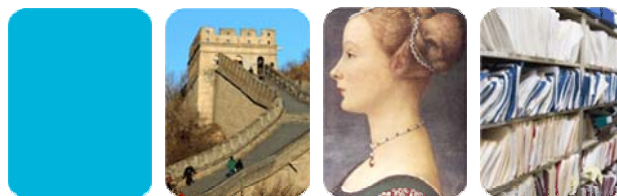


CASE STUDY



DigiTool Enables the University of Melbourne to Make the Most of Its Digital Collections

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne has won ten citation awards under the Carrick Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning programs, recognizing outstanding leadership and innovation in teaching, and dedication and enthusiasm for student learning.

Challenges

With its migration to a new library search system in 2006, the University of Melbourne sought to broaden its common search interface, metasearch, and digital asset management capabilities.

Solution

DigiTool has enabled the University library to expose digital resources, managed both locally and remotely, through an integrated, centralized application that delivers robust storage and backup. Resources stored and described in DigiTool can be easily searched via Supersearch, the University's federated searching application based on the Ex Libris MetaLib gateway.

Tasked in 2003 to take its library into the next generation of technology and service delivery, the University of Melbourne sought to replace Buddy – its ageing, homegrown library search tool for electronic resources – and to broaden the institution's search interface for all material types, with a metasearch portal and digital asset management (DAM) system.

"The goals set by the library for its digital asset management system included providing efficient search facilities to enable users to identify, locate, and retrieve digital objects; creating an efficient storage system for digital resources and their associated metadata; implementing workflows, policies, and processes to manage digital objects and their access rights; and finally, building an infrastructure to prevent electronic data from becoming obsolete," explains Andrew Veal, Digital Repository Systems Coordinator of Information Services at the University of Melbourne library.

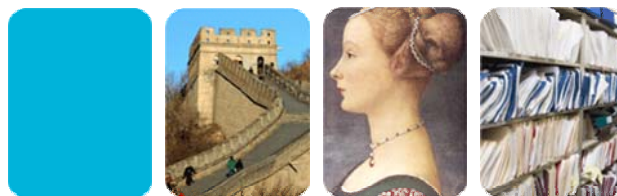
"To identify the best digital asset management system to meet the library's needs, an in-depth evaluation was undertaken, during which we checked the products offered by the major DAM technology vendors. DigiTool® from Ex Libris was found to be the solution of choice."

Customizing DigiTool for the University of Melbourne

"The University of Melbourne made extensive use of DigiTool customization options to meet its unique repository requirements for data migration and transformation, metadata creation and harvesting, and digital repository Web services," explains Veal. This enables library staff to maintain collections and deal with the deposit and ingest of objects as well as the editing of related metadata.

"The University of Melbourne made extensive use of the DigiTool customization options to meet its unique repository requirements for data migration and transformation, metadata creation and harvesting, and digital repository Web services."

CASE STUDY



Results

With the DigiTool digital asset management system, the University of Melbourne can now deliver digital materials to University of Melbourne's students "any time, anywhere."

"By centralizing the storage, backup, and management of digital objects and decentralizing their delivery, the University of Melbourne is able to offer DigiTool services via other university-level applications, such as our learning management system, research management system, and local digital collection Web sites," notes Veal.

Technical support for the multiple environments on which the University chose to implement DigiTool—production, stand-by, test, and development—is provided by infrastructure, development, Database Administrators, and production support groups. "The multiple environments enable us to provide robust support for the critical collections (images, audio, and text) managed by the repository," comments Naomi Burke, Service Delivery Manager for library systems at the University of Melbourne.

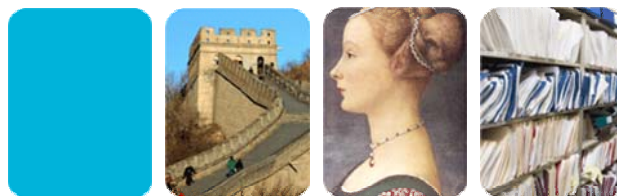
Making Digital Resources Easily Accessible to Patrons and Staff

By choosing DigiTool as a front end to its digital repository, the University of Melbourne offers patrons both a clear view of its consolidated digital collections and a variety of interfaces through which patrons can search for and retrieve digital items.

"DigiTool has enabled the University of Melbourne library to expose digital resources both locally and remotely through an integrated, centralized application that delivers robust storage and backup. Resources that are stored and described in DigiTool can be easily searched via Supersearch, our MetaLib®-based federated searching application," adds Burke.

"DigiTool provides controlled access to resources based on a combination of user-level authorization and the copyright and licensing conditions that apply to each digital item," says Veal.

CASE STUDY



Development Never Stops...

“Flexible DigiTool APIs and X-services have allowed us to develop our own digital repository API, through which we provide additional digital-entity discovery and management services as well as a layer of abstraction between the applications we have developed,” explains Burke. The open architecture of DigiTool has enabled us to deliver repository services through other University applications, such as our learning management system (LMS), research management system, and local digital collection web sites,” adds Burke.

The University of Melbourne has also developed services identified as key business requirements during the collection migration process. These services include a statistics package that provides end users with a display of record-usage statistics by date and author as well as a bibliographic citation generator that extracts data from metadata records to generate citations for specifically targeted collections.

“DigiTool has enabled the University of Melbourne library to expose digital resources both locally and remotely through an integrated, centralized application that delivers robust storage and backup.”

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