Networked Curation in Virtual Museums: Digital Humanities, History, and Social Media in the Toledo’s Attic Project

Arjun Sabharwal
Asst. Prof./ Digital Initiatives Librarian
University of Toledo Libraries
Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections

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Context

• Emerging Web 2.0 technologies and social media
• Digital Humanities/History as intellectual, cultural, and technological framework
• Cultural shifts (postmodernism/popular culture)
• Development of cultural heritage collections
• Toledo’s Attic (1996-Present)
Digital Curation

- “Digital curation involves maintaining, preserving and adding value to digital research data throughout its lifecycle.” (Digital Curation Centre)
- “Digital curation is stewardship that provides for the reproducibility and re-use of authentic digital data and other digital assets. Development of trustworthy and durable digital repositories; principles of sound metadata creation and capture; use of open standards for file formats and data encoding; and the promotion of information management literacy are all essential to the longevity of digital resources and the success of curation efforts.” (Christopher Lee & Helen Tibbo)
Co-curation, crowd-curation, crowd-sourced curation (you name it!)

- HASTAC (“The Future of Museums”): museums using social media (Facebook/Twitter/etc) to engage the public
- Brooklyn Museum (“Changing Faces of Brooklyn”) – public engagement in selection enriches public discourse
- Toledo’s Attic: “Local History through the Public Eye” (Instagram)
Theoretical Framework

• Hypertextuality/intertextuality
  • George P. Landow: critical theory applied to hypertext

• Remediation/visual historiography
  • Roegiers and Thuyen: visual historiography (historical representation in hypertext environment)
  • Bolter and Grusin: remediation; immediacy/hypermediacy

• Social networking theory
  • Charles Kadushin (2004): node-link relationship
  • Human and sociological relationships prevail behind social curation
Web/Web 2.0 applications

• Digital Repositories:
  • Dspace, CONTENTdm, Omeka, DLXS, Fedora, etc
• Thematic Research Collections
• Virtual exhibitions
• Virtual Museums
• Social networks
  • Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest, Instagram, Tumblr, StumbleUpon, Scoop.it, etc.
• Blogs
  • Wordpress, Blogspot
• Geospatial tools (HistoryPin, Whatwasthere, Google Earth)
Social Networks and Co-curating
Toledo’s Attic Project History

• Network of local organizations:
  • UT History Department, Maumee Valley Historical Society, Toledo Public Library, WGTE Public Media, Ward M. Canaday Center

• Early collaborative curation models
  • Toledo stories
Toledo’s Attic Content

- Historical essays
- Interactive maps
- Interactive panoramas
- Interactive Timelines
- Virtual Tours
- Social media
- Slide shows, flash presentations
- Puzzles
- Links to resources
Welcome to Toledo’s Attic!

Since 1995, Toledo’s Attic has been Toledo’s and Northwest Ohio’s virtual museum with a focus on the region’s commercial, industrial, and social history from the late 19th through the late 20th centuries. Visitors will find historical essays, research articles in Northwest Ohio History photo galleries, interactive media, video, virtual exhibitions, and other resources needed for school, private, and scholarly research. Educators will find these collections valuable for teaching history and preparing students for History Day and other events. The collections will also support other innovative projects that use emerging technologies. These collections as well as RSS feeds and social media will help researchers connect and discover relevant digital and traditional resources at the participating archives, libraries, and museums in Northwest Ohio. Toledo’s Attic continues to promote collaboration among interested scholars, students, and citizens, and invites contributions of historical essays and photographs.

First-time visitors, start here!

Toledo’s Attic is a co-operative project of the Ward M. Canaday Center of the University of Toledo, the UT Department of History, the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, the Maumee Valley Historical Society, and WISTE Public Media. We also thank Ted Long for his generous support and the many volunteers who have contributed to the project throughout the past 17 years.
Toledo’s Attic Today

Toledo Hotels of the Past

This tour highlights some of Toledo’s grand hotels which are now only memories.

Created by toledosattic

Map view  List view  Tour view

1. Outside Boody House Hotel
   Start from here

2. Outside Boody House Hotel
   Start from here

3. Street of Boody House Hotel
   Start from here

4. Outside Hotel Waldorf
   Start from here

5. Outside of Hotel Wi
   Start from here
Toledo’s Attic Today

Toledo History on Map
Created on Saturday, 10 November 2012 Last Updated on Thursday, 18 April 2013.

Move your mouse over a point of interest, then click on the title to view the related story or exhibit.

For maps to virtual tours, use the Toledo Map in HistoryPin.

The featured points on this map take you to the interactive panoramas originally developed for Toledo’s Attic between 1997 and 2000.
Toledo’s Attic Today

Toledo incorporated as an Ohio City

Toledo in 1837 was formed after combining Port Lawrence and Vistula. Michigan becomes a state.
Challenges to the profession

• Provenance verification
  • Where is the content coming from and who owns it?
  • Participants may be able to identify ownership?

• Knowledge Representation
  • Controlled vocabularies vs. social ontologies
  • Hybrid solutions?

• Staffing
  • Technology competency
  • New skills may get priority over traditional curation skills
  • Old collections may not be accessible
Questions?

My contact information

Arjun Sabharwal
Phone: 419.530.4497
email: arjun.sabharwal@utoledo.edu