Cultivating Value by Facilitating Discovery

George Wrenn, Collection Development Librarian, California State University Humboldt

David Drexler, Digital Initiatives Librarian, California State University Fresno

Abstract

Resources of institutional and regional significance, such as student and faculty research, and historical aerial photography and maps, are excellent candidates for discovery via a graphical map-based interface. Subject terms used in library catalogs and A&I databases lack geographically precise terminology to identify specific locations or areas of interest such as "northwest corner of Cedar and Shaw." Map-based discovery tools provide critical geographical context for, and increase the discoverability of, place-based materials.

This session highlights the projects of two libraries that are using and adapting different off-the-shelf, map-based, user-oriented discovery tools to increase the findability and use of their often overlooked and difficult to find collections. The projects have value as a library marketing tool as they showcase not only the library’s newly-accessible collections but also an innovative spirit. These projects demonstrate the core library values of facilitating information discovery and access.