The Variations3 Digital Music Library and Learning System

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Advisory Board Meeting - April 24, 2006
Background:
The Variations System at IU

- Digital library of sound recordings and scores in IU Cook Music Library
- Online since April 1996
- 10,000 complete recordings; 200+ scores
- Access to course reserves, general, and special collections
- Available from workstations in Music Library and selected on-campus locations
Variations2 Project Overview

- Research project funded by a grant from NSF and NEH (2000-2006)
- Establish a digital music library testbed system supporting multiple formats: audio, video, score images, score notation
- Conduct research in music pedagogy, metadata, usability, copyright, and networking
Variations2 System

- Variations2 expands on Variations by:
  - expanding representations of music in other media: score images, encoded scores
  - creating additional metadata and new software tools for enhanced searching, synchronization, and navigation
  - creating tools for pedagogical use
  - expanding access locations
Variations2 Overview

Collection Metadata

Collection

Metadata

Access Control, Bookmarks

Content

Digitized audio

Scanned scores

Encoded scores

User interface

Faculty

Students

Librarians

Users
Funded by Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

October 2005 - September 2008
Variations3 Goals

- Transform Variations2 into a system that can be deployed by a variety of institutions
  - Adaptable to local technology, library, and pedagogical environments
- Add access to licensed music content, e.g. Naxos, in addition to locally digitized content
- Continue to explore improved searching and browsing capabilities through a new metadata/cataloging model
- Develop an organizational model for sustaining the software into the future
Variations3 Partners

- Indiana University
  - Digital Library Program
  - Cook Music Library
- Test sites:
  - New England Conservatory
  - The Ohio State University
  - Tri-College Consortium: Haverford, Swarthmore, Bryn Mawr
  - Possibly one more
- Content partners:
  - New York University / New World Records
    Database of Recorded American Music
Role of Test Sites

- Provide input on requirements
  - Functionality
  - Technical
- Install and test the software we develop
  - Pilot projects involving real faculty and students, and real classes
  - First version - late summer 2006
- IU will provide a server and technical assistance
Preliminary Schedule

- Delays in hiring have slowed us down
- Original plan was to have test sites up and running late summer for fall pilots
- Have backed off to a phased implementation
  - Phase 1 :: Begin Digitization with All Servers Still at IU (June 2006?)
  - Phase 2 :: Local Audio Streaming (September 2006?)
  - Phase 3 :: Manual Roster Management and Local Authentication (November 2006?)
- Year 2 :: Move to completely local implementation
Key Development Activities

- Work with more than one database vendor
- Provide a clean interface for integrating with components of campus environments: student information system, CMS, authentication, library system, backup, client distribution
- Improve supportability and performance
- Support cooperative cataloging model(s)
- Add new features needed by test sites (e.g., web-based user interfaces)
- Integrate third-party vendor content
Staffing

- Mark Notess (70%) - Development Manager
- Jim Mullen – Software Architect (started April 17)
- Chris Colvard – UI programmer (starts May 8)
- Debbie Anema (50%) – graduate assistant programmer (graduating)
- Yi Sun (50%) – graduate assistant programmer (starts May 8)
- Caitlin Hunter (50%) – metadata graduate assistant
- Others < 50% (Jon, Jenn, Phil, and others)