Baptists in Burma

Working with the CONTENTdm API to Map Baptist Missionary Activity in 19th and 20th Century Burma

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Facets and Filters
Interactive Map
Objects in the Collection
How it Works

- Get items via CDM API
- Get metadata
- Get images

User visits the site

Display to the user

AxisMaps

Does item (image + metadata) exist in cache on server?

Yes

Display to the user

OCLC

No

Save images to server and cache metadata in JSON file

Resolve location names to geographic coordinates

Create full-size and thumbnail derivatives of images
Lessons Learned
What are we learning?

Lessons around strategy
- Pros and cons of faculty-led vs. librarian-led projects
- Sustainability of outsourcing development

Lessons around technology
- CONTENTdm API performance issues
- Expect to constantly shift expectations based on what’s possible within budget
- Open source software vs. open source communities
What’s next?

• Allocated funding to continue to project for another year
• Priorities of the next phase include:
  • Improve performance
  • Provide support for compound objects
  • Finish “reports”
  • Make it simpler to spin up new instances of the application for other CONTENTdm collections
• If there’s room…
  • Facilitate more flexible options for student engagement beyond the current “reports” feature
Thanks

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https://github.com/axismaps/CONTENTdm-CollectionMapping