Restructuring & Reimagining Digital Collections

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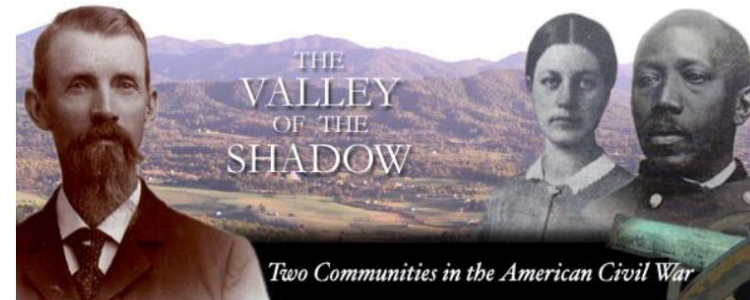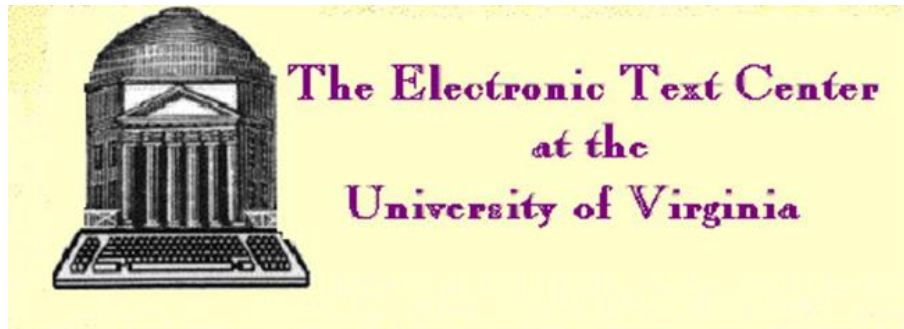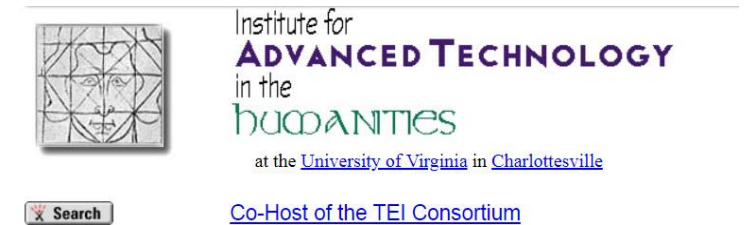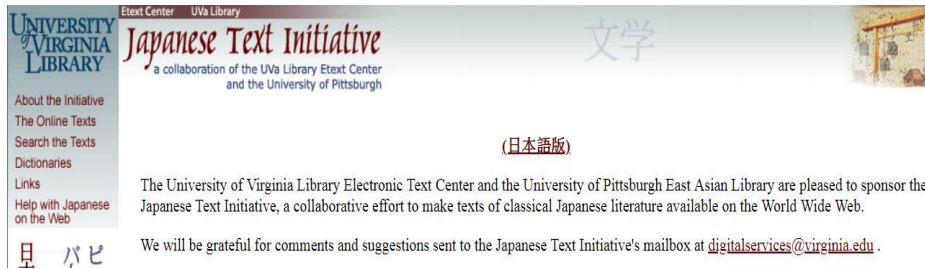
University of Virginia Library

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Overview

- Digital collection legacy
- Drivers for Change
- Building a new foundation
- Implementation
- Iteration

Digital Collections @ UVa:The Way We Were

Digital Collections @ UVa: Behind the Curtain

Path to change: Assemble a Team

- Charge: Articulate and document consistent and replicable workflows designed to ingest digital content.

- Include expertise from all aspects of digital projects workflows

- Weekly meetings with highly structured discussion format

Path to Change: Define Principles

- Reduce customization and increase standardization

- Establish a sustainable workflow and resource it appropriately

- Commit to the establishment, communication, and maintenance of a unified and stable prioritization process.

- Utilize more formalized documentation processes and tools

Enacting Change: Recommendations

- Establish a cross-unit Digital Collections Team

- Dedicate at least one position to coordination of digital workflows

- Recommended workflows in need of tools/systems for document storage, communication and tracking

- Proposed a workflow with comprehensive review and planning in advance of work

Implementation of Workflows

- Translating report recommendations into DCT workflow

- Workflow options and tools

- Hard decisions about projects

- Lessons Learned/Next Steps

From Report to Workflow

- Values of Transparency
    - visibility of projects from proposal through completion
    - employ known tool(s) and approaches for awareness and tracking (Jira, PM)
- Values of Accountability
    - Define expert areas (DCT members)
    - Experts get and complete individual task assignments (workflow tasks)

The Tool is not the Project

- Project management best practices are tool agnostic
  - Project values and goals inform process and tool choices
  - Tool function follows team dynamic (tools don't drive process)
- Integration with existing workflows influences choices
  - Digital Content Management/User Experience/Discovery Layer and ILS already used Jira
  - Consensus, accountability, transparency, documentation need consistent approaches, no matter what tool is chosen

Workflow: Overview
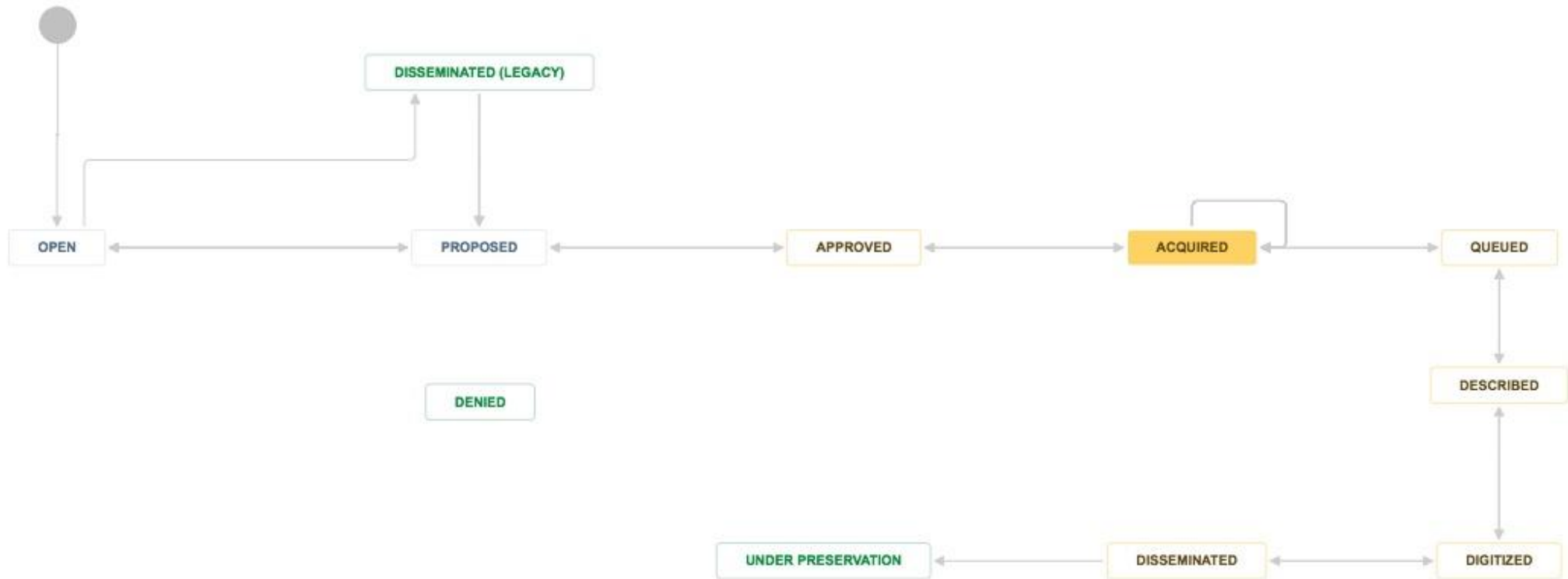
Workflow: Project Description

Digital Collections Projects / DCP-131
Oral Histories from Race in Place

Edit | Comment | Assign | More ∨ | Propose

∨ Details

Type: ▣ Project
Priority: ⚐ Major
Labels: None ✏

Status: **OPEN** (View Workflow)
Resolution: Unresolved

Proposal   Pre-Approval Evaluations

Description/Metadata: ∨ There are Marc records for the collections, but not individual oral histories

Rights: ∨ I believe UVA owns the rights.

Scope: ∨ Three Groups: Esmont (11 oral histories), From Porch Swings to Patios (16 oral histories), Ridge Street (10 oral histories)
37 total oral histories.

Access: ∨ Avalon.

∨ Description

There are a number of digitized oral histories on the Race and Place website that come from our collections. Can we offer digital access to these through the library? Currently, there is no way to know from our catalog that digitized versions exist.
http://www2.vcdh.virginia.edu/afam/raceandplace/oralhistory_main.html

Workflow: Expert Task Assignment

Workflow: Expert Assignments

Workflow: Assignment Detail

Lesson Learned

- Queueing and prioritizing of accepted projects (work we are now doing)
- Organizational priorities sometimes take precedence
- Expert review and accountability makes it easier to see what factors float or sink a particular project (IP, content, etc)
- Resources need responsible stewardship

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Hosted by ALCTS, Association for Library Collections and Technical Services.