

2003

So You Want to Build a Digital Library?

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Digital Library Overview

Four major projects with unique features and history:

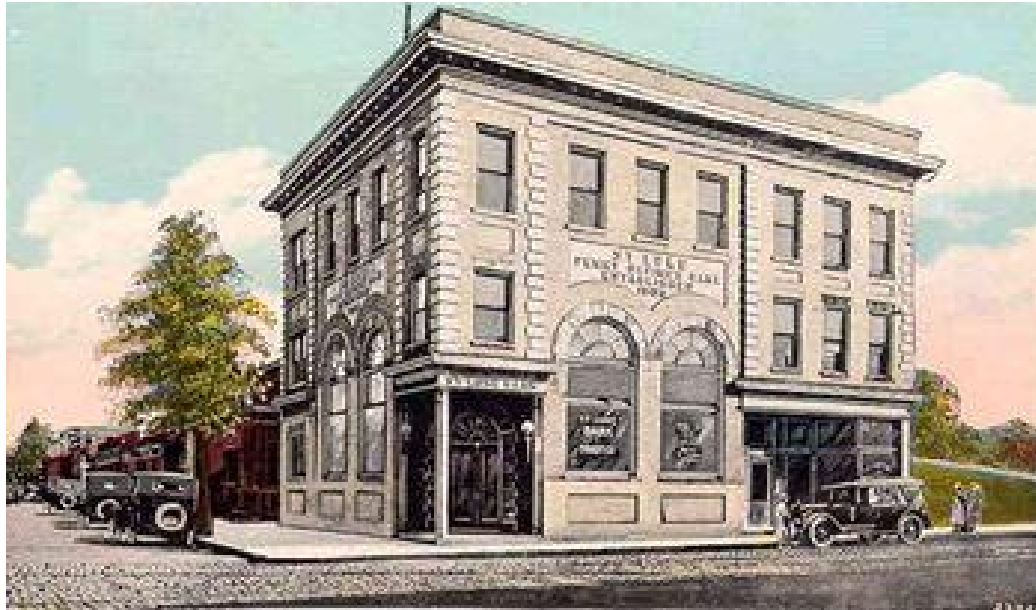
- Digitizing local collections
 - Another organization's collection
 - A borrowed collection
-
- “So You Want to Build a Digital Library?”. Concurrent Session. Virginia Library Association Annual Conference. November 7, 2003.

The projects employ two different architectures:

- Local Cold Fusion Scripting plus Access
- Commercial Digital Asset Management Software

Dollars versus Hours

Rarely Seen Richmond Postcards



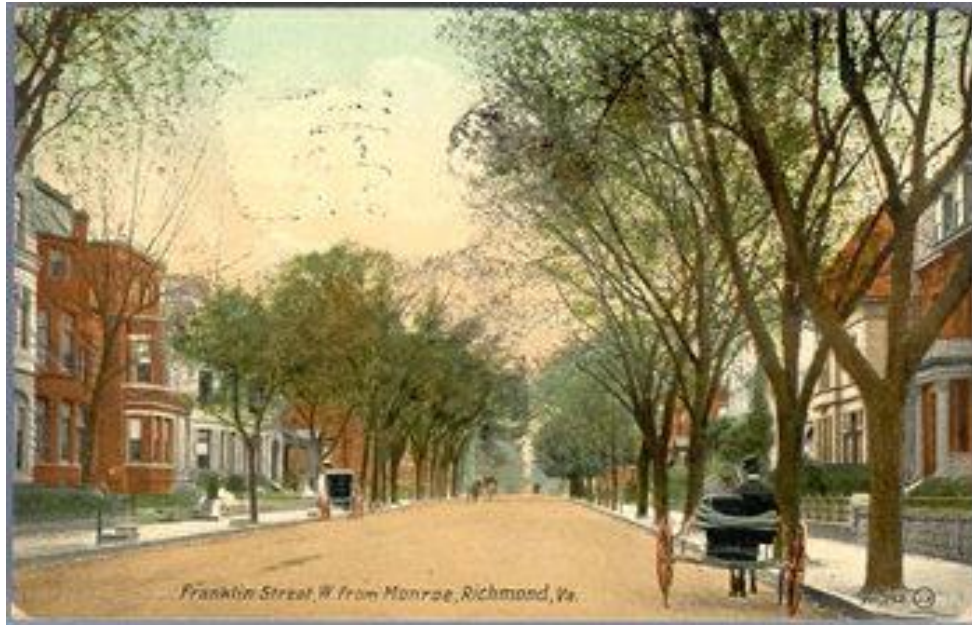
- 1998: Static web pages with 60 cards.
- Spring 1999: Local postcard collector sees the site and lends 3,000 postcards to VCU Libraries.

Rarely Seen Richmond Postcards



- Summer/Fall 1999: 400 cards selected and scanned at high resolutions 300 dpi.
- Winter 1999: Metadata is inputted into Access table.
- Spring 2000: Metadata work continues and Cold Fusion are scripts are developed to search and browse the collection.
- June 8, 2000: Site goes to production
- June 9: Server crashes while Jimmy is in Montana

Rarely Seen Richmond Postcards



- Cards are eventually donated to VCU Libraries, based on success of the project.
- High resolution scans backed up to CD.
- Relationship to VCU fields of study.

Through the Lens of Time



- Summer 1999: 300 images are selected from the Valentine Museum's Cook Collection of Photography.

- Fall/Winter 1999: Images are scanned and metadata is entered.
- Summer 2000: Cold Fusion scripts from postcard are adapted for Cook.
- August 31, 2000: Cook goes to production.

Through the Lens of Time



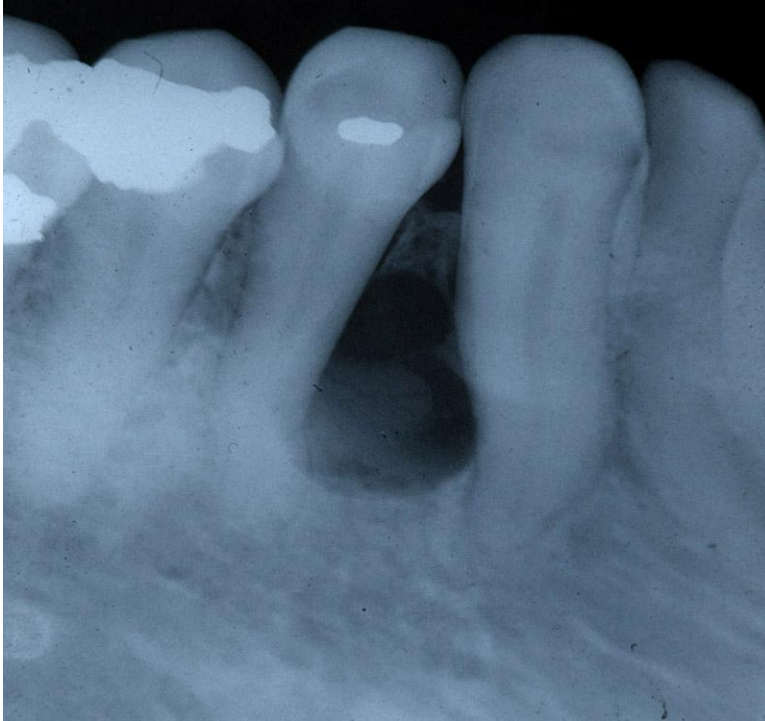
- Copyright statement
- Thumbnails
- Subject browse
- Narrated slide show

Oral Pathology



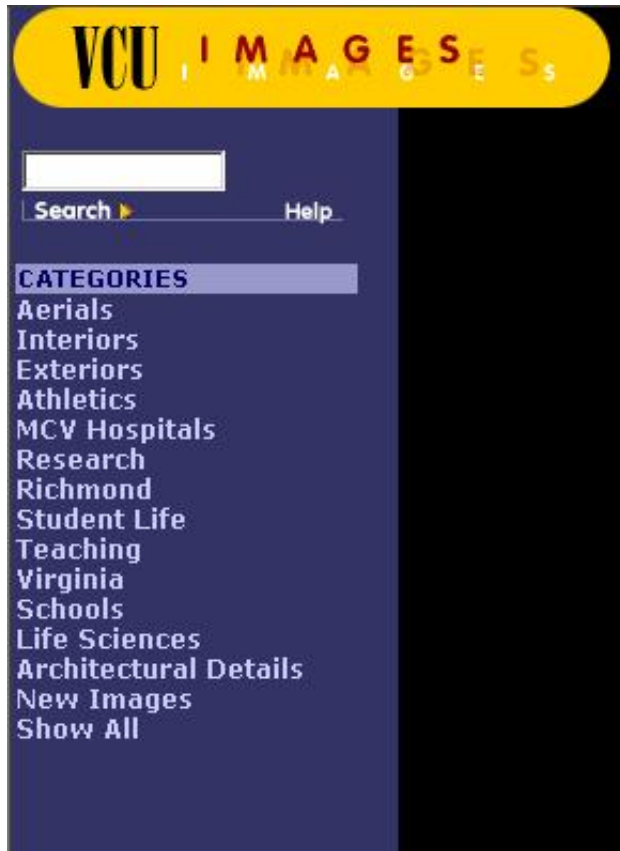
- 57 images of the most common abnormalities of the oral cavity. Originally 35 mm slides.
- Images from faculty member used in conjunction with Dentistry class in Oral Pathology.
- Traditionally, students viewed copies of the slides onsite to prepare for exams.

Oral Pathology



- Jan 2001 - April 2002.
 - Dependent on faculty for metadata expertise.
 - Project designed with teaching in mind.
-
- OCLC CORC contributed parent level record.
 - American Dental Association copyright permission.

VCU Historic Images



- Parallel Development of Searchable Digital Images by VCU Creative Services Imaging Lab
- VCU Images – 2000
- VCU Historic Images – 2001
- Canto Cumulus architecture www.canto.com

VCU Historic Images



- 329 images selected by and from the VCU Libraries Special Collections and Archives.
- Scanned by VCU Libraries.
- Metadata added by VCU Libraries with the Cumulus system.

Scalable for the Future?

- Looking to more robust solutions.
- ContentDM or DSpace perhaps.
- Current metadata in Access easily exported.
- Looking for customization, stability, and open architecture.