

Brooklyn Visual Heritage - Architecture Document

The Brooklyn Visual Heritage website was created for Project CHART to display digital images from the Brooklyn Historical Society, the Brooklyn Museum and the Brooklyn Public library in a common format. The site is hosted by Brooklyn Public Library. Project CHART is being funded through an IMLS grant sponsored by the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian program.

Data

One of the unique aspects of Brooklyn Visual Heritage is that it brings non-uniform data into a unified format. All three partner institutions have been working with digital collections for a long time, and already have well established metadata schemes and digital asset management systems. It would not have been practical or cost effective to change the practices or procedures at each institution. Instead the goal was to display the data on the site in a uniform way.

The first step was to create a data dictionary that mapped individual schemes to the one that was created for the site. The Brooklyn Historical society uses Dublin Core as their metadata schema, the Brooklyn museum uses a self-designed schema based on CDWA Lite and the Brooklyn Public Library uses MARC. From there we discussed which fields every institution felt was important to display and came up with field names we felt were universally appropriate and easily understandable.

Brooklyn Visual Heritage	Brooklyn Historical Society (Dublin Core)	Brooklyn Museum	Brooklyn Public Library (MARC)
Title	Title	caption	245 a
Creator	Creator	image_credit	100 a or 130
Date	Date	image_date	260 c
Institution	Repository	[constant]	524
Collection	Collection	author; title; publication_date; imprint;	<i>[this field is populated from a manually</i>

		volume_page; call_number	<i>generated list</i>
Subject	Subjects	library_catalog_ID	600; 610; 650 a;
Description	Description	image_note	520
Citation	<i>[not used]</i>	citation	<i>[not used]</i>
More Details	<i>[not used]</i>	<i>[not used]</i>	500
Medium	Medium	color_bw	655
Location	Location	<i>[not used]</i>	651
ID	Object ID	filename	099
Rights	Rights	copyright_status; copyright_statement	<i>[constant]</i>

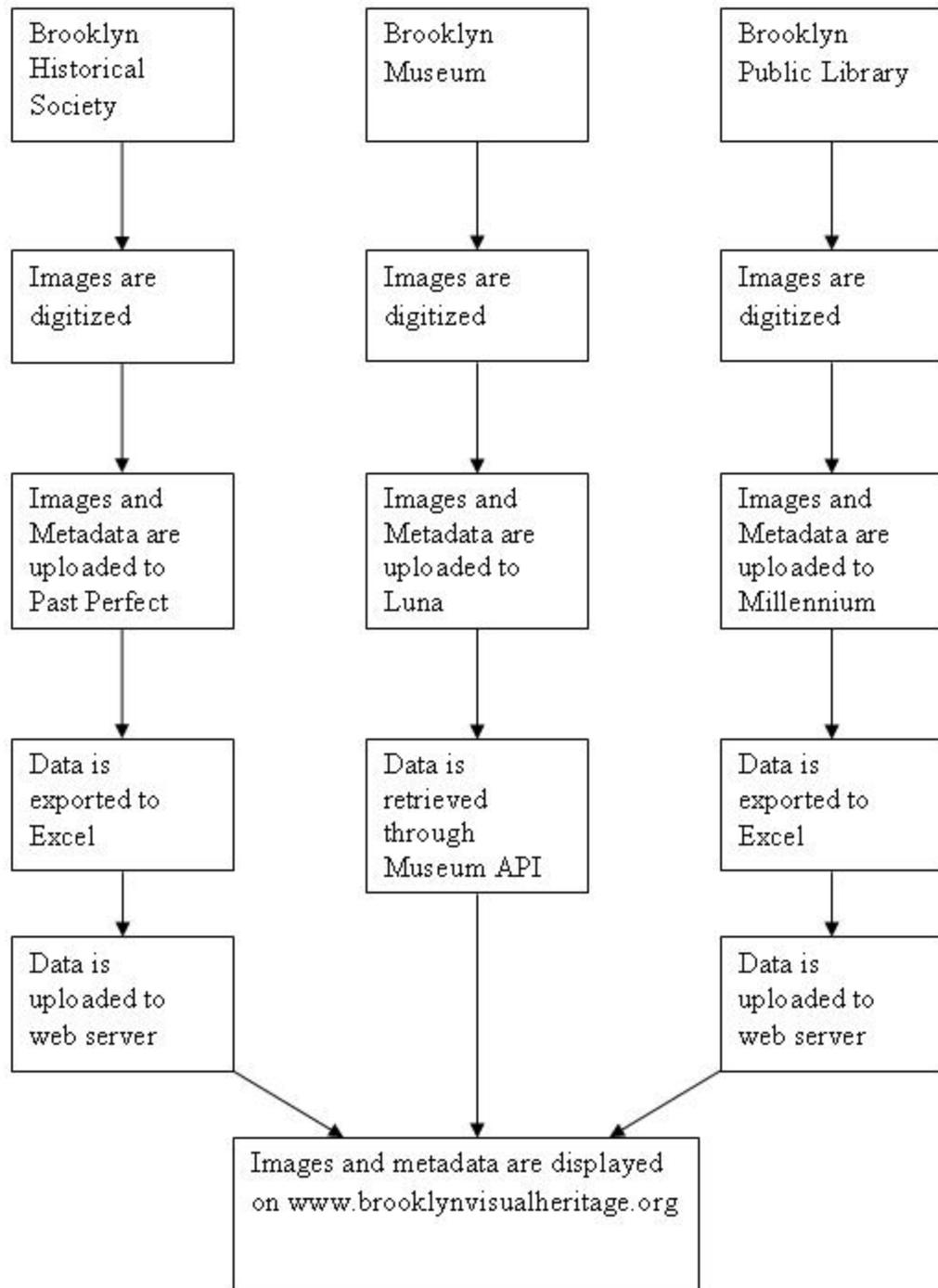
The next step was to determine how to get the data out of the individual data asset management systems and into our website. Storing copies of the 13,000 images initially slated to appear on this site was not practical so while the images are displayed on the Brooklyn Visual Heritage website, they are hosted by the institutions that own them. This allows the institutions to display their data while still maintaining full ownership.

The data itself required more manipulation. The Brooklyn Museum has an Application Programming Interface (API) that allows users to access their data directly from their digital asset management system, LUNA. This also allows Brooklyn Visual Heritage to get the museum data directly. Due to the design of the site and the needs of the other institutions, this information is not dynamically updated. Instead at periodic intervals the web developers access the API, retrieve new data, and display it on the site.

The Brooklyn Historical Society and Brooklyn Public Library do not have digital access to their data. The Brooklyn Historical Society uses Past Perfect for their digital asset management system and the Brooklyn Public Library uses Millennium Media Management. To get the metadata off of these systems and onto the site, the data is exported into an Excel file which is then uploaded by the web development team. This happens on a monthly basis.

Below is the workflow for getting images from institutional collections onto the Brooklyn

Visual Heritage website.



Website

The Brooklyn Visual Heritage website was developed by the Brooklyn Public Library Web Applications team and the Project CHART technology committee. The technology committee purchased a theme and designed a wireframe based on that theme for site development. The site is developed in [Drupal 6.22](#) and uses the [Community](#) theme. Along with core Drupal modules the following modules were installed:

- [Faceted Search](#) - The Faceted Search module provides a search API and a search interface for allowing users to browse content in such a way that they can rapidly get acquainted with the scope and nature of the content, and never feel lost in the data. More than a search interface, this is an information navigation and discovery tool.
- [Feeds](#) - Import or aggregate data as nodes, users, taxonomy terms or simple database records.
- [Feeds Tamper](#) - Feeds Tamper provides a small plugin architecture for Feeds to modify data before it gets saved.
- [ImageCache](#) - ImageCache allows you to set up presets for image processing.
- [Imagecache External](#) - Extract the module to sites/all/modules or sites/xx/modules depending on whether or not you have a multisite installation.
- [AddThis](#) - Provides an AddThis.com button or toolbox to let your users share your content to social network sites.
- [CCK Field Indexer](#) - The CCK Field Indexer module indexes field data into Drupal's search index. Each field enabled for indexing becomes a type of index entry. Then, with an appropriate search module, users may perform keyword searches restricted by field.
- [Computed Field](#) - Computed Field is a very powerful CCK field module that lets you add a custom "computed fields" to your content types. These computed fields are populated with values that you define via PHP code.

- [Boost](#) - Boost provides static page caching for Drupal enabling a very significant performance and scalability boost for sites that receive mostly anonymous traffic.
- [Porter Stemmer](#) - This module implements the Porter stemming algorithm to improve English-language searching with the Drupal built-in Search module.
- [CKEditor](#) - This module will allow Drupal to replace textarea fields with the CKEditor - a visual HTML editor, sometimes called WYSIWYG editor. This HTML text editor brings many of the powerful WYSIWYG editing functions of known desktop editors like Word to the web.
- [Views Custom Field](#) - This module provides some useful ([views](#)) fields.
- [Google Analytics](#) - Adds the [Google Analytics](#) web statistics tracking system to your website.

Logo

The logo for the Brooklyn Visual Heritage website was conceptualized by the Brooklyn Museum's Design Department.

BVH logo RGB color breakdowns:

BVH Warm Grey (rgb): 201, 199, 185

BVH Heritage Red (rgb): 168, 47, 45

BVH Black (rgb): 0, 0, 0

A license was purchased for the designer's machine so to create the logo. The font used in the logo is Salvo Sans Extra Condensed Black Italic

<http://www.webtype.com/font/salvo-sans-extra-cond-black-italic/>.