THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY of AMERICA

A Collaborative Approach for Creating a Digital Collection: The James Cardinal Gibbons Medal Digital Library

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Introduction
The James Cardinal Gibbons Medal is the highest honor bestowed by The Catholic University of America Alumni Association. The Gibbons Medal recognizes an individual, who may or may not be a CUA alumnus, for distinguished and meritorious service to the Church, the nation, or the University. The goal of this project was to create a unified visual collection of the past medalists, dating back to 1949.

Before this effort, there was no such visual collection of the past award winners. Photos of the award winners, as well as any related press or biographical information, was being stored in several different places, such as the CUA Alumni Association’s psychical and digital storage areas in Father O’Connell Hall and within the University Archives in both Aquinas and Curley Halls, and in the Public Affairs office in Marist Hall. The collection was never deemed a high-enough priority, which was causing small gaps in how the event and the award selection was being documented.

Process

Number of items digitized
69 items in the collection
49 items have a one image
17 items have a second image
1 item has 10 images
75 images across the collection
16 items still need images

Staff numbers
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Project duration
June 28, 2015 - August 8, 2015

Equipment used
Dell Computer
Zeutschel GmbH OS 15000 Advanced Plus (courtesy of the University Archives)
Ricoh MP C6502 color digital MFP (multifunction printer)
Scan resolution up to 300 dpi
Capture format: TIFF

Using Omeka

Social Tagging for extended metadata

Navigating in Omeka

Emerging Data Trends through Tagging

We used tagging techniques and chose specific categories to group awardees into certain areas — for example, gender, alumni status, career or religious role, etc. — to illustrate the trends, overall, throughout those are nominated to receive the award.

Some of our findings, which the Alumni Association award committee has taken into consideration:

• 58 men
• 9 women
• 3 nuns
• 7 priests
• 1 person of color
• 3 former University presidents

Conclusion
Overall, we found that content management systems can open doors to cross-departmental collaborations, that both benefit each stakeholder and enhance an institutional collection. We also found that tagging within a content management system can reveal otherwise hidden patterns in data.

Special Thanks

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