

ParkMedia

A media database for Acadia National Park

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Problem Statement

Opportunity

Acadia National Park's media collection contains thousands of slides and digital images, hundreds of videocassettes and dozens of laser disks and DVDs. Each shows unique, useful and often unseen views of the park. Ideally, any interpretive park ranger could retrieve works from the collection to edit into videos, print in pamphlets, or include in interpretive programs.

Unfortunately, park rangers rarely use the collection because it is inconveniently located and hard to search. Rangers at the park's visitor center must drive 30 minutes to park headquarters to access the slides. When they arrive, there is no list of media by location or subject to aid their search.

Previous Solutions

The park's Visual Information Specialist attempted to solve these problems by digitizing and organizing these resources in a Microsoft Access Database. Unfortunately, park staff never widely used this database because:

- it could not store information about media other than slides (e.g. digital photographs, videos, etc.)
- the "search" tool was rarely helpful because photos lacked the correct meta-data
- no one but the Visual Information Specialist could add photos to the database

Project Description & Use Cases

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