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Doing It Differently: The Making of "Uptight & Laid-back: Iowa City in the 1960s"

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Doing It Differently

The Making of “Uptight & Laid-back: Iowa City in the 1960s”

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ALCTS PARS Digital Conversion Interest Group
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Outline

- Digitization Project & Goals
- Iowa Digital Library
- Web Application
Start with an idea…

“Let’s create a digital exhibit of UI in the ‘60s!”

Identify project goals

- Goal: Online exhibit connected to Spring 2016 semester’s theme – Social Justice.

- Dates: 1958-1973

- Components:
  - Timeline
  - Interactive map
  - Subject-based links
  - Audiovisual media - Oral history clips
  - Participatory activity (Submit your story).

But wait... this isn’t what we usually do

- Production digitization
  - Prioritize processed collections
  - Assess collections with conservator
  - Digitize “all” rather than “some”

- ~140 items from 40 archival collections
Reconciling the workflow with project goals

- 4 variables of project management
  - Cost, Quality, Scope, Time
- Selective digitization; item-specific workflow.

### Student Handouts, ca. 1970

[Digital Lib Iowa](http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/cdm/ref/collection/socjustice/id/1747)
Dozens of collections contain relevant content.

None are specific to this timeframe.
The Map Application

- ArcGIS / ArcGIS Javascript API v. 3

Why?
- Allows advanced queries of existing geospatial data based on multiple elements, including time
- Proprietary, but code is openly available and fits with our architecture (and others)
Leveraging Existing Resources

- Campus Buildings
- County Roads, Parcel data, Aerial Photos
- Protests
- Photographs

Refine

The 1960s Map Data
English Philosophy Building—collecting blood (real according to news report) to use in IMU Steps protest—Nov 4th, 1967

Student Protests of the 1970s

BY THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA LIBRARIES – MAY 4, 2010

Spring of 1970 was a tumultuous time on college campuses. On April 30, President Richard Nixon announced that U.S forces would invade Cambodia because of the recent communist coup. Students around the country protested this escalation of the Vietnam War. On May 4, the National Guard fired on students at Kent State University, killing 4 and wounding 9 people, which ignited protests all over the country.

Anti-war protests were not new to Iowa City or to elsewhere in Iowa; protests had been happening throughout the 1960s.

Occupy Iowa City tame compared with Vietnam protests

BY DORA GROTE | OCTOBER 20, 2011 7:20 AM

Red “blood” poured on the IMU steps. Barbie dolls burned in a barrel. “Dr. Death” walked through town in a black robe, carrying a scythe. People dressed in ski masks threw bricks at cars behind Hillcrest.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, thousands of students united on campus to protest the war in Vietnam as it escalated.

While the ongoing Occupy Iowa City movement brings images to mind of a peaceful tent city in College Green Park, protests from 40–some years ago during the Vietnam War were not always so pacific.

Willard “Sandy” Boyd, a UI professor of law and president emeritus, was president of the University of Iowa during a time when he said antiwar protests were “serious business” and “more than just rowdy, they were dangerous.”

“It wasn’t just a bunch of people whooping it up,” he said. “These people were very serious-minded.” Boyd said being president at a time of controversy was no doubt stressful at times, primarily for the fear of protests “getting out of hand.” But he said his duty was to make sure the university remained open as an institution for people to exchange ideas.
Historic Campus Maps

UPTIGHT & LAID-BACK
IOWA CITY IN THE 1960s

SELECTED YEAR: 1969
Querying CONTENTdm


- Created (as a variable) and added as a link when user "clicks" for information about an object
Querying CONTENTdm

- URL+/cdm/search/collection/
  [collection aliases separated by exclamations]
  /field/all/all!/mode/all/all!/conn/and/and!/searchterm/
  [Chronological subject followed by exclamation]
  (we used "1960-1970")

- String from user click (we used title from GIS object)
Access & Growth

- Map-based interface is simple, familiar to most users, but gives them targeted searches with a click.

- Not limited to University of Iowa data; we can create or ingest new map layers that reference other sources (e.g. trees)
  - New map layers can link to/search other collections.
Access

- Library staff identify all relevant collections in support of project and populate an advanced search.

- User interaction with the map (pan/zoom, time slider, clicks) provides the final steps of advanced, faceted search within content management system.
Thank you!

http://dsps.lib.uiowa.edu/sixties/

Questions? Comments? Feedback?

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Or catch us after the presentations.