# Virtual Collections

Challenges in Harvesting and Transforming Metadata from Harvard Catalogs for Topical Collections

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#### Overview

- What is the Virtual Collections Service?
- Creating A Virtual Collection
- Architecture
- Implementation Challenges



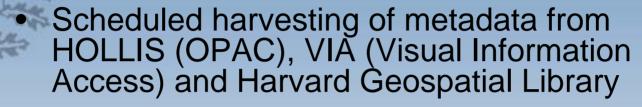
# What is the Virtual Collections Service?



#### Virtual Collections Is ...

A library service that allows Harvard curators, librarians and archivists to create a web-based collection view of thematically related resources which exist in a number of systems or within a single system.

#### Features of VC





- Web-based search, browse, and display interface; short and full record views
- Search results include thumbnails and links to digital objects
- Flexible configuration
  - "Out of the box" stand alone public interface
  - "Embedded" option for integrating into web sites, such as Harvard Open Collections sites



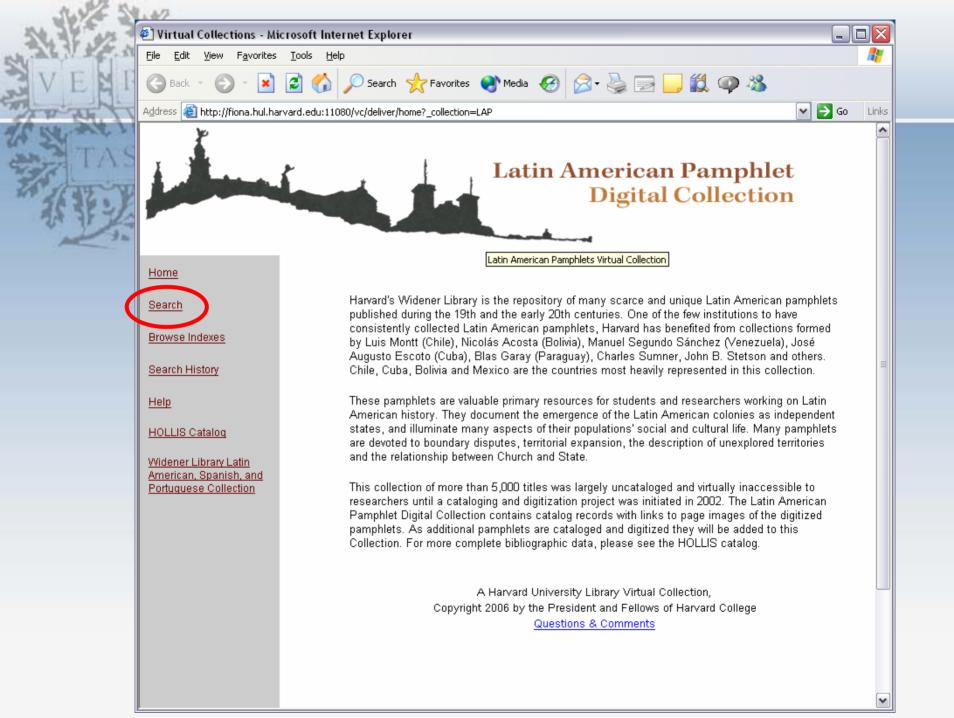
#### Virtual Collections is not...

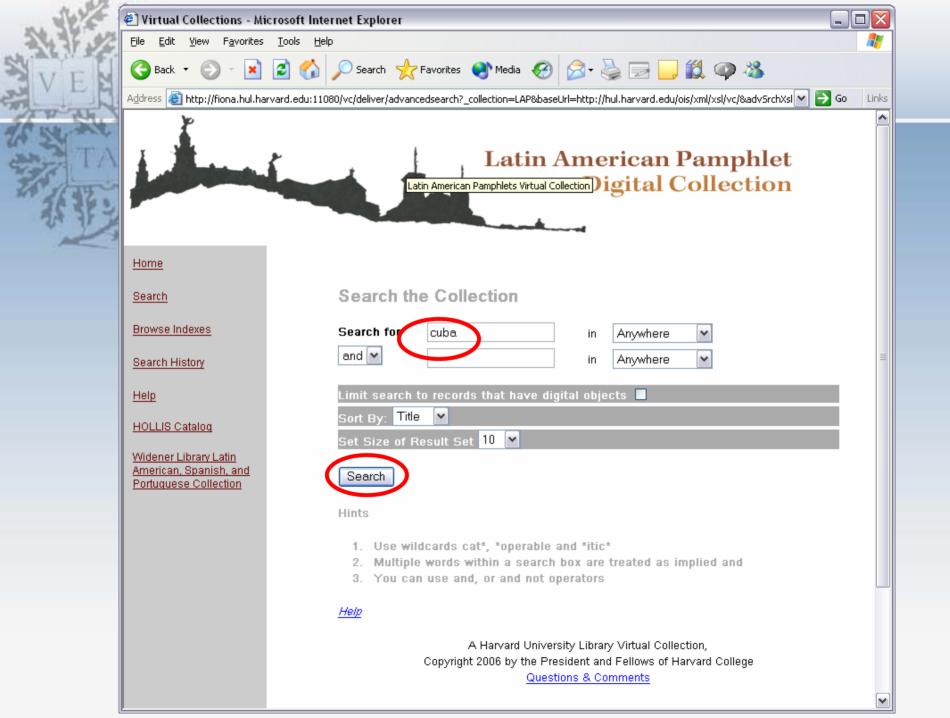
- A new catalog records must exist in another catalog
- A repository for digital objects
- A platform for short term, non-"librarylike" projects

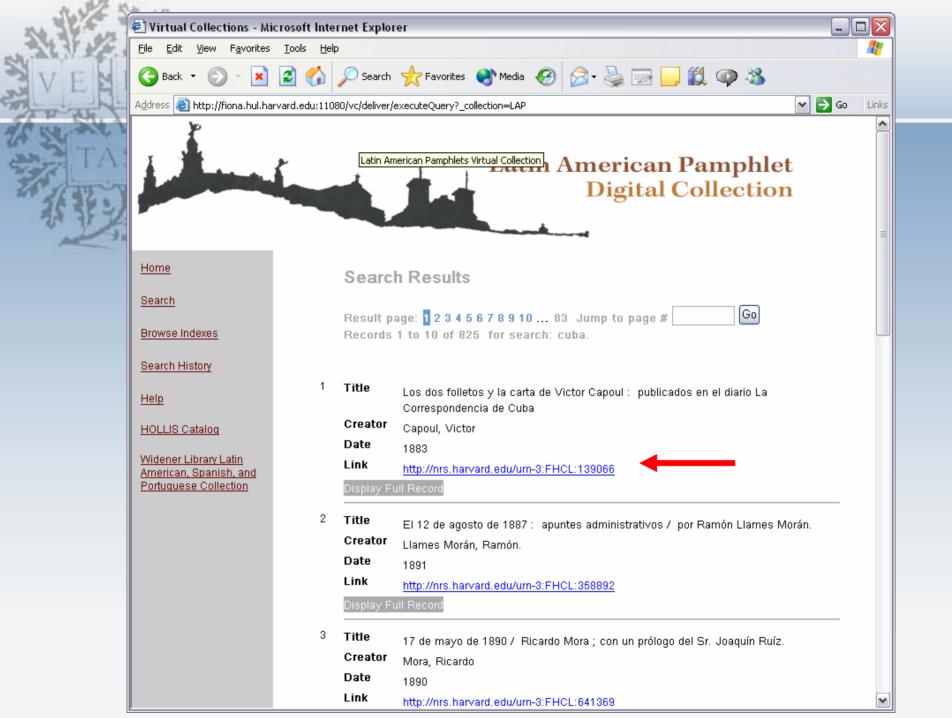


# A stand alone collection

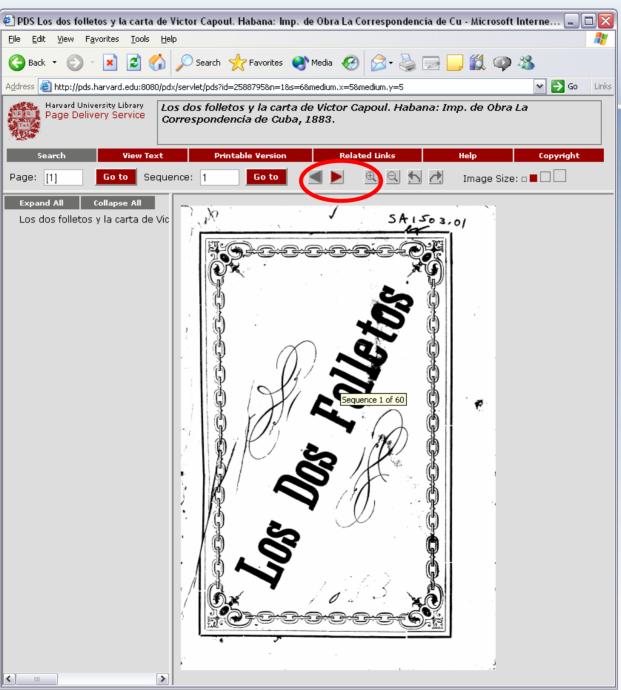
Latin American Pamphlets

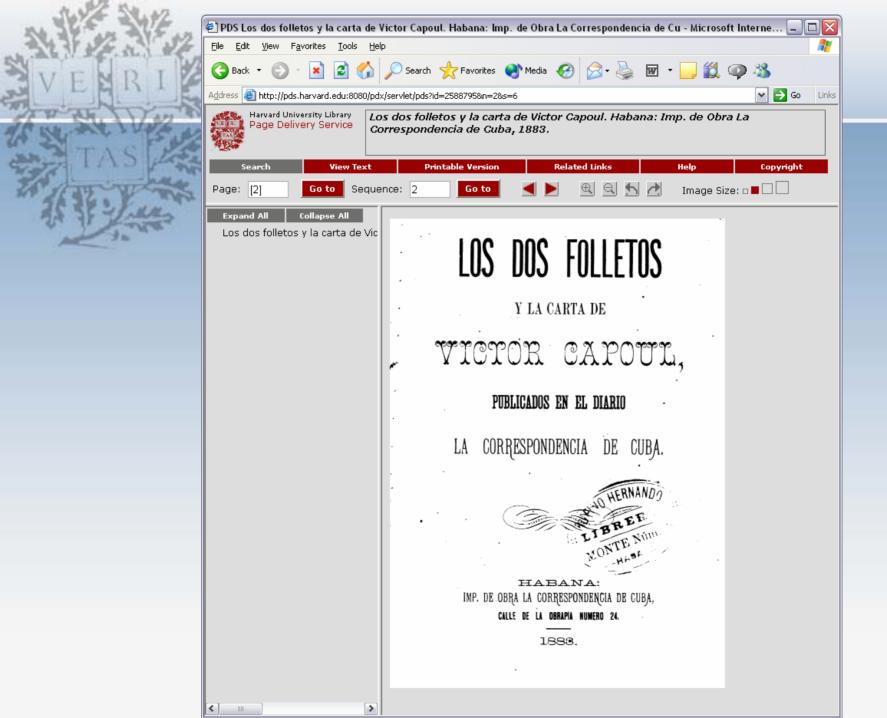


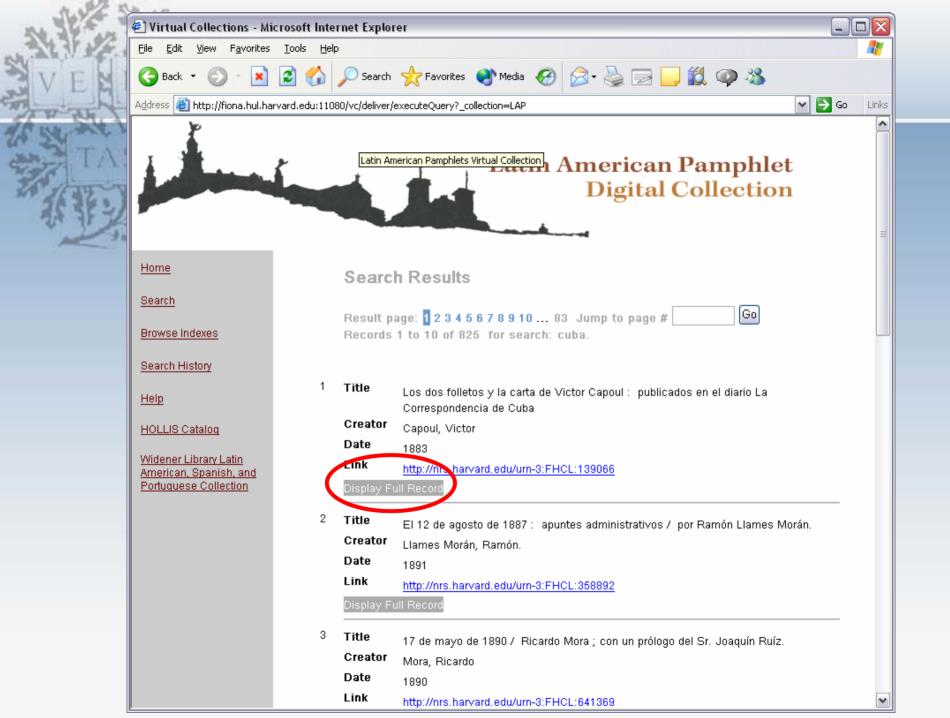


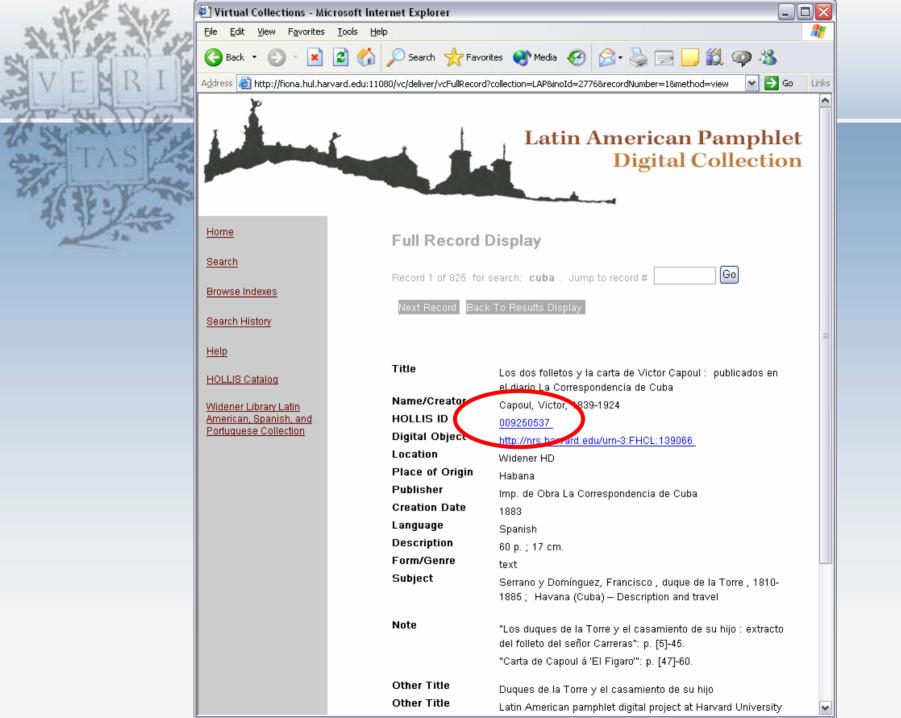


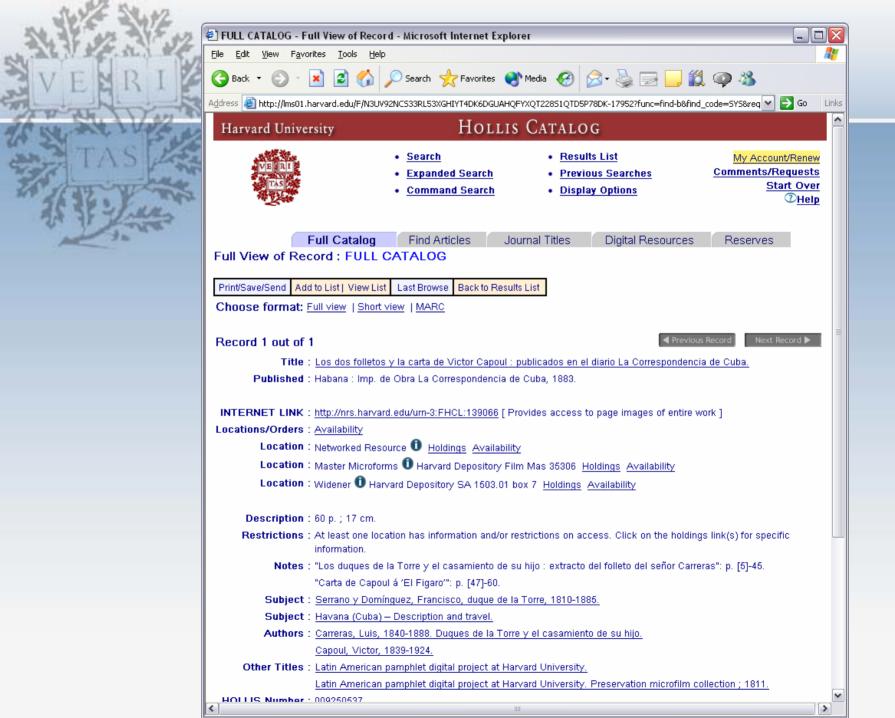


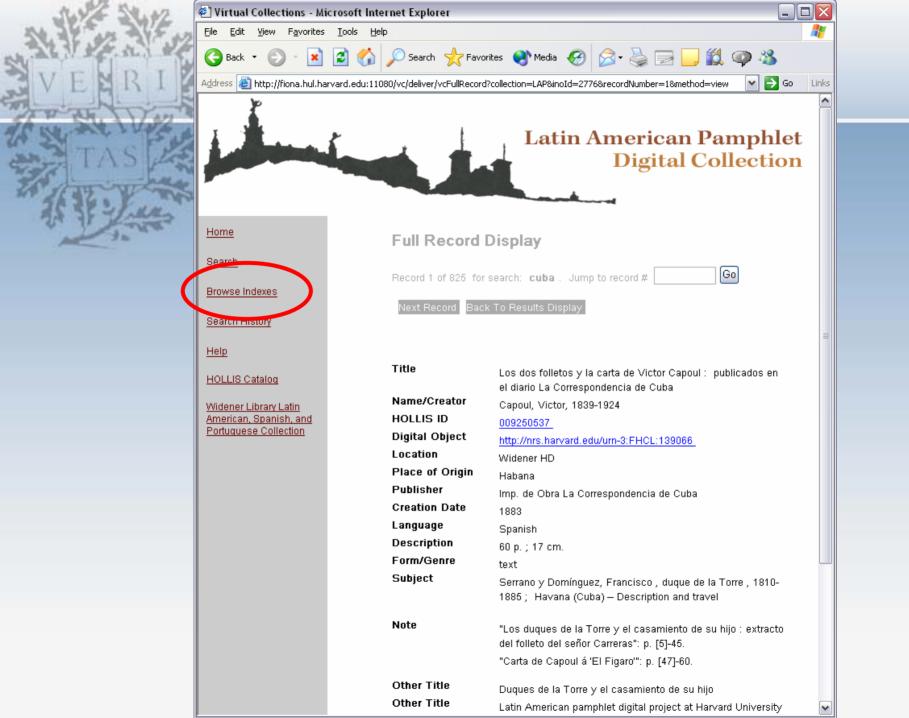


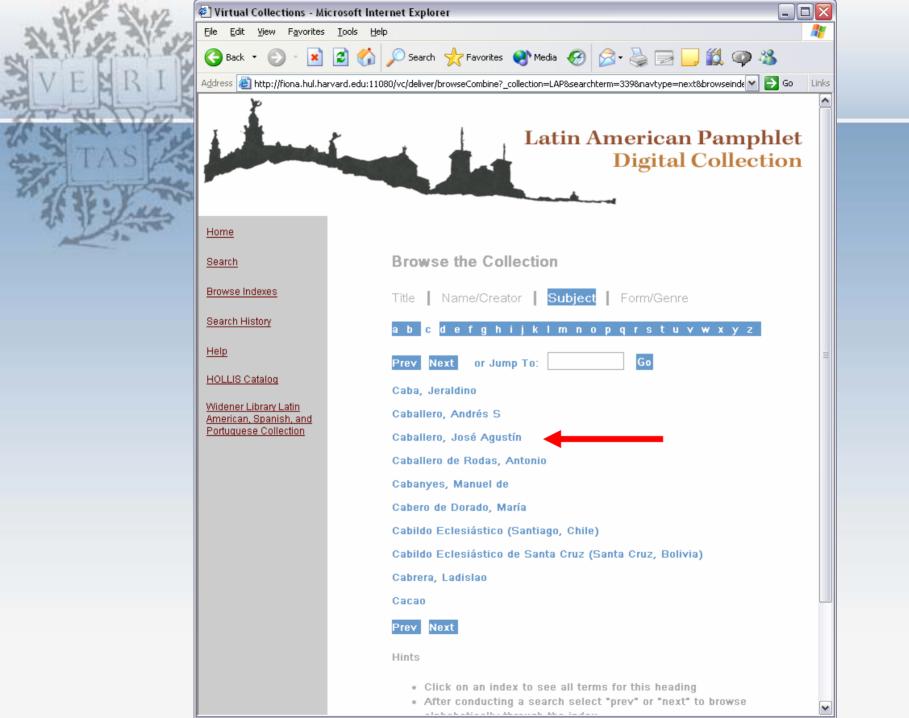


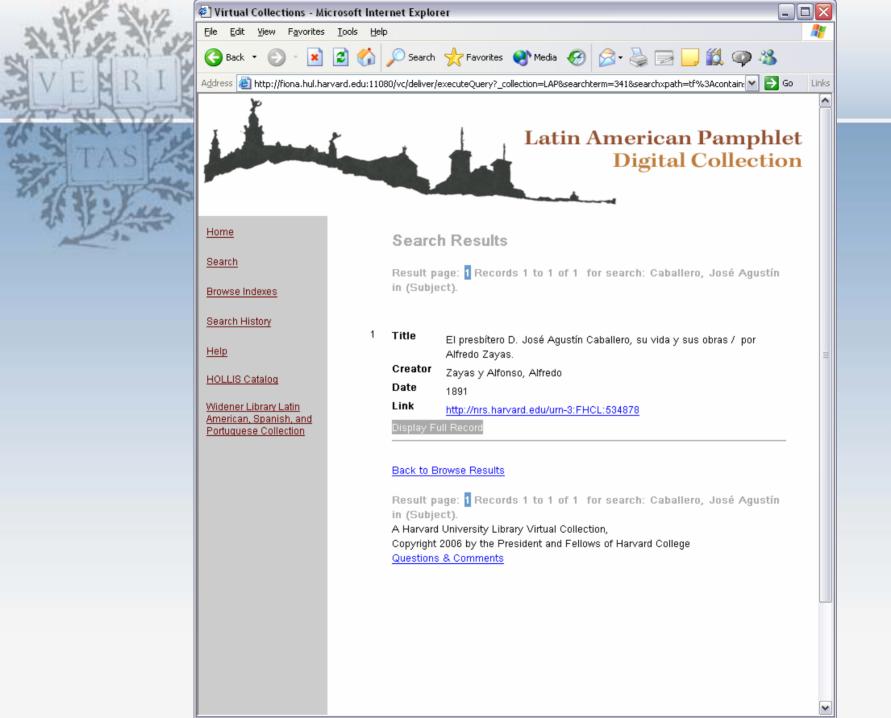








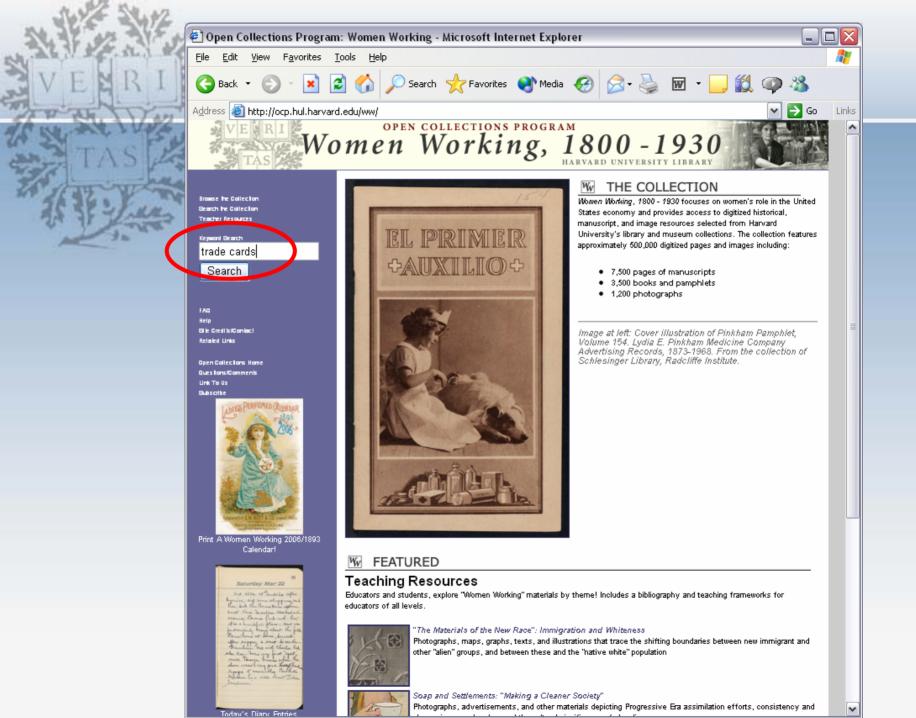


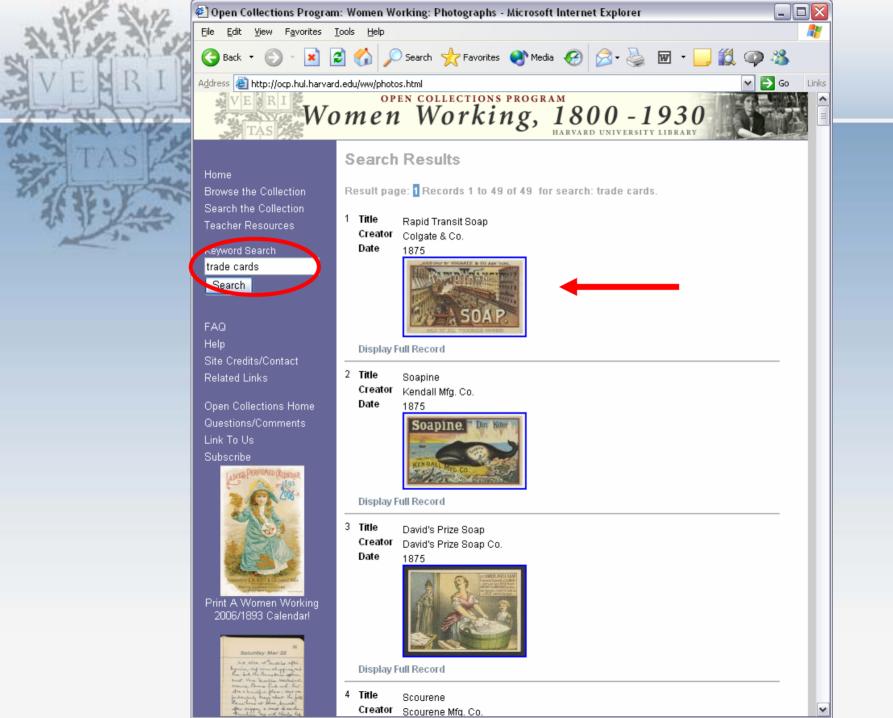


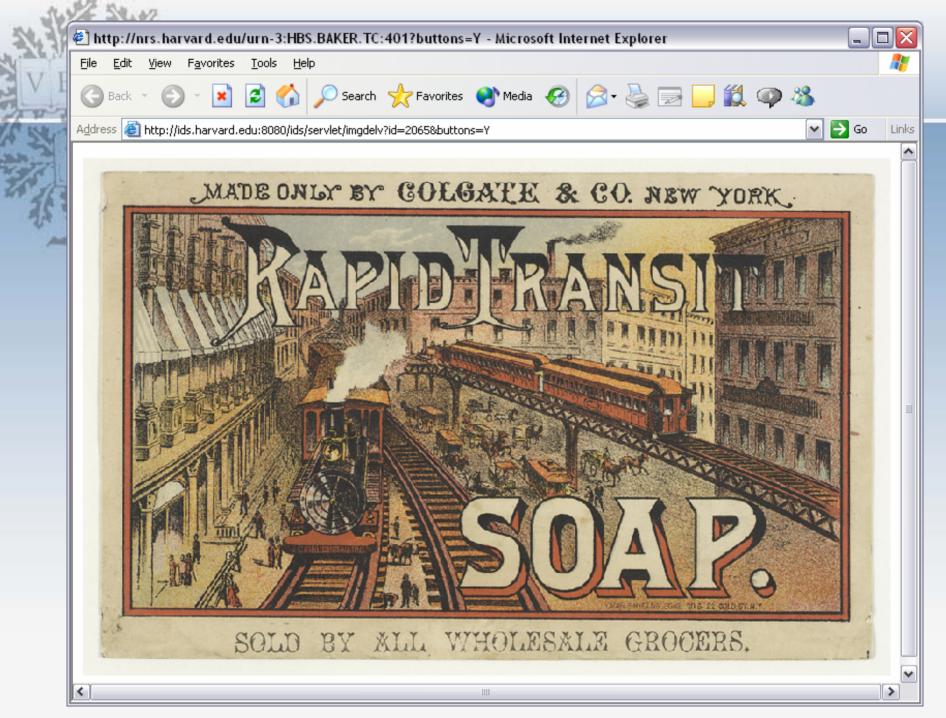


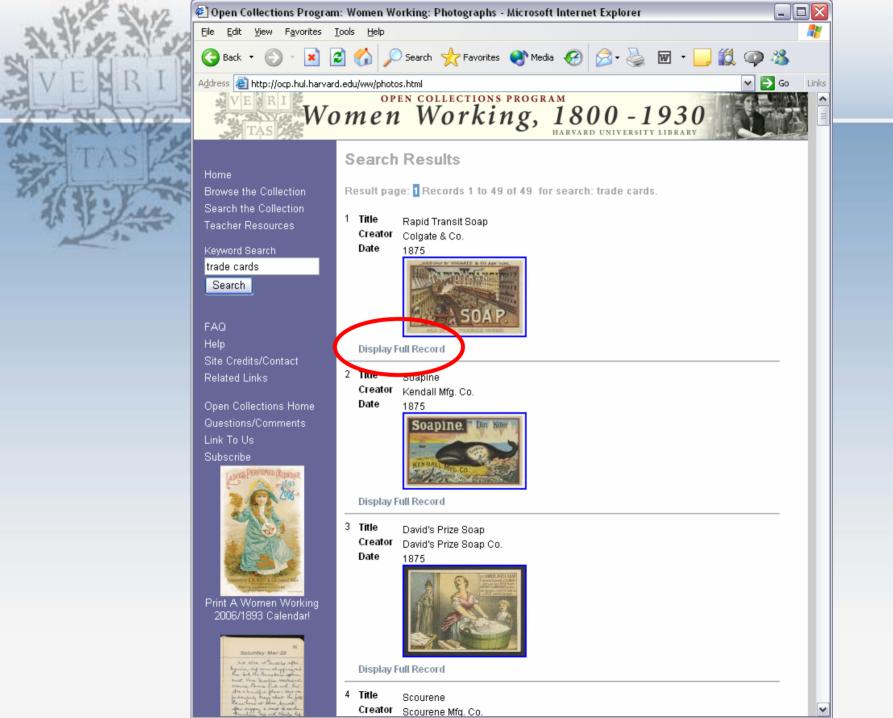
# An Integrated Virtual Collection

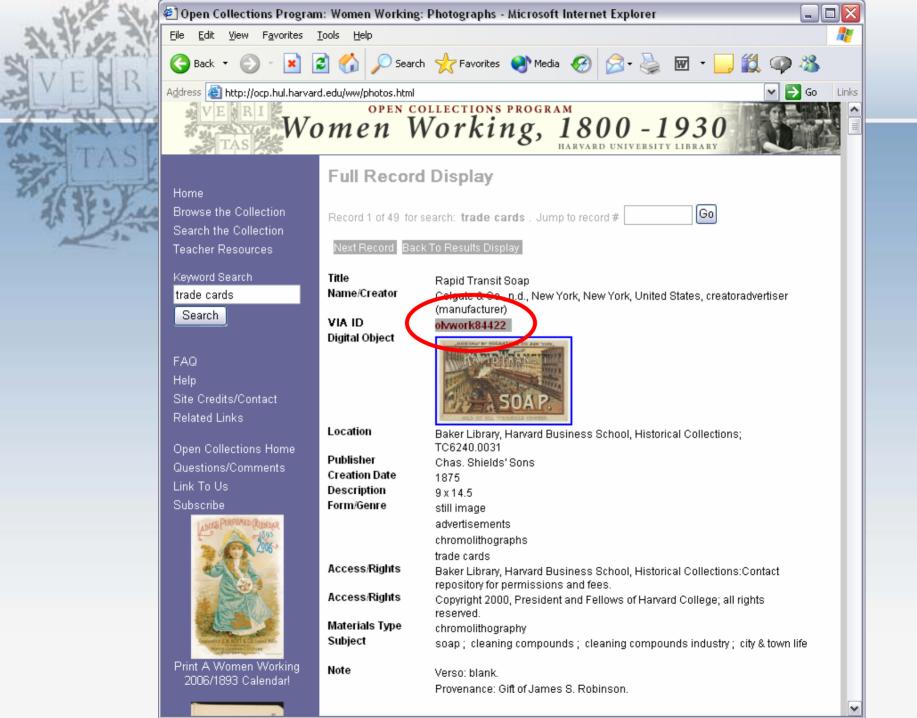
Harvard Open Collections Program "Women Working"

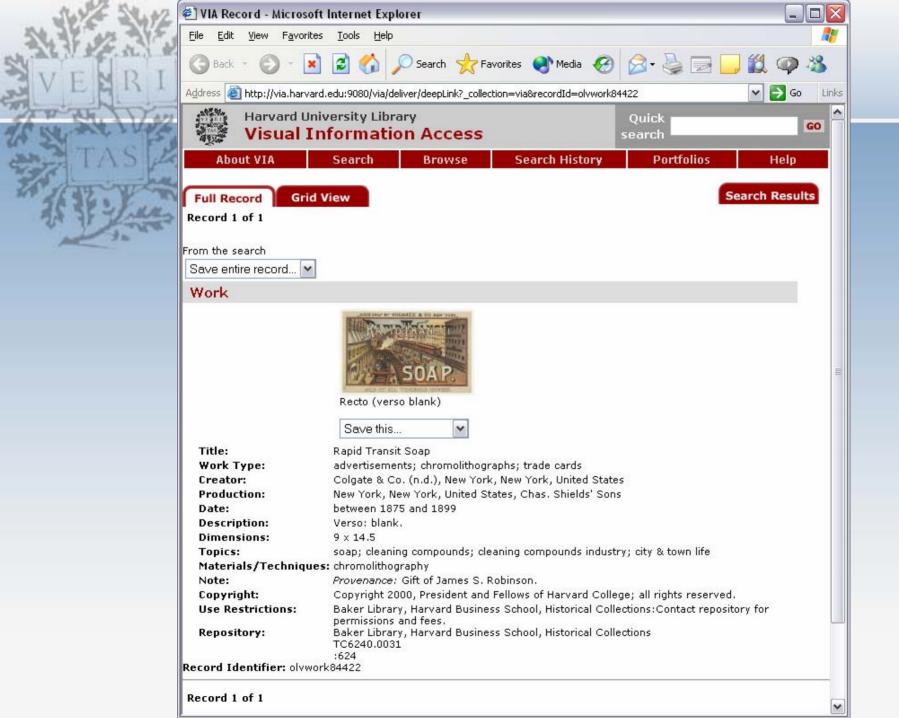














# Creating a Virtual Collection



## Creating a Virtual Collection

Step 1. Define the collection

Step 2. Define the look and feel requirements

Step 3. Harvest metadata records

Step 4. Add categories (optional)



## Step 1: Define the Collection

- What materials from HOLLIS, VIA, and/or HGL are to make up the collection?
- Is additional cataloging required in the primary catalog?
- Do digital versions of any of the objects need to be created?
- Will any VC-specific subject terms ("categories") be added to the collection?



# Step 2: Define the Look and Feel Requirements

Curator selects an implementation option:





- Stand-alone minimal work
  - Data and public "skin" (custom banner, background colors, footer, menu links, home page text) hosted by VC
- Integrated look and feel
  - Data hosted by VC; public "skin" styled and hosted locally
  - o Setup and maintenance under curator's control
- Both options offer the same search, browse, and record display features



### Step 3: Harvest Metadata Records

- Sources: HOLLIS OPAC, VIA, Harvard Geospatial Library
- Curator creates a "harvest file"
- Curator FTPs the harvest file to a dropbox; records harvested overnight
  - Automatic weekly harvesting picks up changes in source cataloging

Harvest file

HOLLIS 002223743 VIA olvwork125041 HGL MGISRAILTRA1



# Step 4: (Optional) Add Categories to Records

- Categories are optional subject-like terms added to records in VC
- They supplement but do not replace subject terms from the source system
- They are created using the VC Web Maintenance Interface to a collection
- They can be searched and browsed

Subject	Naturalization United States H
Category	Naturalization
	Citizenship
	Americanization
	Education
Other Title	Aida ta citizanahin acrica



#### Benefits of Virtual Collections

 Minimal setup time for a fully functional web based collection



- Centrally supported infrastructure 24x7 support
- Have our cake and eat it too
  - Capitalize on central cataloging
  - Automated sync with catalog updates
  - Multiple contexts for discovery (union catalog and virtual collection)



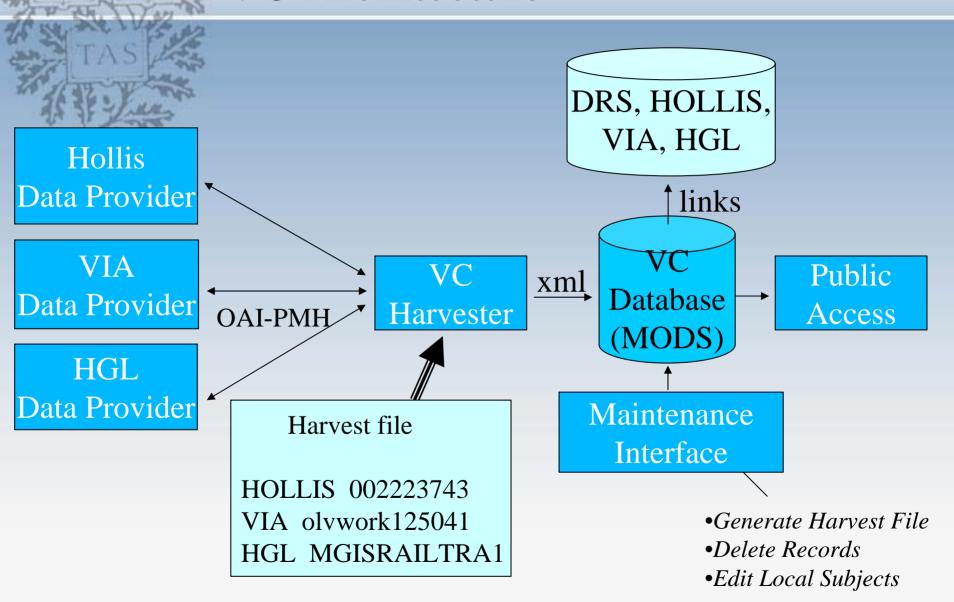
#### **Current Collections**

- Latin American Pamphlets
   (Harvard College Library Latin American Collection) (3500 records)
- Immigration to the United States, 1789-1930
   (Harvard University Library Open Collections Program) (8400 records)
- Women Working
   (Open Collections Program) (4200 records)
- Studies in Scarlet
   (Harvard Law Library; upcoming)



# How Virtual Collections Work and Some Implementation Challenges

### VC Architecture





### VC Technologies

- Java 1.4 (Servlets, JSPs)
- Struts framework
- Tomcat 4.1 (Servlet engine)
- Tamino Native XML database
- XML Schema
- XSLT
- OAI-PMH (OAICAT OCLC)
- MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema)



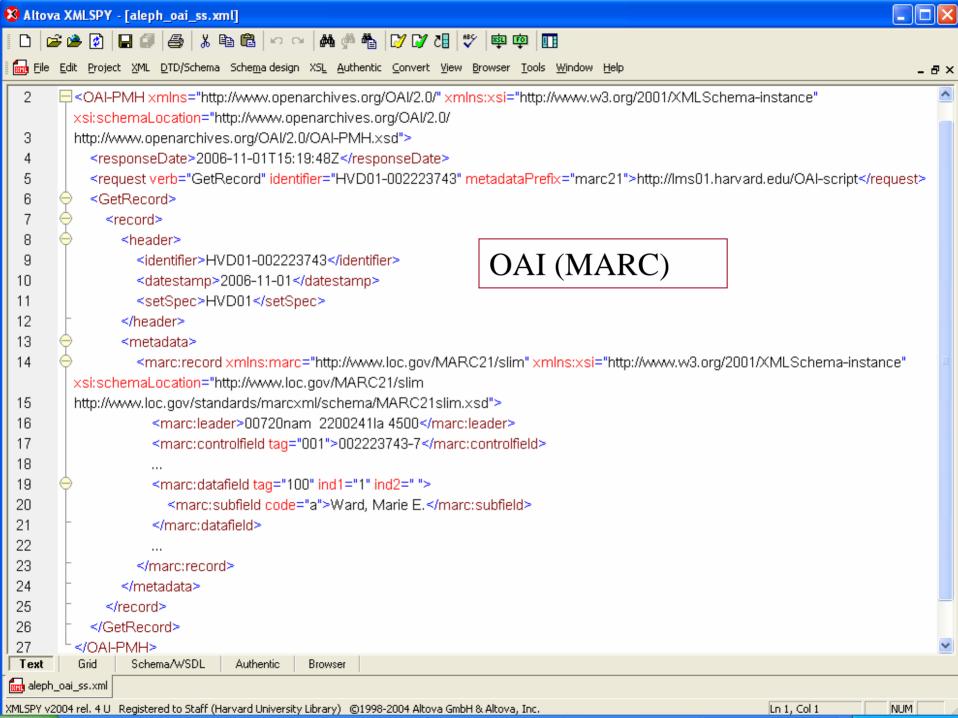
## Harvesting: OAI-PMH

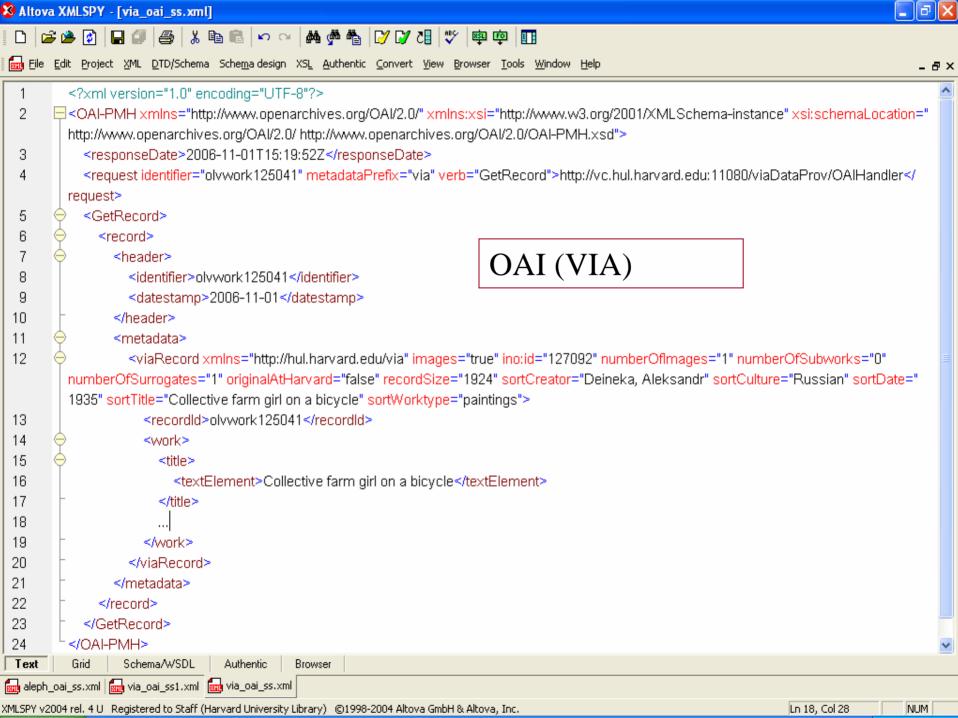
 Harvester uses GetRecord verb verb=GetRecord&identifier=HVD01-002223743& metadataPrefix=marc21

 HOLLIS: Data Provider from ExLibris

VIA: Custom Data Provider

HGL: Custom Data Provider







## Harvesting Challenges

- Aleph OAI provider lacks holdings info
  - Add holdings fields using XServer



## Harvesting Challenges

- Local subjects in MARC records
- 600/650 -> MODS:subject

690 -> VC:subject

```
<datafield tag="690" ind1="" ind2="9">
        <subfield code="a">
            Conduct of life; Education; Living conditions; Dress; Health; Recreation.
        </subfield>
        </datafield>
```

690 Subjects parsed; Loaded into VC if Match found



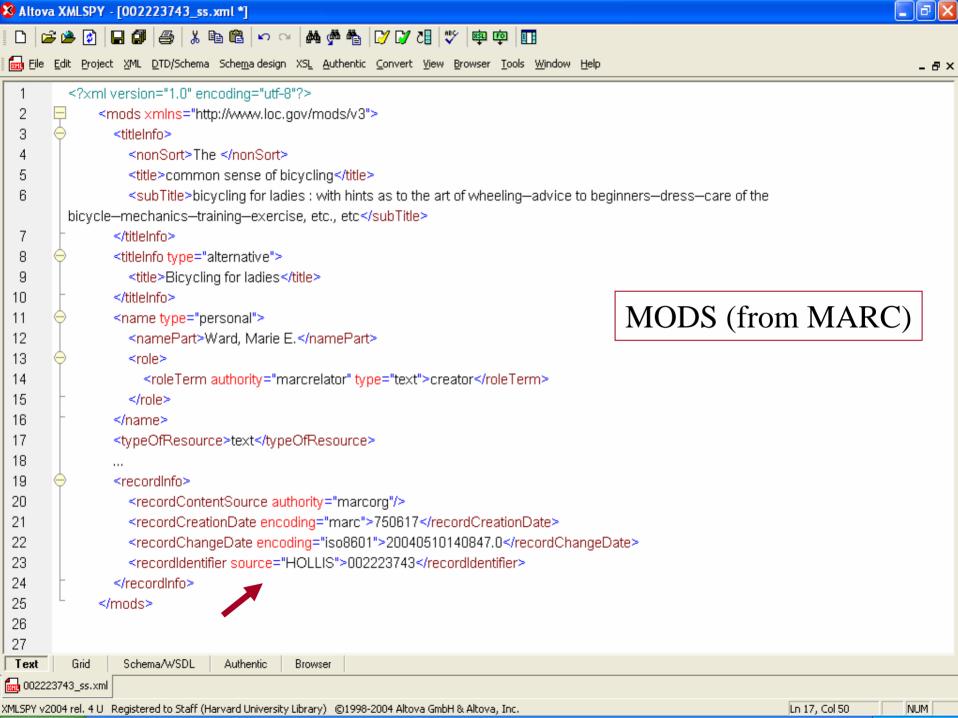
## Harvesting Challenges

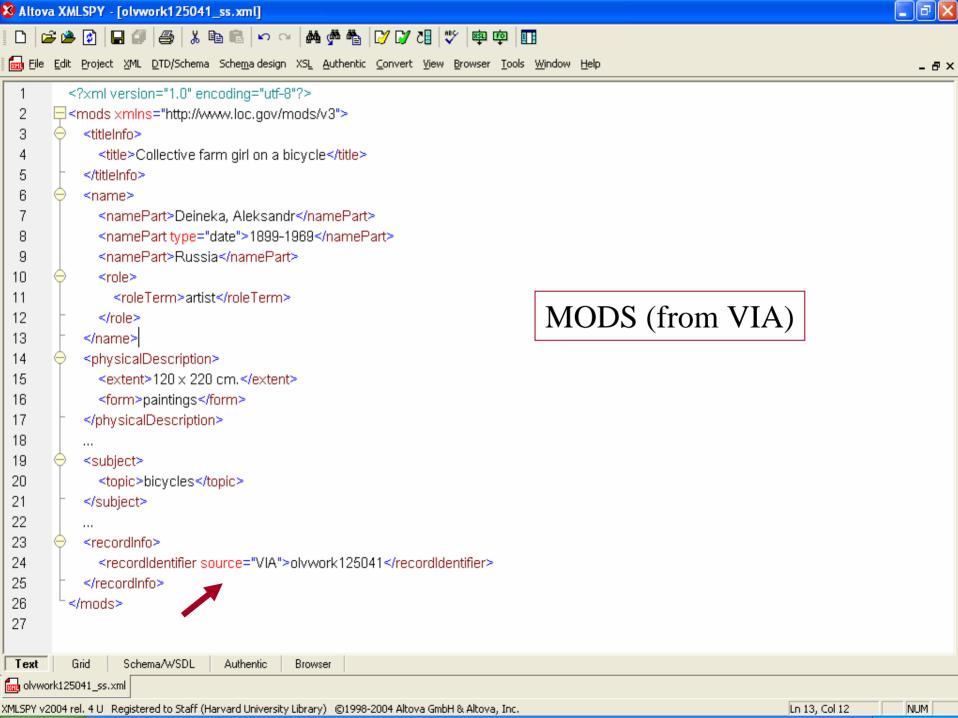
- Seeding and refreshing a collection
  - Aleph report for HOLLIS record id
  - Custom query tool for VIA record id generation (future)



## Metadata Mapping: Crosswalks/XSL

Catalog	XML Input	XSL (crosswalk)	XML Ouptut
HOLLIS	marc21slim	marc21slim2mods.xsl	MODS
		(Lib of Congress)	
VIA	via native	via2mods.xsl	MODS
		(Custom)	
HGL	FGDC	1. fgdc 2 marc	MODS
(Geospatial)	(Federal Geog. Data Comm.)	2. marc21slim2mods.xsl	









## Metadata Mapping

#### MARC and VIA to MODS



MARC21 | 100 1 | a Picasso, Pablo | d 1881-1973.

```
VIA xml <creator>
```

```
<creator>
<nameElement>Picasso, Pablo</nameElement>
<dates>1881-1973</dates>
</creator>
```



## Metadata Mapping

VC converts differing data sources into a standard format with a predefined set of elements.

In HOLLIS	In MODS	In VIA
title (24x)	titleInfo	title
author (1xx/7xx)	name	creator
published (260)	originInfo	production
genre (007/008)	genre	
physical description	physicalDescription/form	
(800)	typeOfResource	workType
subject (6xx)	subject/topic	location/subject
	•	topics



## Metadata Mapping: MODS

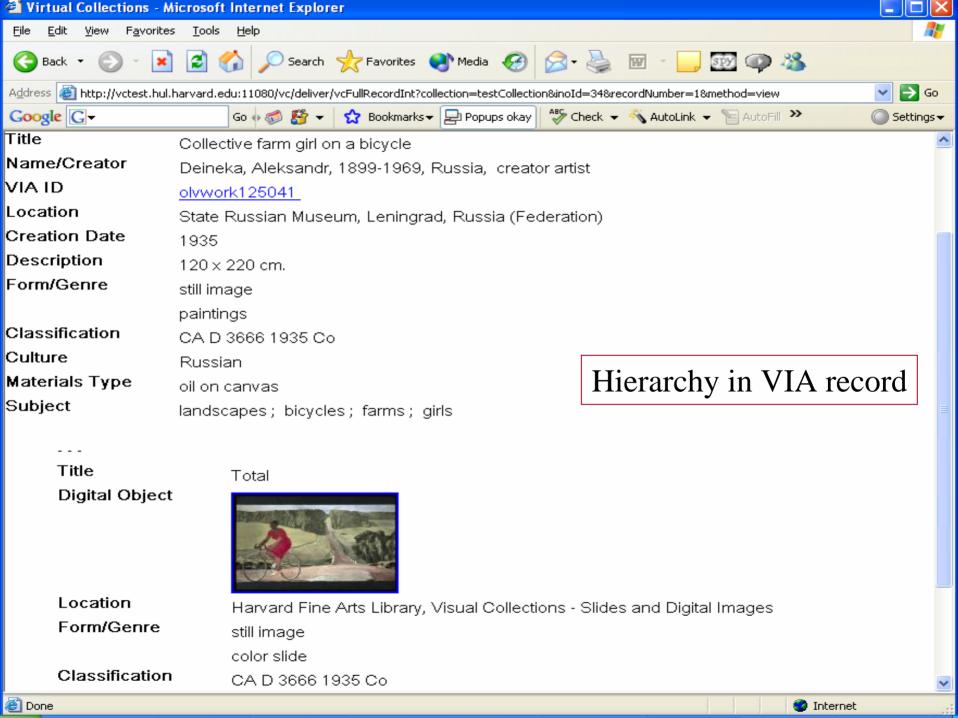
- Why MODS
  - Richer metadata than qualified Dublin Core
  - Clean mapping from both MARC and VIA to MODS
  - Supports hierarchical VIA (and MARC) records

#### VIA

```
<surrogate componentID="olvsurrogate299383">
  <title><textElement>Total</textElement></title>
</surrogate>
```

#### **MODS**

```
<relatedItem type="constituent">
  <titleInfo><title>Total</title></titleInfo>
  <recordInfo><recordIdentifier>olvsurrogate299383
  </recordIdentifier>
  </recordInfo>
</relatedItem>
```



# Metadata Mapping: Schema Definition

### Virtual Collections Schema

One primary schema for all collections

<virtualCollection>

```
<xs:import schemaLocation = "mods.xsd"/>
<xs:import schemaLocation="VC_subject.xsd"/>
<xs:element name = "virtualCollection">
                                             Distinct to
  <xs:complexType>
                                             each collection
   <xs:sequence>
     <xs:element name="modsGroup" ref="MODS:mods" />
     <xs:element name="vcSubj" ref="VC:subject" .../>
     <xs:element name="admSection" ref="admin" />
   </xs:sequence>
  </xs:complexType>
```

Common to

all collections

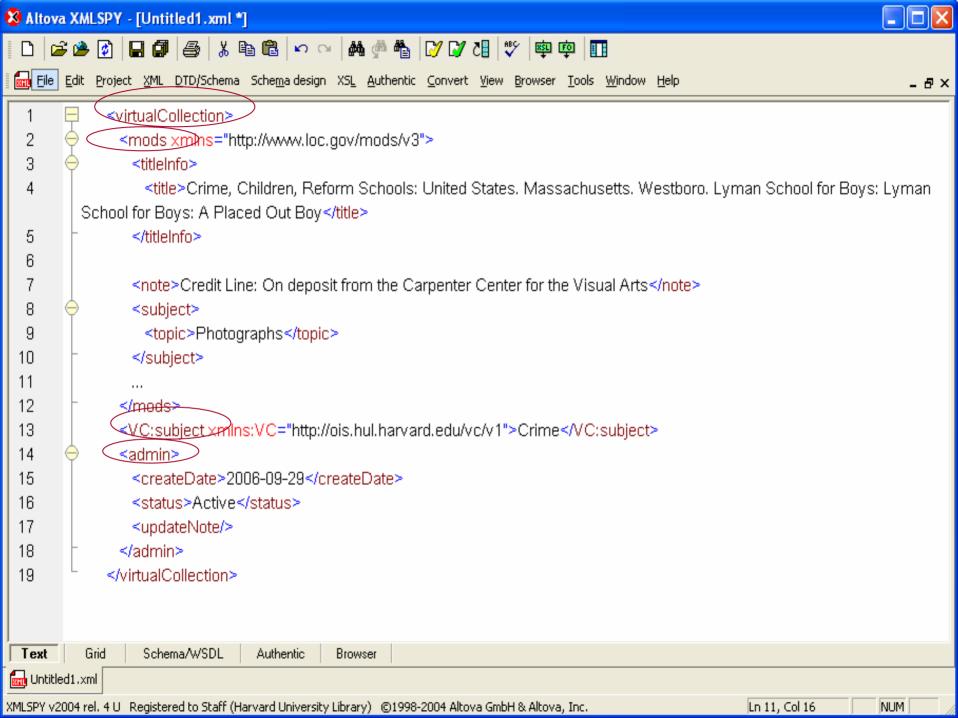


# Metadata Mapping: Schema Definition

</xs:element>

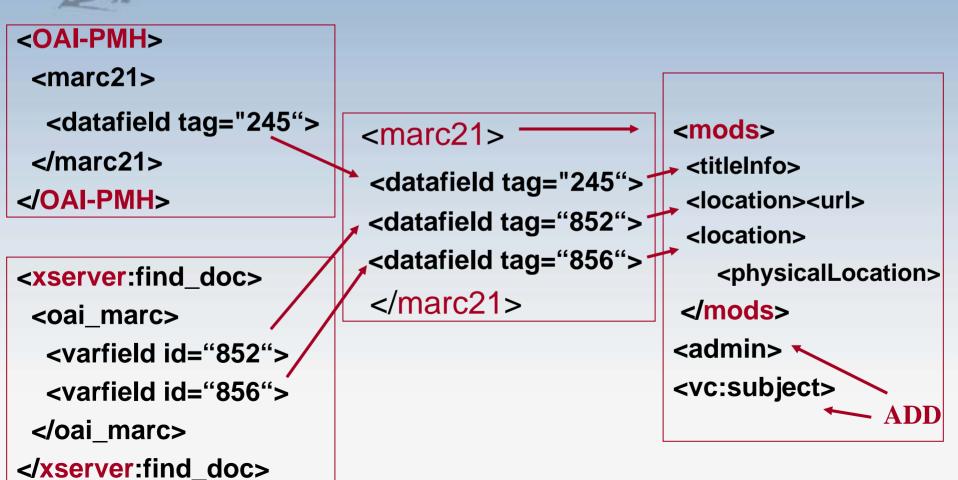
Local Subject schema for each collection

```
Controlled list of Local Subjects
```





- Multiple transforms
  - Original form MARC or MODS wrapped in OAI elements
  - Final XML record form is MODS + ADMIN + VC Subjects





## Storage of Metadata

- Tamino native XML database
- Schema(s) defined within Tamino
- XQuery (W3C standard) used to query database for results
- Challenges
  - Native XML DBs not as mature as relational
    - Tamino just now catching up with full implementation of XQuery
  - Scaling as number and size of collections grow



### User Interface and Customization

- Challenge: provide an out-of-the-box option and customizable option for collections
  - Different needs for different collections
- Solution: Standalone and Integrated
  - Default XSL and CSS templates for standalone
  - Override default templates with custom XSL and/or CSS for integrated collections



XSL used to render XML to HTML

CSS used to render "look and feel"

(true of Standalone as well as Integrated)

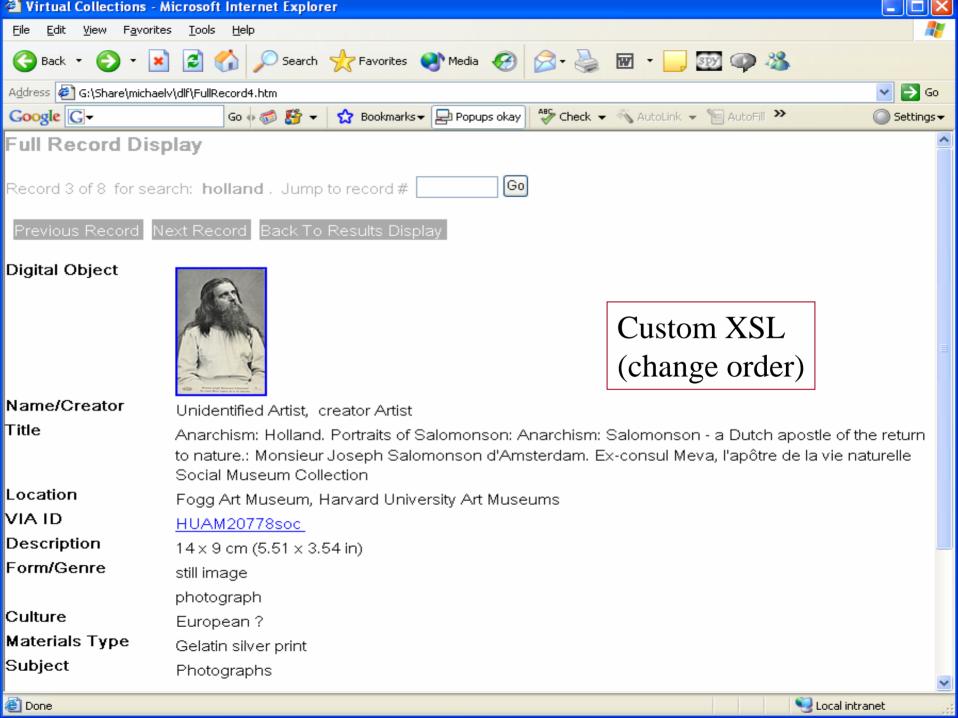
```
<div style="label">
<div style="field">
```



## User Interface: Stylesheets

- Custom XSL (and CSS) passed as url parameters to overwrite default templates
- XSL
- &baseUrl=http://defaultUrl&resultSetXsl=defaultRS.xsl
- &baseUrl=http://customUrl&resultSetXsl=customRS.xsl
- CSS
- &baseUrl=http://customUrl&css=custom.css



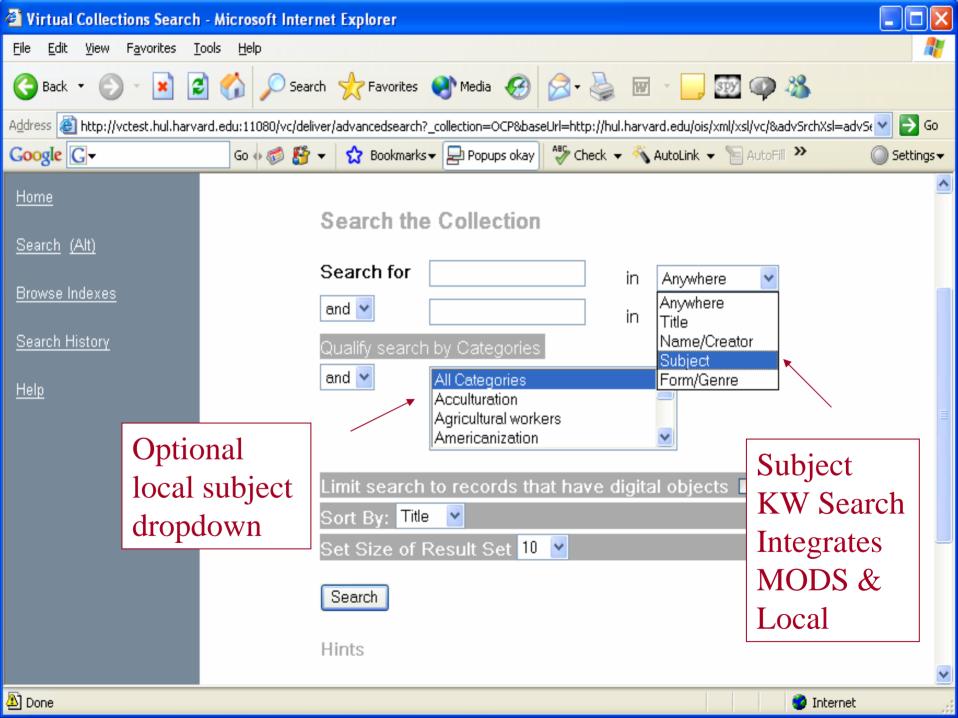


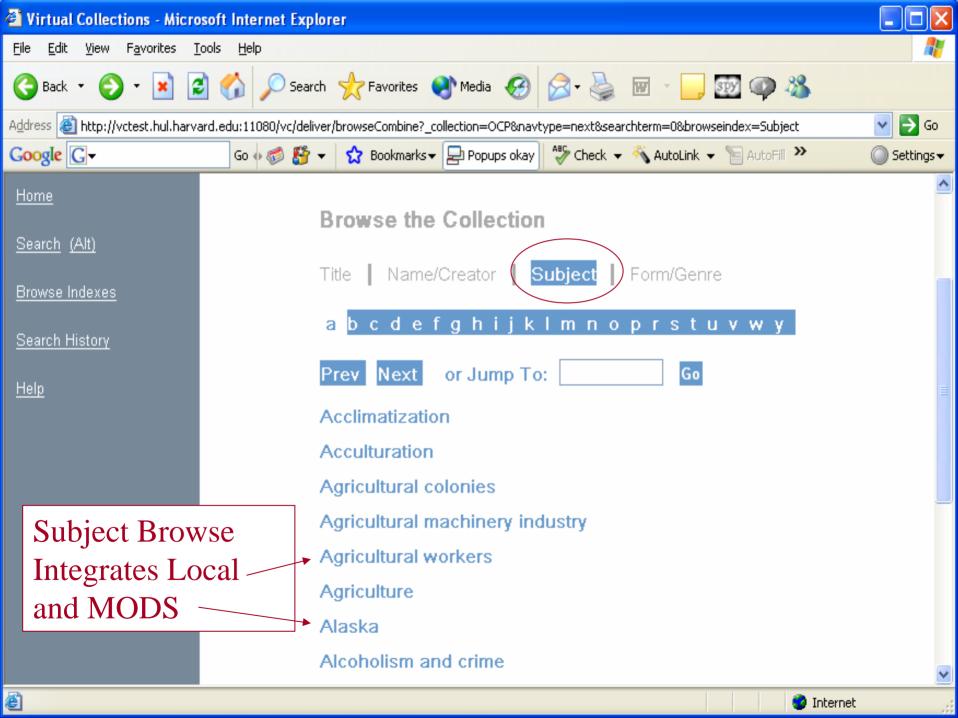




## User Interface: Local Subjects

- Challenge: how to separate/integrate Local and MODS subjects
  - Hardest issue to reach concensus on
- Solution
  - Local subjects optional
  - Local and MODS subjects integrated for KW search as well as browse
  - Optional local subject dropdown on search screen
  - MODS and Local subjects separated in Full Record display







## User Interface: Mapping

Challenge: consensus on fields and labeling

In HOLLIS	Label in VC	In VIA
Title (24x)	Title	Title
Author (1xx/7xx)	Name/Creator	Creator
Published (260)	Publisher	Production
	Place of Origin	
Genre Physical Description	Form/Genre	Work Type



## VC Future Developments

- OAI Data Provider for VCs (this year)
- Portfolio function
- Ability to harvest from other Harvard catalogs
- Ability to search multiple virtual collections



## Questions?