The Long and Winding Migration:

What We Learned at the Ohio Historical Society

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Manager, Cataloging and Registrar’s Office
Ohio Historical Society
The Situation: 1998 - 2012

- Single integrated library system: Horizon from SirsiDynix
- Library, archives and museum records in MARC format
- **Very** limited referral and accessioning functionality
- **Very** limited image capability
New System July 2012: Cuadra STAR

- STAR system from Cuadra Associates, part of Lucidea Group
- Single system with separate modules for library, archives, museum
- Referral and accessioning functionality for archives and museums
- Image capability for museum and archives collections
Online Collections Catalog

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MANUSCRIPTS, AUDIO/VISUAL, AND STATE ARCHIVES
This database includes large portions of our State Archives, manuscript, and photograph collections, as well as additional archival materials.

MUSEUM COLLECTIONS
This database features over 140,000 records from our archaeology, history, and natural history collections. More than 20,000 records include images.
1. **Booklet.**
   - **Date:** 2003
   - **Provenance:** The Ohio Bicentennial Commission donated this booklet in 2000.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Shelving</th>
<th>Call#</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHS Museum</td>
<td>Historical Communication Artifacts</td>
<td>H 82241</td>
<td>At desk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **Quilt.**
   - **Date:** 2003
   - **Provenance:** Saw What neighborhood group created this quilt to be used at the Grant Birthplace State Memorial. Brad Logan received the quilt for the Ohio Historical Society at the Ohio Bicentennial celebrations at Point Pleasant, Ohio, on May 18, 2003.

<table>
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<tr>
<td>CHS Sites</td>
<td>Grant Birthplace Historical Artifacts</td>
<td>H 86070</td>
<td>At desk</td>
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3. **Quilt.**
   - **Date:** 2003

<table>
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<td>CHS Sites</td>
<td>Grant Birthplace Historical Artifacts</td>
<td>H 80069</td>
<td>At desk</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

4. **Quilt : Friendly Neighbors Club Quilt.**
   - **Date:** 1938

<table>
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<td>CHS Museum</td>
<td>Historical Furnishings</td>
<td>H 87005</td>
<td>At desk</td>
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</table>

5. **Quilt : Wall Hanging.**
   - **Date:** 2003

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<th>Status</th>
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<td>CHS Museum</td>
<td>Historical Communication Artifacts</td>
<td>H 87600</td>
<td>At desk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Catalog Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
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<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Quilt, Borkowski, Mary, 1916- (maker)</td>
<td>1962</td>
<td>H 6565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Hanging, Ide, Lois K. 1920- (maker)</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>H 86240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Quilt, Patty, Betty K. (maker)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>H 87600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Quilt, Goodrich, Irene Phyllis Surratt, 1927- (maker); Wilhoit, Alice. (designer)</td>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>H 92566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Quilt</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>H 93624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Pin, Lapel</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>H 96328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>T-Shirt, Jerzees Activewear. (manufacturer)</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>H 96330</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Migration Logistics: Library

- Bibliographic records: MARC -> MARC
- About 120,000 MARC bib records
- Item records: embedded in MARC bib records
- About 160,000 item records
- Serials holdings data: SQL -> Excel -> Cuadra
- About 8,000 serials holdings records plus holdings
Migration Logistics: Archives

- “Bibliographic” records: MARC -> Cuadra format
- About 21,000 MARC bib records
- Converted to Cuadra format by vendor
- From flat record structure to hierarchical structure
Migration Logistics: Museum

- “Bibliographic” records first step: SQL -> Access
- First step done in-house
- Next step: Access -> Excel -> Cuadra format
- Second step finished by vendor
- About 140,000 MARC bib records: item and collection level records
- Museum images: tiff -> jpg
- About 27,000 images
Major Takeaways

- Do thorough benchmarking
- Start talking to people early to get buy in
- Think about opportunities
- It's taking longer than I thought it would
Value of Thorough Benchmarking

- What are others institutions doing?
- Get many product demos
- Talk to colleagues at other institutions
- Time spent at this stage was extremely valuable
Getting Buy-In Early

- Talk to staff/stakeholders early and often
- What do they want?
- What can a new system actually give them?
- Be as honest as possible
- You can’t please everyone, but time heals all wounds
Looking for Opportunities

- Is there anything you can do with your content or data while it’s moving?
- We did a lot of cleanup: improving controlled terms, especially museum collections
- Materials, techniques:
  - cast iron; iron, cast; cotton; cotton (textile)
- Location codes:
  - AD0206: Adena, Floor 02, Room 06
  - AS118 Shelf08 Box45: Armstrong, Room 118, Shelf 08, Box 45
Migration Takes Time

- It’s taking longer than I thought it would
- Especially true if your migration project has many elements
- Allow plenty of time for testing and trouble-shooting
- Sometimes we needed to understand what happened in Step 1 before moving to Step 2
- Next steps
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