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Mukurtu Content Management System

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As one might expect from a cataloging blog, each post is extensively tagged with keywords and labelled with categorizies, and there is a "word cloud" of tags on the left-hand column. As posts are added, these access points will likely be helpful for navigating the content. It is difficult to estimate the frequency with which updates will be added, given how few posts there are and how new the blog is. But given the wide range of interesting materials that art libraries catalog, and the complexity of issues in cataloging art books, artist's books, works of art, exhibition catalogs, and so forth, there seems to be plenty for the Catalog Section to write about in the future. If the frequency of substantive posts increases, and the resources page is completed, this will become a resource well worth checking out.

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Check for updates

Mukurtu Content Management System

http://mukurtu.org/

Mukurtu (MOOK-oo-too) is an open-source content management system designed to enable access to digital cultural heritage while honoring and facilitating community traditions surrounding access and use of traditional knowledge. Launched in 2007, Mukurtu CMS developed through a collaboration between indigenous Warumungu (Australia) community members with Washington State University's Dr. Kim Christen and Craig Dietrich (the latter now at Claremont Colleges in California). Mukurtu is a Warumungu word meaning "dilly bag," meant for transporting and storing artifacts. Elder Michael Jampin Jones chose the name because the CMS similarly forms a "safe keeping place" for the community's traditional knowledge (TK). Mukurtu empowers indigenous communities seeking to record and access their cultural heritage while restricting access to certain knowledge on the basis of each user's status within the community. For example, protocol might mandate that knowledge of certain stories, traditionally handed down orally, may be restricted to elders, to men or women, or to use only within the community. "Mukurtu's heart and soul is protocol," explained Christen. "Everything else radiates out from there" (qtd. in Shepard, 2014, p. 316).

As a content management system, Mukurtu is lightweight and extensible. It is Drupal based and open-source, with the code shared on GitHub and published under a GNU General Public License. Reclaim Hosting (https://reclaimhosting.com) offers inexpensive hosting for Mukurtu instances (up to $100/year). Groups can choose to host their own servers, relying on the documentation at http://support.mukurtu.org. Development hinges on grassroots support from developers as well as grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute for Museum and Library Services, and other nonprofit organizations. The FAQs on *mukurtu.org* make clear that Mukurtu is designed for digital access rather than preservation and should not be used to store master copies (such as TIFF images or WAV audio files), only the access copies (e.g., JPEG or MP3 files). Notwithstanding this limitation, the CMS delivers on its promise of access, offering a mobile app for Apple and Android devices. The app enables

authorized users to produce content using mobile devices, upload media (photos, audio, and video) to any Mukurtu CMS-powered community archive, and add metadata and access restrictions. The app is particularly beneficial for rural or impoverished communities with cellular-dependent Internet access.

With its emphasis on person-based permissions and indigenous community norms, Mukurtu delivers an intriguing cultural contrast to Western notions of open access, in which everyone gets access to everything, and copyright law, in which reproduction and reuse are restricted for the commercial gain of rightsholders. In Mukurtu, item-level access and reuse permissions are based on TK Labels, with icons reminiscent of Creative Commons licenses and displayed alongside each item. Rather than copyright status, TK Labels are visual cues to community protocols, flagging each item as "restricted to women," "sacred," or "verified" among others. TK Labels are described at https://localcontexts.org/tk-labels/. The Plateau Peoples' Web Portal (https://plateauportal.libraries.wsu.edu/) showcases Mukurtu's mobile-friendly, visually appealing user interface in the context of the Portal's rich digital collections, including TK Labels, drawn from the tribes of the Pacific Northwest.

Empowering indigenous communities to reclaim control over their cultural heritage, Mukurtu is a system that centers these communities in their own narratives. Mukurtu CMS forms an extraordinary effort to build diversity, inclusion, and decolonization into the infrastructure of archives and special collections. Mukurtu merits greater investment and adoption. It also furnishes a benchmark for future initiatives.

Rating: 4.5 out of 5

References

Shepard, M. (2014). Review of mukurtu content management system. *Language Documentation & Conservation*, *8*, 315–325. Retrieved from http://hdl.handle.net/10125/24610

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Check for updates

The Cataloging Lab

http://cataloginglab.org/

The Cataloging Lab is a website designed to allow library staff to develop Library of Congress Subject Headings. The site is designed as a wiki for users to collaborate on these headings and prepare them for submission to the Library of Congress.

When first accessing the site, the Cataloging Lab logo fills the screen and users need to scroll down to find the rest of the information on the Home page. The site might be easier to navigate and use with a smaller logo. On a mobile device, this logo is cut off. Also, a brief explanation of the site upfront would be helpful.

As users scroll down, the other information on the Home page moves over the logo. Currently, there are topics for subjects, personal & corporate names, Latin American and