How to Rock the Planning Process for your Next Digital Library Web Project

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UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** | **LIBRARIES**
TCDL 2013

Photo By John Rudo

University of Houston
Digital Library
Redesign Project

Create Buy-In

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17 April 2013

In final maintenance sprint

CATEGORIES: Development Updates

Posted by: **Rachel Vacek**

Sprint 6 finished on Tuesday, April 16th. Sprint 6 consisted of the final feature requests for this project, which include: About Page, Help Page, Contact Us Page, Internship Page, and Fair Use (Copyright) Page. It should be noted that many of

WELCOME!

The University of Houston Libraries is embarking on a redesign of the UH Digital Library. In order to keep our users and library community aware of the developments and changes, we will be updating this blog to keep you informed!

MORE INFORMATION

About the Project
UH Digital Library
Tell Us Your Ideas!

Define Roles and Responsibilities of Teams
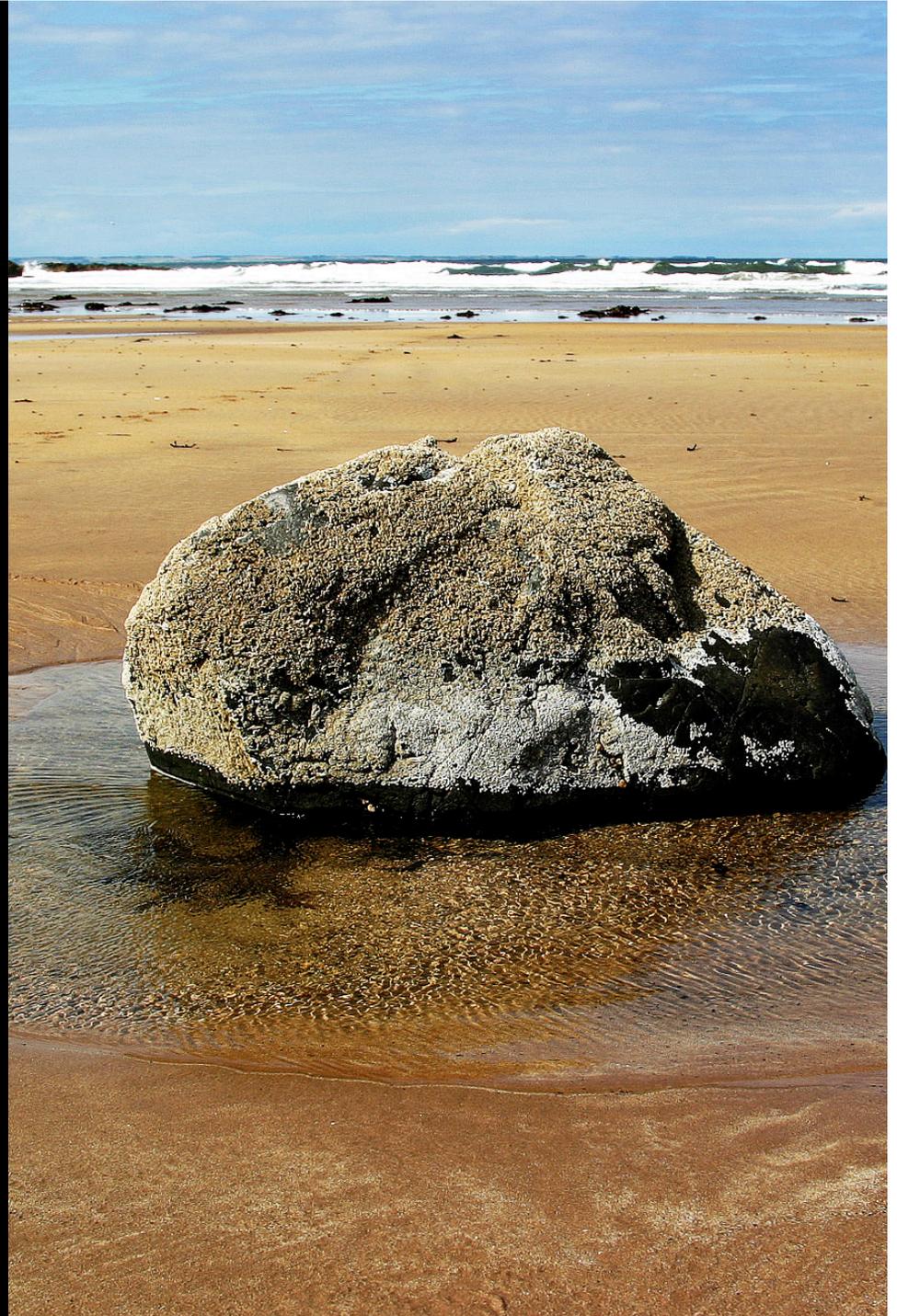
Project Team

Head of Digital Services

Coordinator of Digital Operations

Head of Web Services

Web Services Coordinator

Project Leads

Coordinator of Digital Operations

Head of Web Services

Usability Team

Coordinator of Digital Operations

Web Services Coordinator

Development Team

Web Projects Manager

Web Developer 3

Web Developer 2

Web Designer

Create a Project Timeline

University of Houston Digital Library Redesign - Timeline

	June 2012	July 2012	August 2012	September 2012	October 2012	November 2012	December 2012	January 2013	February 2013	March 2013	April 2013	May 2013	June 2013
Development Track			Write Project Request (Project Leads)										Production (Party Time!)
						Write Developer Proposal (Development Team)		Development (Development Team)					
CONTENTdm Track	Determine CDM 6.1 Capabilities (Project Team)	Plan for CDM 61 Configuration (Project Team)										Configure CDM 6.1 (Development Team and Digital Servies)	
Usability Track	Usability Testing (Usability Team)					Plan for and Conduct Usability Testing (Usability Team)							
		Present Usability & Analytics Data to Project Team (Usability Team)											

Create a Project
~~Timeline~~
Task List
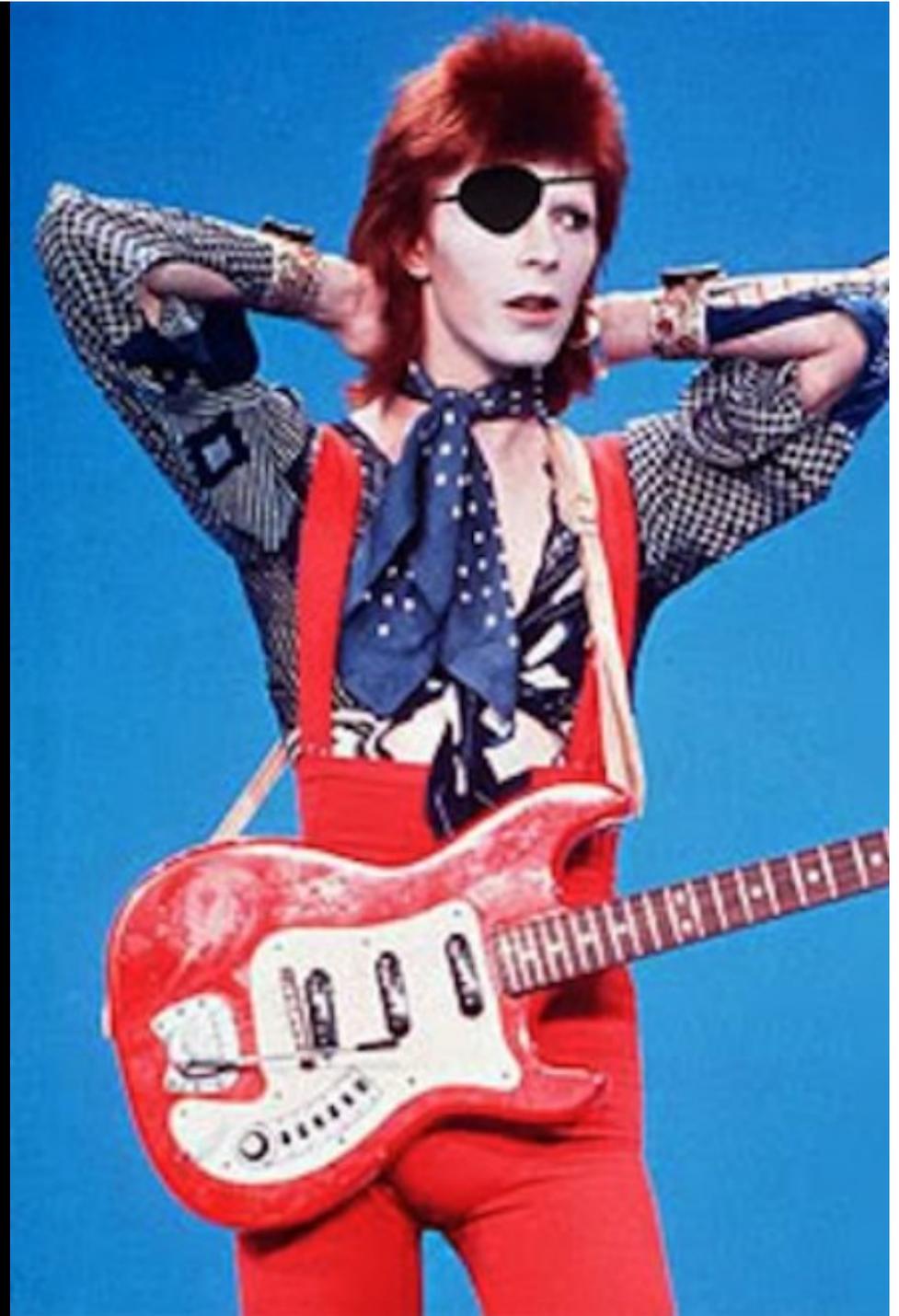
UHDL Redesign Plan (Timeline & Tasks) ☆ ▰

File   Edit   View   Insert   Format   Data   Tools   Help   All changes saved in Drive

	Tasks	Completed	In Progress	Needs to be done	Person(s) Responsible	Notes
18	Write and distribute Project Request	x			Project Leads	
19	Write Developer Proposal	x			Developers	
20	Get Admin permissions from Rob	x			Nicci	
21	Reconfigure collections to CDM 6.1 after development is complete			x	Sean	
22	Set date of last collection manipulation			x	Sean, Project Leads	for after all dev is done
23	Familiarize ourselves with CDM user interface and options for customization	x			Project Leads, Michele	
24	Configuration Meeting			x	Project Leads, Sean, Michele	Talk with Sean about whole move to 6.1 and all the tasks that need to be done.
25	Determine which sampling of collections should be used on CDM 6.1 dev	x			Nicci	
26	Connect collection sampling to CDM 6.1 Dev	x			Sean	
27	Configure CDM 6.1			x	Nicci	
28	Touch base with curators during configuration			x	Nicci	
29	Develop Stuff		x		Developers	
30	Conduct Usability during development		x		Usability Team	

\+ ☰   Timeline   **Task List** ▾

Gather Data

Plans & Reports

- Stakeholder Interview Report
- Project Plan
- Usability Plan
- Feature Brainstorming Report
- Data Report
- Usability Testing Reports
- Developer Proposal

Top Types of Pages:

Type Landing Page	URL	# of Pages	#pageviews	% pageviews of Total
Item	Item_viewer.php	1306	53477	39.03
Browse	Browse.php	271	32260	23.55
Search Results	Results.php	9874	21407	15.63
About collection	About_collection.php	42	9805	7.16

UH Digital Library

Modeiner Volkskunst Zierat

Welcome

Tell us what you think!

Follow us

Image Gate

Would you like to be a UH Digital Library Intern?

Birth of an Idea

USER NAVIGATION:
KEY FINDINGS

Key Findings:

- Looking at the landing pages simply reinforces the finding from above that visitors are looking at unique pages and that the templates for these pages are important. Namely the templates items, browse, and the collection pages.

- The current item template is not encouraging discovery of other items or collections.

- When users are landing on the homepage, users are more likely to browse the collections than they are to search.

Suggestions for the Templates:

- *Item template*: A consideration for the redesign would be to increase the search feature on the item templates and give consideration to what other features could help work towards the redesign's goals.

- *Collection Page Template*: It is suggested that consideration given to the collection pages for getting users to browse the collection more quickly might lower the drop off rate. The redesign team should also reexamine the use of slideshows on the collection pages

Collaborate on Decision Making

Collaborative Decision Making

- Cut apart parts of project request and prioritized features as mandatory and desired

- Frequent emails

- Meetings at major advancements or when more discussion was needed

Write a
Project Plan

Project Plan Challenges
and Lessons Learned

- Each Project Lead was responsible for different sections
- Used Google Docs
  - Kept track of versions/changes
  - Utilized commenting features
- Developer involvement
- Balance between creativity and exact specifications

Transition to Development
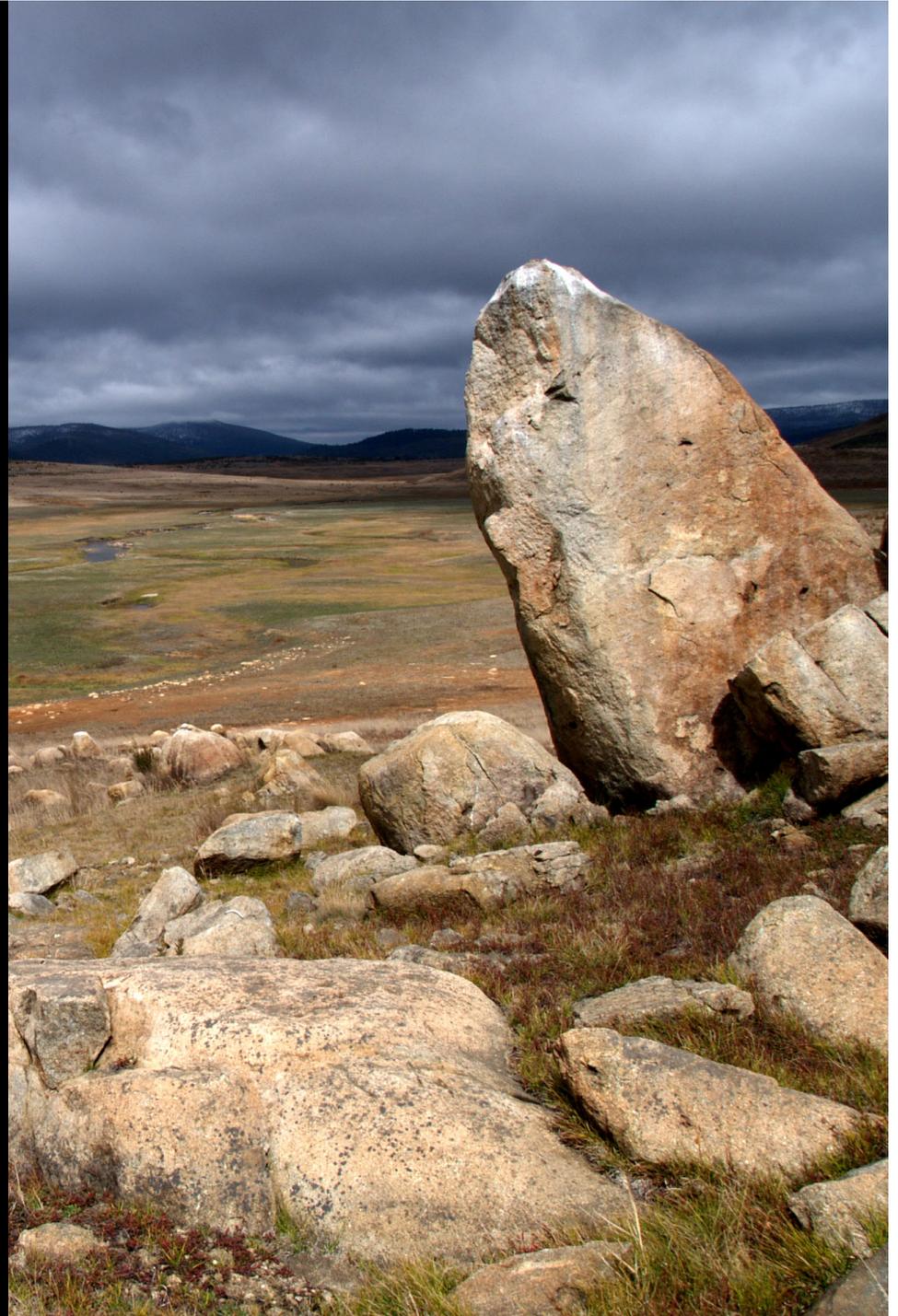
Different Understandings

- Audiences for Project Plan
- Scrum and agile product development
- CONTENTdm
- Ongoing usability testing
- Feedback
- Deadlines

Take Aways

Take Aways

- Define roles and responsibilities when establishing a project team
- Communicate
- Manage expectations
- Be realistic about time estimates

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4. Martin Burns http://www.flickr.com/photos/martinb/29121316/
5. Chuck Coker http://www.flickr.com/photos/caveman_92223/2692883227/
6. Ziggy Stardust [citation]
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Thanks!

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UH Digital Library Redesign
http://weblogs.lib.uh.edu/uhdlredesign/

UH Digital Library
http://digital.lib.uh.edu/
(New design will go live in June 2013)

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