



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

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Steve Murray
DIRECTOR

Date: Proposal of March 28, 2013, revised April 8, 2013
To: NAAL Executive Committee
From: Steve Murray, ADAH
RE: CONTENTdm Shared Server operated by NAAL

The Alabama Department of Archives and History offers the following proposal for consideration by the NAAL Executive Committee and the members of the NAAL Consortium.

AlabamaMosaic Project Description (from a memo created by Midge Coates on March 4):

This proposal addresses three key components of the Alabama Mosaic project. These components are separate but work together.

1. The Web site - provides information about the project, lists and links to all the participating collections, and provides the public interface for the Search Index. Auburn personnel created the Web site and maintain it on an Auburn server. It does not reside on the shared server.
2. The Search Index - is a searchable database containing metadata from digital objects in over 200 collections owned by participating repositories (15 collections reside on the shared server and the others collections are intellectually brought together through the indexing software and presented through the web site. The current indexing software is VuFind which replaces the old MSS software (OCLC no longer sells or supports this). Auburn personnel created the VuFind index using open source software, and Midge does the metadata harvesting for each individual collection. This function does not operate from the Shared Server but from an Auburn server.
3. The Shared Server - used to house digital collections from institutions around Alabama that do not operate their own content management software. The Shared Server currently contains 15 collections. Collection owners download the CONTENTdm Project Client software to their own workstations and use it to create collection items, which are then uploaded to the Shared Server using SecureFTP. The collections on the Shared Server are still using CONTENTdm Version 5.4.

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Proposal:

The ADAH offers to assume responsibility for item 3 listed above - hosting collections currently residing on the Shared Server -- and making the service available to additional institutions statewide. This would involve assuming responsibility for the operation and maintenance of a CONTENTdm space that provides a place for any Alabama entity with a digital collection to mount their material. Activities would still be considered a NAAL project. Costs of the server and CONTENTdm license will be borne by the ADAH. If at any time the state budget would result in dramatic cuts in the ADAH budget, the ADAH will notify NAAL and each participating institution of any proposed changes in the availability and/or type of hosted AlabamaMosaic services. Should it become necessary to discontinue service, each participant in the shared server and NAAL will be given at least six months' notice.

Rationale for Proposal:

The ADAH works closely with local governments, historical societies, libraries, and other entities that gather, preserve, and make accessible local historical records, artifacts, photographs, and other materials. Visits to local communities are part of the regular activities of the ADAH's local-records staff. Incorporating promotion of AlabamaMosaic and CONTENTdm project-client training into current services that we offer on the care, handling, and disposition of these materials provides ADAH with another avenue for meeting the needs of our constituents, many of whom are looking for a way to bring their content to the Web. Providing hosting services and technical support for small partnering institutions is a natural extension of the assistance services we are already providing.

If the proposal is approved, the ADAH would assume working with local clients, ensuring uploaded material has appropriate metadata and managing this one part of the three-part AlabamaMosaic Project. As a NAAL participant, ADAH would promote the effort as an ADAH/NAAL activity and ensure that we meet all Open Archives Initiative (OAI) and other requirements to ensure continued presentation of AlabamaMosaic through the NAAL AlabamaMosaic web site, hosted at Auburn University, and presentation of AlabamaMosaic search results through Auburn's VuFind indexing tool.

This proposal does not advocate modification to the existing arrangements for the Mosaic Web site or Search Index. It affects only the portion of the project that works with Alabama repositories lacking their own content management systems or web presentation systems.

Steps Taken to Date:

1. After indicating an interest in pursuing this course at the November meeting of the NAAL board, the ADAH continued conversation with NAAL director Ron Leonard in January and February 2013. These conversations took greater urgency in early March, when sharp increases to uploads on the Shared Server pushed the content close to the 10,000-item limit on the CONTENTdm license for that server.

2. In discussion with Ron and Auburn University Libraries, the ADAH offered to transfer two collections from the Shared Server to an ADAH server to test functionality and options for devising an intellectual division between ADAH collection and partner collections. These transfers took place on March XX and were successful.
3. During a March 19 conference call to review status and snags, the ADAH confirmed its ability to take additional Shared Server collections as needed.

Proposed Next Steps:

1. Consideration and approval of ADAH proposal by NAAL Executive Committee.
2. Develop a communication to Mosaic partners from NAAL, AU, ADAH, and APLS providing a report on the transition and ongoing roles of NAAL, AU and ADAH. This document could spell out options for participation by current and future Mosaic partners. These may need further discussion, but we understand them to be as follows, each of which is compatible with AU's intent to continue hosting the web site and support VuFind:
 - a. Hosting through their own server and license
 - b. Hosting provided by ADAH at no cost for existing Shared Server partners and additional prospective partners (Some size limit will likely need to be defined, but it would be well beyond anything currently active or envisioned.)
 - c. OCLC-hosted collections with a fee
 - d. OCLC-hosted small collections with no fee, available to NAAL and APLS members who subscribe to FirstSearch (We propose coordination with APLS on communicating this option to public libraries)
 - e. Associating through a separate arrangement with a hosting partner that can provide a server and license
3. Assuming a favorable review by the NAAL Executive Committee, AU and the ADAH will complete the transfer of Shared Server collections from AU to ADAH.
4. During the ADPNet/Mosaic Annual Users Meeting on afternoon of April 16, review changes and allow users time for questions
5. Auburn University and ADAH will prepare a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) regarding the implementation, coordination, and functioning of the three components of AlabamaMosaic. The MOA will be shared with NAAL members and AlabamaMosaic participants.

It seems likely that the small institutions will have some questions about their options. If they need more time to explore ADAH vs FirstSearch, etc., we can provide temporary hosting until a final decision is made.

We offer this proposal in a spirit of continued cooperation and with deep gratitude for all that Auburn University has done to sustain and advance Alabama Mosaic since its inception. Please contact Tracey Berezansky or Steve Murray if you have any questions.