital content (1 FTE)
Impact

• Position the University of Illinois Library to:
  – Lead the world in developing sustainable services to identify, acquire, preserve, and provide access to one of a kind materials of permanent cultural value.
  – Initiate a major campus, state, and private partnership to fund and construct a major cultural resource for the people of Illinois: 
    __________ Special Collections Research Center
Task Force Questions and Discussion