

Faculty Showcase '05: Partners in Learning

Sponsored by Academic Technology at Simmons College

Digital Libraries



Candy Schwartz
Graduate School of
Library and
Information Science

Goals

The digital libraries project helps students:

- Gain an experiential understanding of the components and issues involved in creating a digital library;
- Become equipped to serve as active partners in existing or proposed digital library projects; and
- Learn how to avoid reinventing the wheel by conducting background research to become informed decision-makers.

Overview

The digital library project is a core component of LIS 462. Early in the semester a collection of materials from the Simmons archives is made available to the class. Students are divided into working groups and tasked with turning the material into a digital library collection.

The groups are each responsible for one aspect of developing a digital library, including: environmental scanning, technical specifications identification, site architecture, interface design, rights management, metadata creation, content preparation and digitization, evaluation, and marketing.

To prepare for these tasks, they need to consult professional and trade literature, standards literature, conference proceedings, and archived project documents.

For the actual building of the library, students use Greenstone Digital Library open source software. Collectively, the class takes the semester's project from planning to creation, stopping short of putting it on the Web.

By the end of the semester, students accomplish what often takes years to realize – the creation of a digital library. This accomplishment is celebrated with an official presentation to members of the Simmons community at the end of the semester.

The screenshot shows a web page titled "Notable Women of Simmons College" with a sub-header "Doris Perdue Gormly". It features a portrait of Doris Perdue Gormly and a text box describing her collection. The page includes navigation links for "Contact", "Site Map", and "Help". A search bar is visible at the bottom.

The screenshot shows a web page titled "FRAGMENTS OF STUDENT LIFE: 1911-1915 THE OLIVE RUBY HENTY SCRAPBOOK". It features a navigation menu with "Search or Browse", "About", "Learning Tools", "Help", "Feedback", and "Contribute". The main content area includes a search bar and a section titled "Learning Tools" with a sub-header "Exploring scrapbooks: Ideas and resources".

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Last Revised December 11, 2003. This library was built using the open source Greenstone Digital Library package.