Oriental Institute
Integrated Database Project

Migrating to the EMu Platform: Expectations and Results

17 May 2013

Presentation for Kelsey Museum and the University of Michigan

Introduction

Objectives

- ➢ Migrate data from legacy systems to a more robust and sustainable software environment
- ➢ Make data accessible to scholarly and public audiences
- ➢ Integrate data between institutional departments in unprecedented ways
- ➢ Expand the scope and utility of the data and data functionality with core users in mind including staff, scholars, and public
- ➢ Explore possibilities for further integration between sister institutions and projects

Introduction
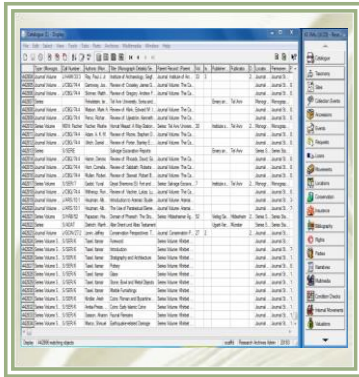
- ➢ **Database and Accessibility**
  - ➢ Internal: KE EMu Client Software
    - ➢ Field Museum, Cairo Museum, Smithsonian, University of Pennsylvania, *inter alia*

  - ➢ Public: Browser Based Public Interface
    - ➢ Developed by University of Chicago Web Services
    - ➢ Data exported from EMu and managed separately for faster dynamic searching, sorting, and browsing

How Long Does It Take: History of the Project

2005-2010

Determine Project Scope and Course

Choose Vendor

Customize Client Software

2010-2012

Phase I: Data Migration

Research Archives (450,000 Records)

Museum Registration (230,000 Records)

2012-2014

Data Cleanup

Data Integration

2012-2015

Phase II-IV: Migration of Further Data Silos

Conservation, Photos Database, CAMEL, Museum Archives

Getting What You Want: Customizing EMu

- Principles of a Successful EMu Installation
    1. Vision – Know What You Want and Why
    2. Preparation and Planning – Produce Your Ideas on Paper
    3. Negotiation – Listening with Confidence

- Oriental Institute EMu Installation
    1. University of Pennsylvania Template
    2. Complete customization for integration with Research Archives

Getting What You Want: Customizing EMu

JOURNAL ————▷ JOURNAL VOLUME ————▷ JOURNAL ARTICLE

SERIES ————▷ SERIES VOLUME ————▷ SERIES ARTICLE

MONOGRAPH VOLUME ————▷ CHAPTER

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Making the Move: Preparing for Migration

- Migrating Data into EMu: There is **<u>NO</u>** Magic Cure
    1. EMu Data is Only as "Clean" as its Source
    2. Limited Amount of Data Manipulation during Migration
    3. EMu Tools in Place for More Advanced Clean Up
    4. Err on the Side of Innovation

- Migrating Data into EMu: Practice Makes Perfect
    1. Data Loads: At Least 3
    2. Review Process

Doing the Work: Day to Day Use of Emu

- Technology Issues
  1. Servers

     2 servers will be needed, one for test environment and one for live environment

     2 servers will be needed if the web version is hosted separately (one for web test environment, one for live web environment)

  2. Licenses

     Licenses required for both test and live environment for individual users logged onto EMu

  3. Security

     Plan and set up procedures and protocols for working with shared departmental records
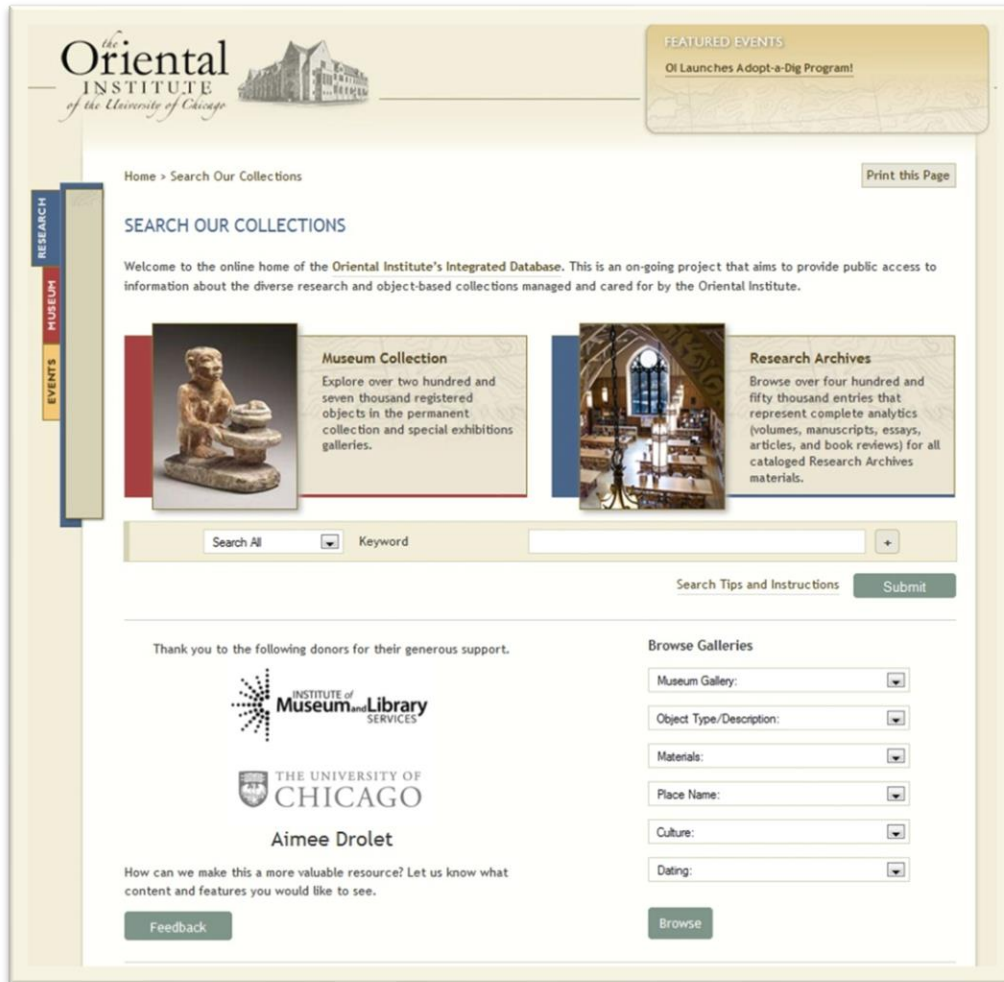
     !PLAN ON HAVING DEDICATED EMu IT PERSONNEL!

Bringing in the Public: EMu on the Web

- IMu (Internet Museum)
  - Served from EMu server
  - Additional licenses to handle public web traffic
  - Lower initial costs vs. Performance/Security/Flexibility Issues
  - Potential Downtime for users

- Independent Web Development
  - Export EMu data and import into 3rd party system (Solr)
  - Only relevant data exported = secure and fast
  - Servers kept separate and secure from EMu system
  - Potential for write/edit access into EMu through Web interface

Bringing in the Public: EMu on the Web

- Integrated Searching
- Build custom searches across multiple data silos
- Browse collections based on preselected criteria

Summary

➢ Overall: EMu is a flexible product that has given us room for wide-ranging development in digital tools

➢ Sound preparation and planning are essential to the delivery of a product that you can live with for decades

➢ Expect delays and repetition during the design and migration process

➢ Take KE engineer advice seriously, but use and trust the expertise of your staff

➢ Projects of this size and scope require ongoing institutional support for the foreseeable future and internal cooperation to get maximized benefits