Project Year

2002

Project Team

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Project Title

Archaeology Collection Catalog for Museum Studies

Audience

Students, researchers, and scholars in the field of museum studies.

Pedagogical Issue

The University maintains a significant archaeology collection that is used by researchers and students in many courses. The collection, however, lacks coherent and accessible documentation; it also lacks a means of building on existing data and recording new information about its objects. The lack of documentation prevents students from completing assignments effectively, and impedes use of the resource.

Solution

Students need more robust access to the repository of the archaeology collection. This team proposes to develop a collection management tool, specifically designed for a university collection, to enable students and scholars to find objects more easily and exchange critical information about them with one another. The completed site will be a password-protected, web-based system for entering, finding, and viewing information. Object data will provide references to previous publications or online resources. The data fields will encourage questions and permit the expression of a variety of interpretations. Cold Fusion will be used to build the system, with Microsoft Access as a backend database. Each reference will be dated, and the researcher who contributes the information (or the publication from which it was quoted) will be identified. We envision that every entry will be accompanied by a digital image. Researchers and scholars worldwide will have the opportunity to identify objects, enter new data, and add comments and references to the existing data.

Technologies Used

DHTML, Access, Cold Fusion