

Three Archives

Creating an extensible digital cultural heritage archive

Problem Statement

The UCT Centre for Curating the Archive has digitized artefacts contained in three cultural heritage archives:

SEQUINS, SELF & STRUGGLE

MovieSnaps

Harfield-Village

The information is inaccessible and the artefacts lack rich information.

Problem Solution

A software system was built that provides accessibility to locally stored information and a platform for user interaction and contribution through varying archival services.

Software Development Methodology

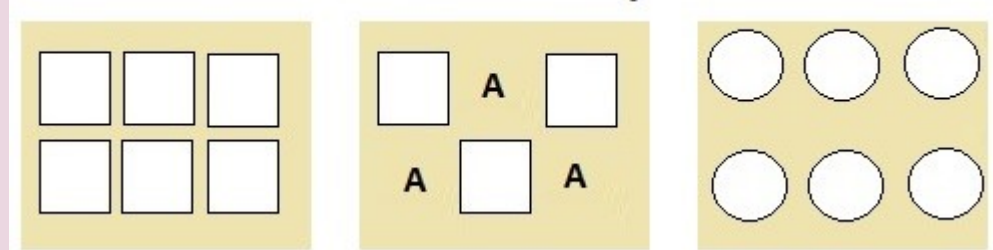
The project was conducted using **Crystal Clear** and **Feature-Driven Development**. Crystal Clear is ideal for small groups and was used to manage the project life cycle following the three factors of Crystal: frequent delivery, close communication and reflective improvement. Feature-Driven Development was used to direct the software development process with an iterative process of: plan by feature, design by feature and build by feature.

Archival Services

Exhibitions

Allows users to view and create exhibitions with text and images.

Select a template



Uploads

Allows administrators to bulk upload multimedia files to the archives.

Select files

Add metadata

Convert to digital object

Add to repository

Downloads

Allows users to save items of interest while browsing then given the opportunity to bulk download

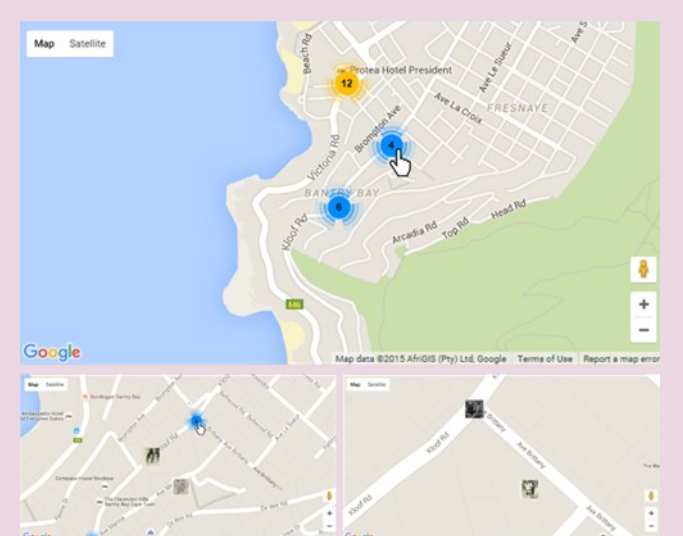


Send Selected Items to My Collection

Download My Collection

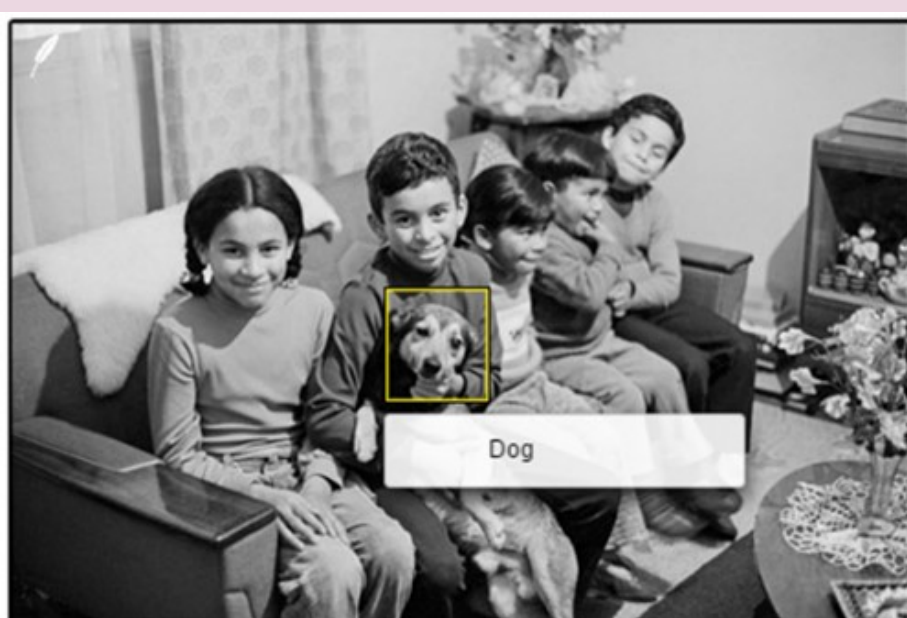
Maps

Provides location based browsing by placing from the archive on a map in the location they were captured



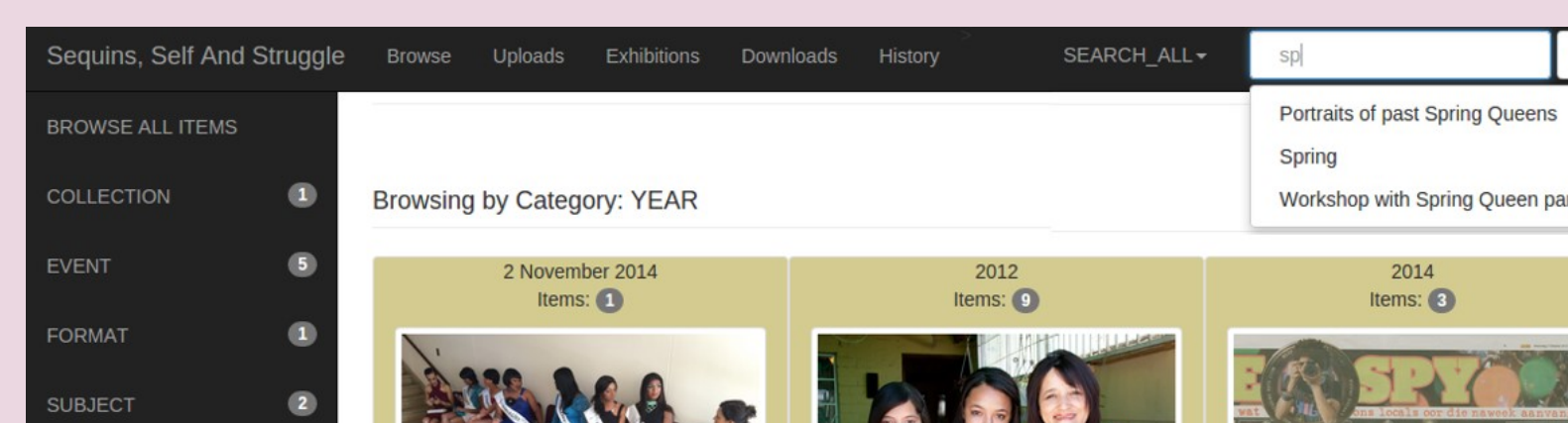
Annotations

Allows user contribution in the form of tagging



Search and Browse

Text-based querying and collection exploration with collections categorised by Dublin Core metadata fields. Achieved using Solr and Gsearch for querying and indexing with multimedia objects managed using the Fedora digital object repository.



History

Provides users with recently updated archival items and a view of trending searches and browses.



Configuration Layer

This layer allows the enabling and disabling of archival services dependent on which services have been made available per archive. The availability of services is determined by each archive's properties file. This layer also facilitated the introduction of new archives to the system without the need for system re-implementation; rendering the digital library extensible.

Conclusions

Functional requirements were assessed by conducting user acceptance tests and black box tests; and usability was assessed by conducting usability tests. Results from the evaluations conducted indicated that functional requirements were met and a usable extensible digital cultural heritage archive that provided accessibility to previously inaccessible artefacts was produced.

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