

DAM stacks up for publishing

An overflow of illustrative riches was causing headaches for Oxford University Press, one of Australia's oldest book publishers with a staff of approximately 120 based in Melbourne.

A wide range of its textbooks are authored locally for the education market, and OUP faced a problem managing the large number of original illustrations and images required for these titles.

The headache is over with the implementation of Cumulus, a sophisticated digital asset management (DAM) platform from Germany's Canto, supplied by local reseller Databasics.

The process of searching for a DAM platform began three years ago when OUP System Administrator Jason Cutler began looking for solutions. Before the DAM was implemented all images and illustrations were stored offline in a file and folder structure and were only able to be found by navigating hierarchies or searching by file name.

A strict policy to ensure metadata is added when images are imported into the DAM means they are now able to be searched in tags such as book title, ISBN Number, author and subject.

"Cumulus is like a folder buster," said Cutler.

"You don't have to worry about where content lives for Cumulus to accomplish tasks. It breaks through the traditional structure, although you can still keep images in traditional folders to provide the conventional way of browsing."

"The search results are lightning fast and it makes all the work to tag images well worth it. If people miss adding keywords then it's very easy to find out by searching on blank fields and filling in the details later. Also, because the admin is server based, I can provide features to all users simultaneously. Because it is cross-platform, it simplifies

training needs - Mac and Windows users all learn the same procedure consistently."

OUP is currently completing the rollout of Cumulus 7, and on the horizon is an update to the latest release, version 8.

One of the major attractions of this upgrade is the potential for image markup and manipulation available within Cumulus 8. The design workflow at OUP is traditional PDF proofing and markup, however the potential for digital collaboration is exciting with the Cumulus roadmap.



Devworkz makes SAP & SharePoint a cosy couple

Australian SharePoint specialist Devworkz has launched its solution accelerator to integrate SAP content in SharePoint, called SIpoint.

Deploying SAP into a portal allows a wide audience to easily search, view, edit and create core business data. Devworkz intends to link the SAP and the Microsoft worlds to empower users through rich, highly accessible information systems.

SIpoint provides development options for dashboards, custom displays, data exports through to employee and manager self service solutions.

More complex custom applications are also possible such as time sheets and pay records, travel requests, employee on boarding that require both read and write back capability from SharePoint to SAP.

SIpoint leverages the existing 'services architecture' in SAP in a way that ABAP developers can build and provision a defined set of service patterns to ZOA, an SAP open source standard.

These services expose a rich set of content and features ready to snap into SharePoint via tools such as Quest Web Parts for SharePoint and Nintex Workflow. SIpoint provides a framework to standardise, simplify and significantly remove the traditional risks associated in cross platform integration and application development.

John Ackery founder of Devworkz said "Our efforts have focused on standardizing and demystifying the web service provisioning on the SAP side whilst ensuring proven tools work in a seamless 'snap together' manner."

Vignette 8.0 bids farewell

Open Text has announced the Vignette 8.0 release due out before Christmas will be the last hurrah for the Vignette brand, with future versions to be issued under the name Open Text Content Management.

Vignette 8.0 promises rapid creation or cloning of microsites from a template or existing site, as well as streamlined asset management with via WebDAV support. This empowers Web designers to use a native design tool, like Adobe Dreamweaver, to model sites and target assets without logging into the portal.

The move to adopt the name "Open Text Content Management" was announced as the company released its 2010 product roadmap for Web content management (WCM), digital asset management (DAM) and social media solutions.

Future 2010 product release will include Open Text Web Solutions 10.1, with social media offerings utilising Vignette's Community Applications and Services integrated with core Open Text ECM Suite capabilities.

A new digital asset management platform is also due for launch in Q1 2010, called Media Management 7.0 and offering flexible metadata and asset management capabilities, along with process management and workflow capabilities delivered through Open Text ECM Suite technology.

Social Media is a major theme of Open Text's roadmap, with Vignette Community Applications 8.0, to be released in Q1 2010, to deliver social networking, advanced notifications, integration with multiple presentation systems, REST API enhancements and deep integration with Open Text content management solutions.