Bridging the Gap: Building a Newspaper Archive for Now and the Future

DLF Forum 2017 - Pittsburgh
Dreaming of Digitizing the Daily
Three principles emerged:

- Adhere to accepted accessibility standards
- Produce a system that is IIIF compliant
- Adopt Samvera-related approaches
About Those Threats...

- The timeline was short
- The visibility was high
- We needed to balance the schedules, needs, and concerns of all the stakeholders
Before the Beginning

300+ bound volumes, 1890-
- Wire and double-sewn bindings
- Brittle paper (especially 1920s)
- Tears, etc.

Cataloging challenges
- Many different titles
  - Michigan Daily
  - The Michigan Daily
  - Summer Michigan Daily
  - Michigan Daily Summer Weekly
  - The Wolverine
- Many different catalog records
- Many different locations (and even duplicate copies) in stacks
Bringing the Bits Together

HathiTrust *bound volume* METS

- Records **stable** structural and metadata information
- Records file location
- Adheres to HathiTrust METS profile

Michigan Daily Digital Archive *newspaper issue* METS

- Records **unstable** structural and metadata information
  - Date, volume, issue, page number recorded by the vendor
  - Builds issue structure implied by changes in these values
- Based on the National Digital Newspaper Project schema
How Will We Get This Done In Time?

- Store the page images and XML in an existing repository
- Build an application that adheres to our three principles
- Serious project management
Enter fishrappr

- DLXS Image Class repository for storing images and OCR
- NDNP-based METS XML for each issue
- Blacklight and Solr for discovery and searching
- IIIF for image viewing
Investigation & Planning

- Investigated accessible image viewers
- Wrote and prioritized user stories and defined user types
- Created initial wireframes
  - Home page, search results, newspaper page viewer, help pages
- Developed and honed search features and help content
The Team, the Team, the Team

Cross-functional team with members from three departments in Library Information Technology:

- Design & Discovery (D&D)
  - Interface design, usability testing
- Digital Content & Collections (DCC)
  - Digitization, OCR, XML creation
- Digital Library Applications (DLA)
  - Application development, repository work
Agile/Scrum Development Process

Development team, Bentley Historical Library staff, and Michigan Daily Business Manager worked together

17 Sprints, 2 weeks each
- Daily Standups
- Sprint Planning
- Review
- Demo
- Retrospective

3 Release Cycles
Integrated Usability & Design

- Usability Research Plan
  - 3 User Segments (Students, Faculty, Alumni)
  - 3 Rounds of Usability Studies with 3 participants each (design, early, and late development stages)
- 2 independent Accessibility Reviews (early review, final audit) and 3 Accessibility Studies with students registered with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities
- Affinity mapping sessions
Now What?

- Adding bound volumes missed in the initial digitization pass
- Adding born-digital issues of the Daily
- Considering support for multiple titles
- Considering packaging fishrappr for distribution
Visit

https://digital.bentley.umich.edu/midaily

Questions?

Thank you!