22nd University Conference on Teaching and Learning
Tools of the Trade Workshop:

John A. Seaversons Equine Collection Wiki

Betsy Like
Webster Veterinary Library, TCSVM
March 25, 2009
Seaverns Project Credits Go To…

- Alyssa Freden, special collections cataloger and blogger
- Margot Thompson, wiki designer and Photoshop expert
- Margret Branschofsky, project director, publicity agent, grant writer, and library director
Seaverns Equine Collection

- A collection of about 7,000 items all relating to horsemanship. It is particularly strong in racing, hunting and equestrian art.
- Includes books, show catalogs, pamphlets, and other materials.
- Most of the collection dates from the 19th and 20th centuries (there are also rare treatises, including one from the 16th century).
Seaverns Collection Background

2002: The Veterinary Library receives a bequest from John Seaverns of his equine collection.

2006: The collection is brought to the library and unpacked.

2008: A special collections librarian is hired to catalog the collection and manage the digitization project.
Seaverns Collection Background

January 2008: First book added to the Tufts University Library Catalog.

February 2008: First book scanned and uploaded to the Internet Archive as part of the Boston Library Consortium’s Open Content Alliance Digitization Project.

February 2008: Wiki and blog are created.
http://wikis.uit.tufts.edu/confluence/display/JohnASeavernsEquineCollection/Home
Seaverns Collection Considerations

- Needed a way to publicize the collection, but the collection could get lost amongst all of the other content on our web site.
- Needed a public location to refer to when mentioning the project for grant proposals, articles about the collection and other publicity.
- The collection is only tangentially relevant to the teaching and research mission of the school.
Tools: Why Spark?

- Wanted a different “look” than our current web site.
- Is a separate, easily identifiable collection and project.
- Library staff were looking for an opportunity to use the Spark tools.
- Have library staff with Photoshop and design expertise.
Seaverns Wiki & Blog: Result?

- Blog?
- Wiki?

→ a wiki and a blog!

We think it turned out great!
Seaverns Wiki: Lessons Learned

Didn’t want to use the generic wiki template, so time was invested in creating a banner and a design.

→ Made some design decisions that required assistance from UIT to achieve our “look”.

Seaverns Wiki: Lessons Learned

Have browser display differences.

→ Need to check the wiki pages in multiple web browsers. (Internet Explorer, Firefox, others?).
Seaverns Blog: Lessons Learned

Try to update blog regularly, to encourage repeat traffic.

→ Need to check for blog posting comments. Had an instance of an improper comment.
Seaverns Collection a/o March 2009

- 4,942 books have been cataloged and added to the Veterinary Library collection (~75% of the collection).

- 968 pre-1923 books (out of copyright) have been digitized and added to the Internet Archive.
Most downloaded book... 1,393 times in one year!

The roads of England and Wales: an itinerary for cyclists, tourists, and travellers, containing an original description of the contour and surface with mileage of the main (direct and principal cross) roads in England and Wales, and Part of Scotland...

by Charles Howard, c1889
The roads of England and Wales: an itinerary for cyclists, tourists, and travellers, containing an original description of the contour and surface with mileage of the main (direct and principal cross) roads in England and Wales, and Part of Scotland ... (1889)

Author: Howard, Charles
Subject: Cycling England; Cycling - Wales; England -- Guidebooks; Wales -- Guidebooks
Publisher: London ; Mason & Payne
Year: 1889
Possible copyright status: NOT_IN_COPYRIGHT
Language: English
Call number: 18933117
Digitizing sponsor: Tufts University
Book contributor: Webster Family Library of Veterinary Medicine
Collection: americana; b3c

Description
Veterinary Library's copy part of the John A. Seavers Equine Collection

Reviews
Be the first to write a review
Downloaded 1,337 times

Selected metadata
Identifier: roadsofenglandwa00howa
Seavers
1845
1889

The roads of England and Wales: an itinerary for cyclists, tourists, & travellers;
containing an original description of the various and principal roads, lakes, and
seas of England and Wales, and part of Scotland;
particular adapted to the use of bicyclists and tricyclists.

Webster Family Library of Veterinary Medicine
Cummins School of Veterinary Medicine at
Tufts University
200 Westboro Road
North Grafton, MA 01536