Portfolio System v1

Browsing & Navigation – 5/7/13

**Question: How do you find/discover work?**

Browsing and navigating the Portfolio system is a core function of Portfolio System vI. We have identified three models for browsing work and the strategies for each.

1. **Direct Navigation –** A user needs to get to something specific: a particular student, class, faculty member, project, etc. This is best facilitated via search and filter features that allow the user to get directly to where they need to go.

**Strategies**:

* 1. General search bar at the top of all pages – searches for everything: keywords, names, categories, projects, classes, tags, etc.
  2. Advanced search/Filters – allows user to define specific parameters and limit search/navigation by any available contexts: department, class, faculty, category, term, etc.

1. **Intentional Browsing** – A user is looking to discover new work based on specific parameters: To find work in a department, or a certain category, or associated with a faculty member. *Assumably, this is the primary navigation strategy of the site, allowing for simple and efficient browsing to all work within the system.*

**Strategies:**

* 1. Top navigation bar menu items allow the user multiple entry points to navigate into work: Department, People, Categories, Groups(?).
  2. Dynamic sidebar informs user of location within the site, and allows for further navigation or refinement of browsing (e.g., Dept. view allows user to drill down to individual faculty or class level.
  3. A ‘Recently Visited’ list of pages functions as a convenient reference for the user, easily allowing them to step backward to any recently viewed pages.

1. **Discovery –** This mode suggests related and recommended content to the user based on the page they are currently on and the work they have been viewing. More than a single mechanism, this mode is a collection of strategies which offers the user a non-linear ‘discovery’ mode of browsing, in which new content can be continually generated based on the user’s activity.

**Strategies:**

* 1. Right-hand side of screen is a vertical list of work (projects/profiles/portfolios?) under the heading “Recommended to you…” that is generated and continually updated by:
     1. Matching project and profile metadata: department, class, term, faculty, category, sub-category. (Exact list TBD, based on profile and project features)
     2. Associated faculty and collaborators
     3. Work with many of the same tags as current page
  2. On a project view, contextual data can be clicked on to link to that page. For example a project that has “New Media” listed as department can click on New Media and go to projects in New Media, or clicking on the Category or Sub-Category listed will bring you to projects of that kind.
  3. If tagging is implemented on individual projects and/or profiles, the tags can be clicked to link to work with the same tag(s).

Ultimately, all three navigation models are intended to work together, with each available at any given time and at all stages within the site structure.

**Additional/Extended Features and Ideas**

* “Random” Tab: Additional tab on top navigation bar to take you to:
  + Random Project
  + Random Portfolio
  + Random Profile
  + Random Group (if implemented in v1)
* Intelligent “Recommended work” content, based on users cumulative activity on the site: a history of the work that they have viewed, their own personal work, connections and tags, and in the future if a rating system is implemented, similar content to work that user has rated highly.