**Digital Learning and Development Sandbox**

**Usability Study: Results Summary**

**August 12-19, 2009**

**Aluzzo 1**

*Sandbox*

* Tool was easy to use
* Had no experience using PowerPoint

*VMC*

* Struggled with searching VMC (too specific)
* Found descriptions useful, especially their use of citations to lead to further research
* Got stuck after naming portfolio and clicking submit, could not find portfolio in new window
* Topics and decades search yielded too many results

*Potential Usage*

* Specific subjects, such as Civil Rights, Labor history, 1960s Detroit
* Would tell students to use the tool to round out assignments for classes
* Use images in fliers for classes

*Suggestions*

* Show specific dates with thumbnails in search results—too much work to have to click on description to find actual date
* Link from an image in VMC to Detroit News article
* Descriptions could have a “for further reading about this topic” that would take user to a list of books or articles about the subject, or perhaps Google Scholar

**Decker 1**

*Sandbox*

* Confused in moving back and forth from Sandbox to VMC and back to Sandbox—trouble with using multiple windows or tabs
* Upon finishing portfolio, couldn’t remember the Sandbox
* Tried download link in DLXS, thinking it was the Sandbox
* Trouble finding the export tool drop-down menu—was looking for a place to type portfolio name
* Couldn’t find PPTs after download—they didn’t open immediately and were hidden behind browser (Firefox)

*VMC*

* Had trouble finding the portfolio option, and thought he may have to create a portfolio first before adding content to it
* Had trouble searching, was too specific at first—didn’t know content well enough
* Had difficulty navigating from portfolio back to search interface (there is no option)
* Made selections to add to portfolio, went to next results pages before adding them, losing selected items
* Had trouble with multiple windows—didn’t realize portfolio opened in new one
* Overall, found searching pretty easy
* Conceptually, download process was easy, but had trouble with steps

*Potential Usage*

* Used a research component for a class

*Suggestions*

* Add a flag to pop-up when download is complete
* Would like to see access to more collections (with tool?)

**McGlone 1**

*Sandbox*

* Found tool easy and straightforward, once found
* Couldn’t remember term “export PowerPoint”
* Had trouble “finding” export tool when wanting to export
* Confusion with drop-down menu
* Trouble navigating from browser to PowerPoint (where is the download?—could have been unfamiliar with Firefox)

*VMC*

* Search results were confusing and not what he was looking for
* Didn’t have the content he was interested in – too specific
* Encountered problems navigating VMC when looking for descriptions
* Gave portfolio “New Portfolio Name” – had to create a new one

*Potential Usage*

* Looking deeper at this history of Detroit
* Honors “American Cities” course
* Interesting to look for what people don’t search for

*Suggestions*

* Fuse VMC with other digital collections related to Detroit and searched via a portal
* Make export tool easier to find on page by re-arranging layout

**McGlone 2**

*Sandbox*

* Found tool was pretty easy to use—but would have taken longer at home without demo
* Steps were difficult to remember
* Couldn’t remember to refresh page
* Liked customizing portfolio in
* Felt like working backwards (would create PPT first, then add images)
* Interested in how to move slides to other PPT presentations

*VMC*

* Subject was able to find images related to search topic
* Had no problems using VMC and creating portfolio

*Potential Usage*

* PowerPoint’s could be inserted into Adobe Connect presentations used with online-class

*Suggestions*

* Have tutorials for each step
* Use with more collections (Luna?)

**Neds-Fox 1**

*Sandbox*

* Found tool moderately easy to use—success because of demo and time proximity
* Had trouble remembering steps—constantly referring back to the demo

*VMC*

* Found searching easy, but had initial problems
* Search results weren’t exactly what subject was looking for

*Potential Usage*

* Valuable to a Intro Interdisciplanary arts class currently creating

*Suggestions*

* More info about what the Virtual Motor City “is”

**Tuffin 1**

*Sandbox*

* Did not understand term “sandbox”
* Did not understand DLO
* Problems with webpage resolution—not fitting to monitor had to scroll left and right
* Problems with colors, bright logo, and dark sidebar and font “pixilation”
* Too many steps, too much backtracking—couldn’t remember what to do next
* Overall, tool was easy to use

*VMC*

* Did not understand difference between public and private portfolio
* Found LC subject browsing interesting
* Some search results show no image until you click on blank space
* Could add a “return to search results” button on portfolio page

*Potential Usage*

* Great for Blackboard
* Could be used in many of subject’s classes

*Suggestions*

* Clean up homepage
* Limit abbreviations
* Like easy access to images and metadata and copyright were in PowerPoint
* Would like to see a download button on portfolio screen