The technical vision - an RSS feed providing an automatically-updated list of the most recently-loaded, new (as opposed to updated) content into the NWDA union catalog, an IXIASOFT TEXTML XML database.

The archival vision: Enabling access using archivist-assigned NWDA browsing terms. The use of these terms is prescribed in the NWDA Best Practice Encoding Guidelines.

In addition to incorporating the technical and archival visions in this multi-disciplinary program, it’s essential that all NWDA software development work be standards-based. The RSS 2.0 specification was followed by NWDA technical staff in designing and creating the feed. The optional category element provides a means for associating a taxonomy with individual items in an RSS feed.

Following project management principles, this task has proceeded with close cooperation performed by the archivists at the University of Michigan Library, who have been using the NWDA open source framework to build the project. The developers (the presenters) have been working with the library’s technical staff to ensure that the interface produced would meet the needs of the end user.

The product: An RSS feed document, encoded in accordance with the RSS 2.0 specification. Information on the 15 most recently-loaded repository documents is presented and continuously updated. For each item, NWDA browsing terms are included, using the RSS specification’s support for the <category> element within feed items.

This feed can be filtered or searched by the archivist-assigned browsing terms (shown in the category browse listing on right side of the screen).

The feed filtered by browsing term (Corvallis)

The archival vision: Enabling access using archivist-assigned NWDA browsing terms. The use of these terms is prescribed in the NWDA Best Practice Encoding Guidelines.

Building next-generation archival access tools

Alan Cornish and Jason Crittenden / Washington State University Libraries

Comments are appended to the archival document, and a link is provided (lower left corner) for comment posting.

Submit questions or comments to Al Cornish, WSU Libraries (cornish@wsu.edu)