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# SI 640 DIGITAL LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

2010 Week 4: Content: Frameworks for “How  
Much?”

# THEMES FOR THIS WEEK

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- How much information?
- Varieties of content
- Content landscapes
- Uniqueness

**Dominance of digital.** *Ninety-three percent of the information produced each year is stored in digital form. How Much Information? (2003)*

# HOW MUCH INFORMATION? OVERVIEW

1. How much?
2. Varieties
3. Landscapes
4. Uniqueness

## Multiple perspectives

- Where is information?
- What is information?
- Values assigned?
- By whom?

# HOW MUCH INFORMATION

1. How much?
2. Varieties
3. Landscapes
4. Uniqueness

- Scope of the studies
- Interesting findings
- Comparisons and contrasts
- Implications for the digital libraries

How Much Information 2003:

<http://www2.sims.berkeley.edu/research/projects/how-much-info-2003/>

How Much Information 2009:

[http://hmi.ucsd.edu/howmuchinfo\\_research\\_report\\_consum.php](http://hmi.ucsd.edu/howmuchinfo_research_report_consum.php)

# FORMS AND FORMATS

1. How much?
2. Varieties
3. Landscapes
4. Uniqueness



Please see original image at [The Cartoon Bank](#)

***“I should have had him put into a more manageable format years ago.”***

# FORMS AND FORMATS

## 1. How much?

### 2. Varieties

### 3. Landscapes

### 4. Uniqueness

- Format: information object container
  - File format: the organization of data within digital objects, usually designed to facilitate storage, retrieval, processing, transmission
  - InterPARES: “... the structure or layout of an entity.
  - Discuss (image, text, multimedia)

## **SAA Glossary of Archival Terminology**

<http://www.archivists.org/glossary/index.asp>

[form and format proposed as synonyms]



# FORMS AND FORMATS

## 1. How much?

2. Varieties
3. Landscapes
4. Uniqueness

## ○ Form: Definitions

- Business applications (use specific)
- Diplomats (components)
- InterPARES: “rules of representation that determine the appearance of an entity and convey its meaning”
- Information as Thing

**Buckland, Michael. “Information as Thing.”**  
*Journal of the American Society of Information Science* 42:5 (June 1991): 351-360.

<http://www.ischool.berkeley.edu/~buckland/thing.html>

# INFORMATION-AS-THING

## 1. How much?

## 2. Varieties

## 3. Landscapes

## 4. Uniqueness

- Tangible entity (touch or measure)
  - Representation of knowledge
- Information as evidence
  - Symbol, fact, legal standing
- Evidence in the **form** of documents or “informative things” (Levy: talking things)
- Representations are a transformation, necessarily incomplete, form shifting, summarized, derived, retaining properties
- Situational and predicted value of information-as-thing.

# CONTENT AND THE DISCIPLINES

1. How much?
2. **Varieties**
3. Landscapes
4. Uniqueness

- Science, social science, humanities
- Artifacts (differences)
- Associative practices
- Incentives/disincentives to contribute content:
  - What are the common elements?
  - What are the disciplinary distinctions

# DISCUSSION: CONTRIBUTION DISINCENTIVES

## Documents and Data

1. How much?
2. **Varieties**
3. Landscapes
4. Uniqueness

- Reward system
- Level of effort
- Competing priorities
- Rights management

# INSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT FOR CONTENT

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1. How much?
2. Varieties
3. **Landscapes**
4. Uniqueness

- Creators, managers, users
- Institutional loyalties
- Choices and priorities

# CONTENT LANDSCAPE

1. How much?
2. Varieties
- 3. Landscapes**
4. Uniqueness



Please see original image of a [Collections Grid](#)

# A CONTENT LANDSCAPE MODEL

e-Teaching

e-Research

Internal

Source

External

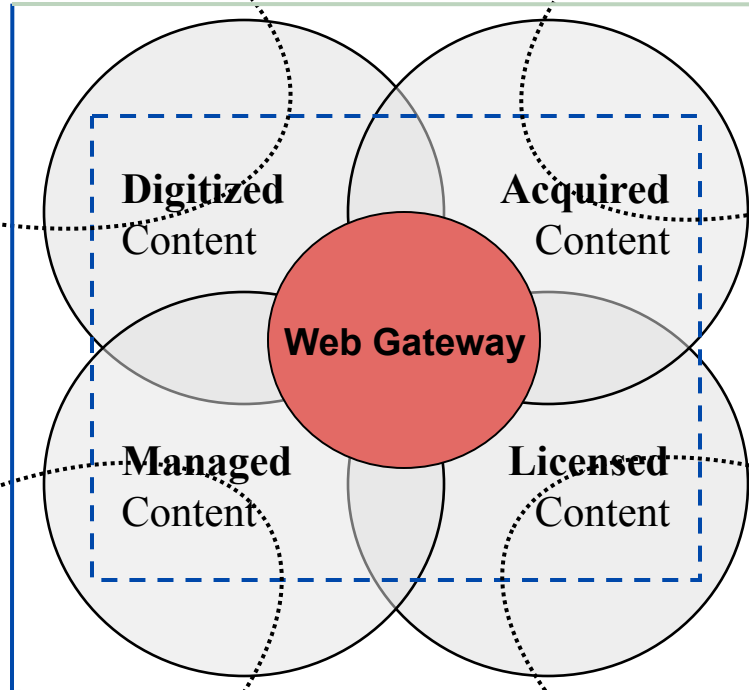
Loose

Yes

- 1. How much?
- 2. Varieties
- 3. Landscapes
- 4. Uniqueness

Structure

Possession



Tight

No

e-Records

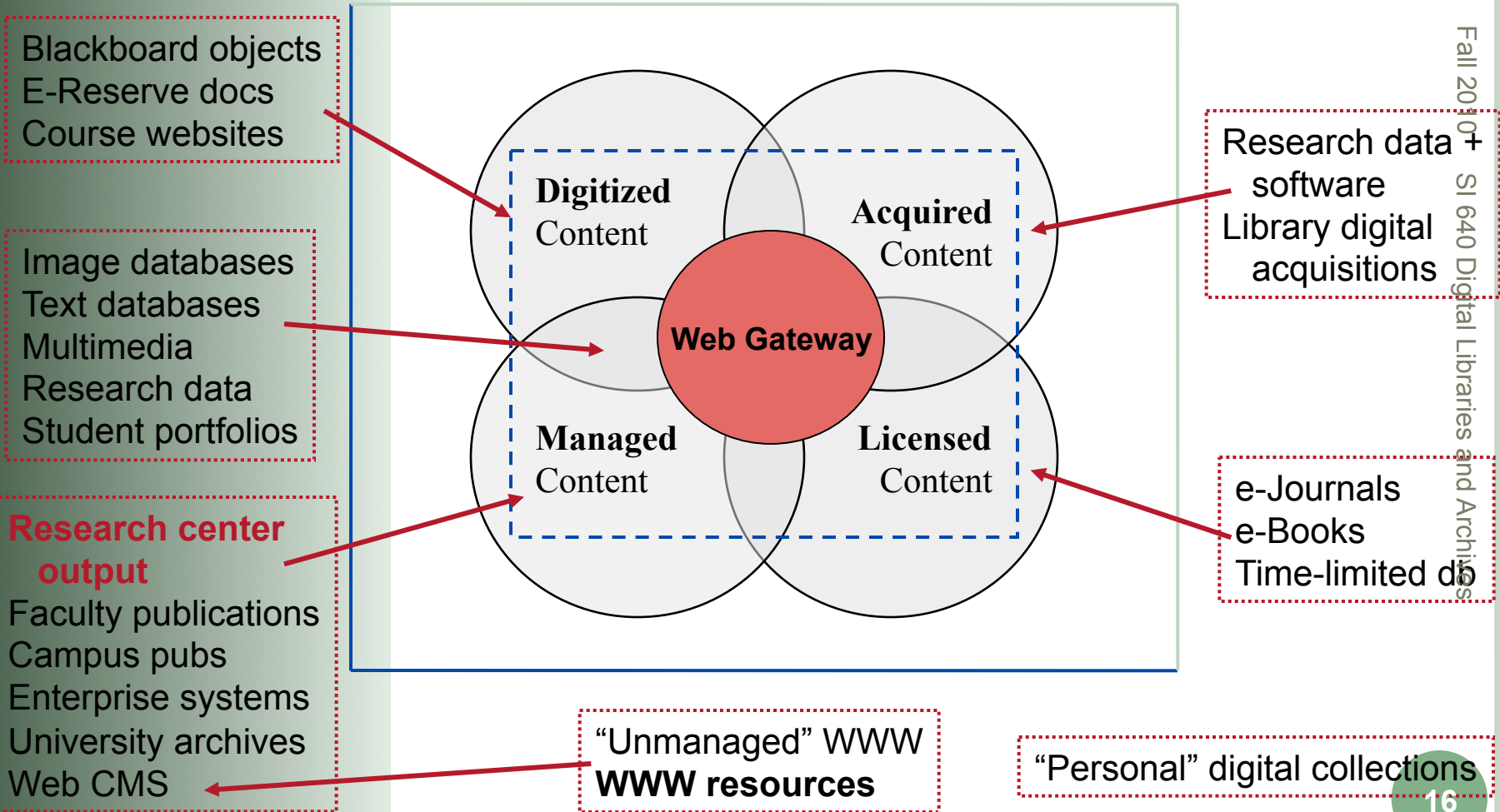
Likely

IP Rights

Unlikely

e-Publishing

# CONTENT LANDSCAPES



Fall 2010 + SI 640 Digital Libraries and Archives



# DISCUSSION: CONTENT LANDSCAPES

• Conway, Content Landscapes, 2008,.

1. How much?
2. Varieties
3. Landscapes
4. Uniqueness

## Lingering Questions:

- Is “**format**” a meaningful construct?
- Is web **context** preservable in any meaningful way?
- Content (value neutral) or assets (value laden)?

# IDEA OF UNIQUENESS

1. How much?
2. Varieties
3. Landscapes
4. **Uniqueness**

- Records (artifacts)
- Information (duplication/publication)
- Processes (functional view)
- Aggregations (distinct assemblages)

# DISCUSSION: IDEA OF UNIQUENESS

1. How much?
2. Varieties
3. Landscapes
4. **Uniqueness**

- Does uniqueness have any value today?
- How much of this idea uniqueness is associated with copying?
- How do we document uniqueness?

# Thank you!

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Slide 14: Please see original image of a Collections Grid, <http://www.oclc.org/reports/escan/appendices/collectiongrid.htm>

Slide 15: Paul Conway

Slide 16: Paul Conway