

University of Oklahoma

Preliminary Analysis

Building a Digital Exhibit Platform for Oral Histories

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Summary

Purpose of the Project: To develop a digital exhibit platform for the OU-Tulsa Oral History Collection that enhances accessibility and engagement.

Scope: The platform should provide a user-friendly interface for accessing oral history content, including audio recordings, transcripts, and embedded multimedia. It should be either a standalone tool or integrated into existing platforms with low maintenance and cost considerations.

Key Contact: OU-Tulsa Library (Bethune Seay, MLIS) Assistant Technical Service Librarian,
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Requirements

Functional Requirements

- Interface to access oral history content via web browser
- Search functionality across audio, text, and multimedia
- Ability to embed audio, video, images, and text easily in the future

Non-Functional Requirements

- Simplicity in maintenance
- Low or no-cost solution
- Compliance with data privacy and ethical guidelines

Assumptions and Constraints

- Integration with existing platforms like ArchivesSpace, ShareOK, and possibly Drupal if necessary.
- Availability of tools from OU Libraries in Norman is uncertain.
- Restricted access to certain files and prohibition on using data for AI training.

Sponsor Analysis

Sponsor Information

- Bethine Seay, MLIS (Assistant Technical Services Librarian)
- OU-Tulsa Oral History Collection users
- OU Libraries in Norman (potential resource providers)

Needs and Expectations

- Easy access and search functionality for users
- A platform that is either a standalone platform or can be easily integrated with other current existing systems
- Secure handling of restricted and sensitive data

Impact Analysis

- The project will enhance the visibility and usability of the Oral History Collection, benefiting researchers, students, and the general public.

Risk Analysis

Risk Identification

- Inability to integrate with existing systems if requested
- Technical challenges in implementing multimedia embedding
- Potential costs if low/no-cost tools are not sufficient
- Hard Drive space required if there are no APIs or other systems in place to retrieve data effectively

Mitigation Strategies

- Early testing of potential tools and reading of documentation for tools like Omeka, Wordpress, Islandora, and Drupal if necessary.
- Consultation and communication with OU Libraries in Norman and Tulsa regarding available resources.
- Ensuring data privacy compliance from the beginning

Technical Analysis

Current Systems

- ArchivesSpace, ShareOK, and Drupal are currently used.
- External hard drive for storage.

Possible Systems

- Potential use of tools like Omeka, WordPress, CollectiveAccess, or Custom made website

Integration Requirements (If Requested)

- Compatibility with existing ArchivesSpace and ShareOK data.
- Potential embedding with Drupal-based websites (System used to host OU Library websites)

Project Timeline

Phases

- **Sponsor Meeting:** Meeting with sponsors to figure out what they are looking for and what tools we have available to use before development.

- **Research and Tool Selection:** Assessing and selecting the appropriate platform/tool based on research and communication with the sponsor.
- **Design:** Designing the overall structure and systems needed to complete the project.
- **Development:** Implementing the chosen solution, integrating with existing systems if requested.
- **Testing:** Ensuring functionality, usability, and data privacy compliance.
- **Deployment:** Fine tune and work on integrating the Oral Histories media, transcripts, audio files into the system.
- **Documentation:** Write clear and well articulated documentation guiding new users and sponsors everything the platform has to offer.

Milestones

- Meeting with Sponsor
- Selection of platform/tool
- Completion of development and integration
- Final testing and launch
- Final Presentation

Timeline: Approximately one full semester or four months.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

Costs

- **Development and Integration:** Time investment from the team in developing the platform and potential costs for software tools.

- **Hosting and Infrastructure:** Costs associated with cloud hosting and storage, particularly for handling large audio files.
- **Ongoing Maintenance:** Minimal ongoing costs for maintaining and updating the platform.

Benefits

- **Increased Accessibility:** The platform will make the oral history collection more accessible to a broader audience, including researchers, educators, and the public.
- **Cultural Preservation:** Enhances the preservation of oral histories by providing a digital platform that securely stores and shares these resources.
- **Educational Resource:** Serves as a valuable tool for educational institutions and offer direct access to primary historical sources.

Recommendations

Feasibility

- The project is feasible with careful selection of the right tool and ensuring it can either integrate well with existing systems or have an easy way to implement and upload new data entries.

Next Steps

- Finalize requirements with Sponsor
- Conduct detailed evaluation of potential tools and solutions
- Begin development with a focus on maintaining simplicity and low cost

Conclusion

The project is vital for increasing accessibility to the OU-Tulsa Oral History Collection.

Expanding its outreach by implementing an easy to use and thoughtfully organized platform/tool.

By following this analysis, we can ensure a successful implementation that meets the needs of both the library and its users.