DSpace: The Final Frontier

Heidi Butler, College Archivist
Kathryn Lightcap, Graphics and Multimedia Designer
Stacy Nowicki, Library Director

Michigan Archival Association Meeting
Marshall, MI, 25 June 2009
What’s an Institutional Repository?

Online space for:
- collecting, preserving, and disseminating
- intellectual output of an institution
- in digital form
Why Do We Need One?

- Digital access and storage of student theses (SIPs)
- Make archival materials more widely available
- Access to faculty work
Go consortial!
NITLE

- “National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education”
- Established September 2001
- Support from Mellon Foundation
- Collaborations among faculty, IT, and librarians
Longsight Group

- Educational and nonprofit technology consultants
- Submitted Request for Proposal to NITLE
- Do all hosting, support, hardware/software upgrades, branding
- Suggested DSpace software
Pilot Project Beginnings

- July 2006: NITLE pilot project open
  - Hosting/support by Longsight Group
- K signed up in November 2006
- Implemented in January 2007
Why DSpace?

- **Open Source**
  - Cost Effective
  - Centralization of hosting/technical support
  - “Out of the Box” solution

- **Sustainable**
  - Commitments by major entities (MIT, HP, Mellon)
  - Currently in production

- **Bonuses:**
  - Crawled by Google and OAIster!
  - Persistent URLs
  - Used by other reputable institutions
Why DSpace?

- **Flexible enough for consortial use**
  - Each college has its own branding
  - Multiple workflows, formats, metadata types
  - Consortium-wide searching
  - Authentication/permissions

- **Control**
  - Ability to determine who has access to files
  - Collections can have varying permissions
**Pros and Cons**

**Pro**
- Don’t worry about hardware/software, upgrades, etc.
- Relatively easy to use (though jargony)
- Low cost
- User community helps answer questions
- Can tweak it the way you want it

**Con**
- Little to no training or directions – WE became experts!
- User community may not have answer/too busy/too techie
- Glitches!
- Some tweaks require IT expertise we don’t have
- Consortium model can be wacky
DSpace Structure

- **Communities (Parents)**
  - Contains collections and other communities
    - Ex: Kalamazoo College Publications Community
  - Correspond to departments/offices/projects

- **Collections (Children)**
  - Types of data
    - Ex: Alumni Magazine Collection
DSpace Structure

Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52) — Community Home

This collection includes books, yearbooks, newspapers, articles, and other publications of Kalamazoo College.

Collections in this community

- Kalamazoo College Alumni Directories [3]
  - Digitized versions of published college alumni directories.

- Kalamazoo College Alumni Magazine [69]
  - Kalamazoo College alumni magazines published under various titles

- Kalamazoo College Catalogs [21]
  - This collection includes the official academic catalogs of Kalamazoo College

Sub-communities within this community

- Kalamazoo College Alternative Student Newspapers [14]
  - Kalamazoo College alternative student newspapers

- Kalamazoo College Index (Student Newspaper) [42]
  - Kalamazoo College student newspaper
# DSpace Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Communities</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-Apr-2009</td>
<td>LuxEsto (2009, Spring)</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52); Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Oct-2008</td>
<td>LuxEsto (2008, Fall)</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52); Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Sep-2008</td>
<td>BeLight (2008, Fall)</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52); Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-Jul-2008</td>
<td>LuxEsto (2008, Summer)</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52); Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-May-2008</td>
<td>BeLight (2008, Spring)</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52); Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This Community includes digitized versions of the Kalamazoo College student newspaper, the Index.

Collections in this community

- **Kalamazoo College Index, 1885-1886** [1]
  - 1885-1886 issues of the student newspaper of Kalamazoo College

- **Kalamazoo College Index, 1934-1935** [1]
  - 1934-1935 issues of the student newspaper of Kalamazoo College

- **Kalamazoo College Index, 1962-1963** [1]
  - 1962-1963 issues of the student newspaper of Kalamazoo College

- **Kalamazoo College Index, 1968-1969** [23]
  - 1968-1969 issues of the student newspaper of Kalamazoo College
## DSpace Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Communities</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11-Apr-1969</td>
<td><strong>Kalamazoo College Index (April 11, 1969)</strong></td>
<td>Kalamazoo College Index (Student Newspaper); Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52); Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-Apr-1969</td>
<td><strong>Kalamazoo College Index (April 18, 1969)</strong></td>
<td>Kalamazoo College Index (Student Newspaper); Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52); Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-Apr-1969</td>
<td><strong>Kalamazoo College Index (April 25, 1969)</strong></td>
<td>Kalamazoo College Index (Student Newspaper); Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52); Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6-Dec-1968</td>
<td><strong>Kalamazoo College Index (December 6, 1968)</strong></td>
<td>Kalamazoo College Index (Student Newspaper); Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52); Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-Feb-1969</td>
<td><strong>Kalamazoo College Index (February 28, 1969)</strong></td>
<td>Kalamazoo College Index (Student Newspaper); Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52); Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-Feb-1969</td>
<td><strong>Kalamazoo College Index (February 7, 1969)</strong></td>
<td>Kalamazoo College Index (Student Newspaper); Kalamazoo College Publications (RG52); Kalamazoo College</td>
<td>Kalamazoo College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
K College Process

1. Establish administrator

2. Define what the IR is, what it’s for

3. Write documents

4. Start practicing!
Documents

- Policy
  - What/who/how/why

- Non-Exclusive Distribution License
  - Authors retain copyright, but K College can upload and distribute

- Metadata Chart
  - Defines metadata elements
  - Required or optional
  - Communities, collections, items

- Procedures: uploading, cataloging, managing
Our Collections Today

- **Focus on access; preservation not likely for everything**
  - 50 GB of space – can buy more
  - Have used 10% to date (5GB)

- **Most uploading done by IS staff and students**
  - No staff dedicated to project
  - Ideally – distribute the work

- **Still learning** how stuff works