

Consortium Projects : At Home And Abroad

French Administration's A/V Collections Online :
a prototype project

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A story ...

- ... about a very good idea ...
- ... handled in a bizarre way ...
- ... that revealed some Web hazards ...
- ... but still has great expectations !

A Very Good Idea ...

Prime Minister Jospin Information Office decided France should open a www.France.com working group called Groupe 8 was formed with communication officers of the major Departments sk : to organize the online display of the audio-visual collections of Departments

Aims of the Project

To provide access for specialized researchers and for general public to part or all of the AV collections of the Departments willing to participate

Groupe 8 Members

- Department of State
- Department of Defense
- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Justice
- Department of the Treasury
- Department of Labor
- Department of the Interior

- Department of Education not a member

Type of Collections

- Diverse in medium (film, AV, stills), format, quantity and content generally no documentation (Access, Excel, Westheque)

Handled In A Bizarre Way ...

- From the start Groupe 8 was dealing with a major issue : no idea of what was at stake

Handled In A Bizarre Way ...

Because of main concerns : can we work together and what money do we have to put in the project ...First question was : should we put together ways and means or should we play separate games ?n

Handled In A Bizarre Way ...

- First study led by a consulting agency of the State Department joint venture : quite a challenge !ough estimate of the importance of collections

Handled In A Bizarre Way ...

- Attempt to bring some knowledge and consideration on AV collection management by Department of Defense (ECPA) Leading Department of State not concerned by archival matters

Compilation of Collections

- Approx
 - 17,000 hours of Film
 - 24,000 hours of Video
 - 7,000,000 Stills
- Annual production estimate :
 - 100 hours of Film
 - 1,400 hours of Video
 - 80,000 Stills

Cost of Proposed Solution

- Project to be divided in 5 phases for documentation, cataloguing, digitalization, web site and access management estimate of total investment cost : 9,150,000 euros

Further Steps

- Results of first study to be reconsidered
- Second study : are there similar offers on the web ? At the time of study (2001), no.econd study revealed some Web hazards ...

The Web, Such A Wonderful World!

... for an average user ...

First, where to go and find the answer
you want ? Search is not that easy

Still Great Expectations

- Project is currently on stand-by with change of government Time allowed will benefit the project

Still Great Expectations

Better understanding of technical issues both on collections management and on Web access (user interface, format of documents, streaming or download solutions, etc)

Still Great Expectations

- It appeared that in fact most Departments wanted to keep the lead on their collections and their management instead of going on a joint venture

First Conclusions

- Use the Web to create a showroom for France consisting of content provided by each member department of Groupe 8ost departments wish to be able to provide and maintain their own content with minimal need for programming resources

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