



Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives

Building a New Research Environment



COUNCIL ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

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Welcome

- 1st opportunity for this community to come together
- Participants represent 29 funded proposals involving 60+ institutions
- Symposium activities: posters, keynote, Scholarly Engagement presentation and workshop (*former CLIR postdocs*), 3 panels on innovation and outreach with 11 volunteer speakers, 9 breakout meetings with 12 volunteer conveners—lots of hard work to do in a short time!



Funded Projects

- 26,170 linear feet
- 4,368,847 objects
- Formats include: Print, Image and Video formats, Audio formats, Manuscripts, Ephemera, Maps, Posters, Artworks, Data Sets, Ledgers, Blueprints, Charts, Scrapbooks, Specimens, Coins, Ceramics, Glass, Textiles, Pamphlets, CAD, architectural drawings and more...
- Still a long way to go: the community needs creative and efficient solutions



From the original program proposal:



The shift to understanding the hidden collections problem as a national responsibility entails an acknowledgement that for the 21st century **collaboration, coordination, and coherence of response of cultural institutions to the community of users is fundamental and takes precedence over local practice.**

From the original program proposal:



*This program provides an opportunity to construct a **new research and teaching environment** of national importance and, in keeping with a key tenet of cyberinfrastructure, to facilitate building **new communities of interest and research** that are simultaneously locally grounded and independent but cooperative across the entire enterprise.*

A “New Research Environment”?



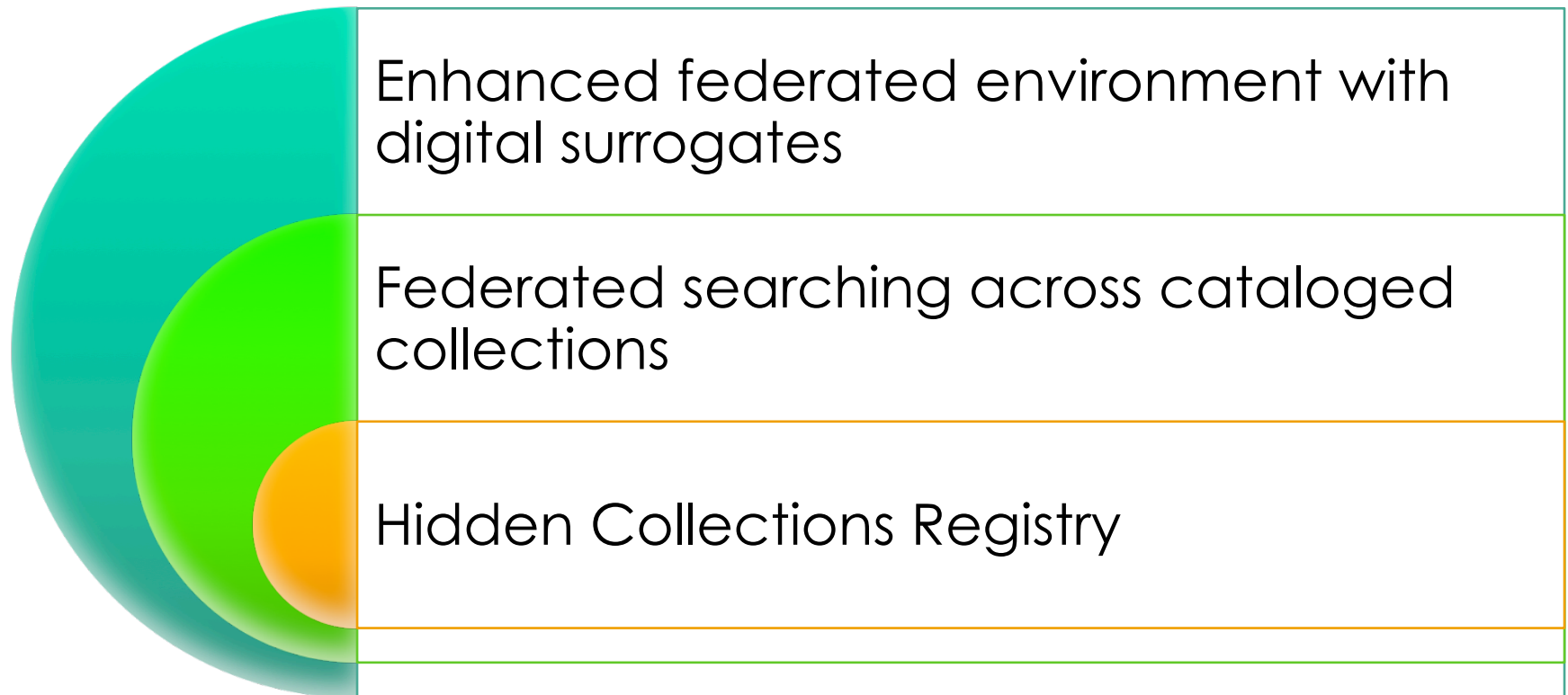
COLLECTIONS ACTIVITIES

Physical description
Content description
Knowledge organization
Information management
Digitization
Collection development
User outreach

COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES

Research
Citation
Synthesis
Publication
Critique | Review | Editing
Teaching & Learning
Research tools development

Future directions



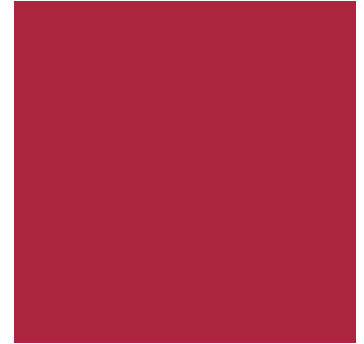
Program Documentation



- Annual reports to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
- Statistics on web traffic, applicants, and award winners to help Review Panel chart program's direction
- Website
- Forthcoming paper: "Observations on Scholarly Engagement with Hidden Special Collections and Archives"
- Hidden Collections Registry
- What else should we be doing?

Keynote—

Hidden Collections and our Research Communities



- Those of you here today are responsible for making the program a *reality*. But Fran Blouin, along with CLIR President Chuck Henry, members of the Review Panel, were among the many people who made this program a *possibility*.
- Francis X. Blouin, Jr., is a professor in the School of Information and a professor in the Department of History, University of Michigan. Blouin is also the director of the U-M's [Bentley Historical Library](#).
- Blouin is interested in a wide variety of archival issues and is known for “unhiding” what is perhaps one of the world’s most important hidden collections: *Vatican Archives: An Inventory and Guide to the Historical Documents of the Holy See* presents the first-ever conceptual overview of papal archival records. For this work he received grants from the Getty, Mellon, Lilly, and Homeland foundations, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Blouin has published widely and lectured throughout the world on archival issues. A number of participants may have seen him in 2009 in the Charlottesville pre-conference of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association for College and Research Libraries, ALA.