Customize the Look and Feel of your LOUISiana Digital Library Collections

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Relevant Background

- 2002: one library – one Look
- 2006: cdm 4.0 PHP environment – custom
- Sites want to customize collection pages
- New interface to LDL
Requirements

- Experience with web design
- HTML/code editor
- Optional PHP and Javascript
- Photoshop
- Another login account
- Perfect the page on TEST server
Before Customization

Example of “out of the box” collection interface:
- CONTENTdm demo and LSU Panopticon
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Image</th>
<th>Image Title</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Description/Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ 1.</td>
<td>Barrels of pickles.</td>
<td>Agricultural laborers--Mexican--Oregon; Cucumbers; Pickle industry</td>
<td>Barrels of cucumber pickles harvested by Mexicans, Columbia County.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 2.</td>
<td>Baskets for hop picking.</td>
<td>Agricultural laborers--Mexican--Oregon; Hops; Hop pickers</td>
<td>Mexican workers on Horst ranch taking empty baskets for hop picking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ 5.</td>
<td>Boxes of pea vines.</td>
<td>Agricultural laborers--Mexican--Oregon; Harvesting machinery; Peas</td>
<td>Some growers stack their pea vines much like they do hay.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why Customize?
The International Collections database showcases some of the visual materials held by the Special Collections Division that focus on collections beyond the scope of the Pacific Northwest region. In this digital collection we feature selected photographs and postcards from Asia and South America including scenes from China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Japan, 1870s-1930s. Represented are historical events, typical street scenes and native people in traditional dress.
Issues to consider

- Which collections will be given customization treatment?
  - Prioritize which collections might be most desirable to patrons.

- Who will create the custom banners and custom queries?
  - Do you have someone with the technical skills to create and post the custom elements?
More Issues to Consider

- Should collections have the same or different headers and color schemes?
  - Each collection different and tailored to the specific collection.
  - All collections have standard customized banner identifying them with your institution.

- Will staff and resources be available for software upgrades?
Search Results: Your search retrieved 173 matching item(s).

Click on the thumbnail or title to view the item and corresponding description.
Today's Example

Some of the Libraries' greatest treasures were placed on display in Hill Memorial Library in the exhibition “Special Delivery: A Showcase of LSU Libraries Special Collections” in Spring 2006. Selections from the exhibition have been digitally scanned to create the online version you see here. All major collections are represented.
Customizing “The Look”

Four Possible Approaches

1. Revising the Results Templates (*results.php* & *item_viewer.php*)

2. Altering the PHP-based “style sheet”

3. Adding a custom header

4. Editing the HTML within the PHP-based “index file”
1. Revising Results Templates

- Purpose: To modify the default (or “grid”) layout of query results, so that results view seamlessly in a custom environment
  
  - Requires editing default PHP template files or creating new ones for each collection
  
  - Currently being investigated by LOUISiana Digital Library staff and may soon be included as standard option
2. Altering the Style Sheet

- PHP “style sheet” allows customization of page header and footer displays, fonts, colors and other variables within the LOUISiana Digital Library framework

- Style.php file sits in same directory as index file; is well documented and easily altered
// LOUIS: johng - value must be equal to or more than the value for S_CHECK_BOX_LIMIT
define("S_COLLECTION_LIMIT", "100"); // 100: total collection limit

// LOUIS: johng changed copyright color from "#99a99a" to white #ffffff
define("S_COPYRIGHT_COLOR", "#ffffff"); // #99a99a: copyright font color

define("S_COPYRIGHT_FONT", "verdana"); // verdana: copyright font

define("S_COPYRIGHT_SIZE", "65\% "); // 65\%: copyright font size

define("S_DOC_MENU_WIDTH", "216"); // 216: allows for correct browser width specs in favorites
    // change accordingly to avoid browser scrollbars in parent window

define("S_DOC_MENU_HEIGHT", "62"); // 62: allows for correct browser width specs in favorites
    // change accordingly to avoid browser scrollbars in parent window
Style Sheet “Cheat Sheet”

WORKSHEET FOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE STY_CustomCollectionAlias_style.php FILE

```php
S_ALLOW_LOGIN=
S_COPYRIGHT_COLOR=
S_GENMENU_BG=
S_GENMENU_COLOR=
S_GENMENU_FONT_WEIGHT=
S_GENMENU_HIGHLIGHT=
S_GENMENU_LOWIGHT=
S_GENMENU_SIZE=
S_HEADER_BG=
S_LEFTMENU_COLOR=
S_LEFTMENU_FONT_WEIGHT=
S_LINK_COLOR=
S_LINK_HOVER_COLOR=
S_STATUS_OFF_COLOR=
S_SUBMENU_BG=
S_SUBMENU_BORDER=
S_SUBMENU_COLOR=
S_SUBMENU_HIGHLIGHT=
S_SUBMENU_LOWIGHT=
S_SUBMENU_FONT_COLOR=
```
3. Adding a Custom Header

- Simply create header image
- Save as JPEG or GIF
- Place in home directory as: header_COLLNAME.jpg
Example of Header-Only Customization

Margaret Stones collection (Basic)

Native Flora of Louisiana
watercolor drawings by
Margaret Stones

Collection Description

Watercolor drawings of Louisiana's native plants by botanical artist Margaret Stones from the E.A. McIlhenny Collection at Louisiana State University Libraries Special Collections.
4. Editing HTML in Index File

- Extensive capacity for customizing look and navigation of the collection main page

- Allows full use of HTML, external CSS and at least some Javascript functions to be included in page

- Ideal for maintaining an institution’s current Website conventions (navigation and font styles, etc.), or for showcasing meta-collections
Requirements

- Moderate HTML competency
- A text-based code editor (e.g., Alleycode)
- Optional CSS and Javascript skills
- Photoshop™ or other image editor
- Separate login for Web directories
- Pre-production on Test Server; final transfer to production by LOUIS
FREE Tips!

- Remember: You only have one page to play with (additional HTML pages not supported)

- Make wise use of available “real estate”

- Lean on external CSS for loading speed and ease of editing
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Special Collections
LSU Libraries

CONTENTdm Collection Customization Resources on the Web

USEFUL TOOLS & LINKS

- CONTENTdm
- LOUISiana Digital Library
- Style Sheet "Cheat Sheet" produced by University of Nevada, Reno
- Digital Projects page (further info from University of Nevada, Reno)
- HTML Primer
- HTML Tutorial
- CSS Tutorial
- CSS Attributes Reference Chart
- PHP Tutorial
- Alleycode text editor (freeware)
- Customization Presentation from LOUIS Users Conference, October 2006 (.ppt)
- Special Delivery (example site from conference presentation)
- Special Delivery Site Index Page and External CSS Codes (.pdf)

CUSTOM SITE EXAMPLES

- Central Florida Memory
- Braceros (in Oregon Photograph Collection)
- Western Waters Digital Library
- Milwaukee Neighborhoods: Photos and Maps 1885 - 1992
- International Poster Collection (Colorado State University)
- Silicon Valley History Online
- Photographs Collection (University of Nevada, Reno)
- Art Collection (University of Nevada, Reno)