The Long and Winding Migration:

Five Lessons Learned at the
Ohio Historical Society

Keith Manecke
Manager, Cataloging and Registrar’s Office
Ohio Historical Society
The Situation: 1998 - 2012

- Single integrated library system: Horizon from SirsiDynix
- Library, archives and museum records in MARC format
- Very limited referral and accessioning functionality
- Very limited image capability
New System July 2012: Cuadra STAR

- STAR system from Cuadra Associates, part of Lucidea Group
- Single system with separate modules for library, archives, museum
- Referral and accessioning functionality for archives and museums
- Image capability for museum and archives collections
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>1. Booklet.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date:</strong> 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provenance:</strong> The Ohio Bicentennial Commission donated this booklet in 2005.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> OH State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Historical Communication Artifacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call #:</strong> H 62241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status:</strong> Available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>2. Quilt.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date:</strong> 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provenance:</strong> Sawmill Village group created this quilt to be used at the Grant Birtleplace State Memorial. Burt Long received the quilt for the Ohio Historical Society at the Ohio Bicentennial celebration at Point Pleasant, Ohio, on May 18, 2000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> OH Sate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Grant Birtleplace Historical Artifacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call #:</strong> H 88970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status:</strong> Available</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>3. Quilt.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date:</strong> 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> OH Sate</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Description:</strong> Grant Birtleplace Historical Artifacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call #:</strong> H 88970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status:</strong> Available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>4. Quilt : Friendly Neighbors Club Quilt.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date:</strong> 1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> OH Sate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Historical Furnishings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call #:</strong> H 87655</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Status:</strong> Available</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>5. Quilt : Wall Hanging.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date:</strong> 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> OH Sate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Historical Communication Artifacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Call #:</strong> H 87600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Status:</strong> Available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Displaying items 1 - 7 of 7

Select: All, None

- Quilt. 1999, H 93624.
- Pin, Lapel. 2003, H 96328.
Five Lessons Learned

- Do thorough benchmarking
- Start talking to people early to get buy in
- Wish we had more consistent procedures
- Think about opportunities
- It's taking longer than I thought it would
Lesson #1: Thorough Benchmarking

- What are other institutions doing?
- Get many product demos
- Talk to colleagues at other institutions
- Time spent at this stage was extremely valuable
Lesson #2: Get Buy-In Early

- Talk to staff/stakeholders early and often
- What do they want?
- What can a new system actually give them?
- Be as honest as possible
- You can’t please everyone, but time heals all wounds
Lesson #3: Procedures Pay Off

- Consistently followed procedures and workflows reap benefits when migrating
- Data formatted inconsistently takes more time to manage
- Lack of existing procedures means looking backwards rather than forwards
Lesson #4: Look for Opportunities

- Is there anything you can do with your content or data while it’s moving?

- Improving controlled terms, especially museum collections

- Materials, techniques:
  - cast iron; iron, cast; cotton; cotton (textile)

- Location codes:
  - AD0206: Adena, Floor 02, Room 06
  - AS118 Shelf08 Box45: Armstrong, Room 118, Shelf 08, Box 45
Lesson #5: Migrations Take Time

- Especially true if your migration project has many elements
- Allow plenty of time for testing and trouble-shooting
- Sometimes we needed to understand what happened in Step 1 before moving to Step 2
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Questions?
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