

Great Rivers Cultural Heritage Network

Project Overview

Minnesota Historical Society

Today

- Morning: background, progress, demo
- Afternoon: brainstorming, evaluation, planning
- Topics: content, audiences, technological capacity
- Goals: common ground, collaboration

Proposal

“With the support of the Bush Foundation, the Minnesota Historical Society proposes to become the digital content and service center for the cultural heritage of the Upper Midwest ... To achieve this transformation, the Society requests a grant of \$1 million, over the course of three years.”

Transforming access

- Bound by place - only physical access
- Shared information - publishing information about collections
- Shared content - collections online
- Linked content - collections from different places aggregated online
- Engaged users - tools for users to add and interpret content

Results: crossing boundaries

- Geographical
- Professional
- Institutional
- Interpretive

Partners

- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Anoka, Blue Earth, Nicollet and Olmsted County Historical Societies

Work plan

- Three years (9/06 - 9/09)
- Preparation and hiring
- Application development
- Coordinate with related efforts
- Sharing services and products
- Evaluation and assessment
- Sustainability

MHS roles

- Become data consultants
- Follow and participate in national developments
- Create educational products and services
- Find additional resources
- Create more digital content

Roles of the partners

- Participate in advisory board meetings
- Follow and evaluate progress
- Review standards and tools
- Help define threshold for participation
- Possibly pilot submission of digital content
- Possibly join projects to develop digital content

Projects underway or proposed

- Minnesota History online
- E-legislature
- GIS: GHOP, field notes
- NEH - National Digital Newspapers Project
- IMLS - immigrant oral histories
- NEH - Mondale papers
- Shared heritage - Canada

Implications

- Appraisal: focus on audiences and usage
- Staff development
- Review routines and allocation of resources
- Coordination and collaboration
- Aggressive development of grant proposals

Products

- Expanded technological infrastructure
- Integrated searching of catalogs
- Integrated access to digital content
- Shared services and products with partners
- Regional node in national cyberinfrastructure
- Sustainable programs, shared overhead