

1.1 Interim and Final Library Service (sent to SCC on 12th Feb 05)

I propose that we plan and act towards three phases of repository infrastructure for the eventual CHM software museum. In this, the first two phases are to be interim measures that will serve three purposes: (1) to hold such materials as are collected before a stable repository service is created and put into service; (2) to hold working materials (drafts, proposals, e-mail, ...) generated by and for the use of the SCC; and (3) to provide to the SCC and museum staff hands-on experience with a digital repository in order to define and refine a requirements analysis for the final CHM software museum.

1.1.1 Short Term Repository for SCC Documents (Digital and Hard Copy)

The first interim service should be whatever can be put into service for the exclusive use of the CHM SCC not later than the end of April 2005. (If the CHM already has something suitable, this could be used; as I recall, PLONE was discussed in December.) It should be used to hold both copies of content collected for injection into the eventual publicly accessible CHM repository, including versions of that content that are not yet ready to be museum offerings, and also working materials of the SCC. This service will need to be a combination of a traditional paper-based collection and a digital library service. Any ad hoc methodology that is convenient (low cost) should be used.

This service (and those that eventually replace it) require a custodian, or perhaps two custodians—one for the service infrastructure and one for the holdings. One or two SCC members should be found/chosen as soon as possible to undertake these responsibilities.

Among other things, this first interim service needs a catalog. This could be implemented as simply as an orderly text file of citations. The taxonomy that was presented at the SCC January meeting could serve as the first organizing principle for this catalog.

1.1.2 Interim Repository for CHM Internal Use

The second interim service would be primarily for use by the CHM staff and volunteer corps.¹ Its software base would be a publicly available digital library software package that can be installed and operated at very low expense.² The CHM should not expend any resource to improve this software base (if it should be lacking functionality needed by the CHM) or to tailor it to be pleasing to viewers, because such expenses would not improve the eventual CHM software museum, which might be based on a different software package. I.e., the CHM SCC should choose and use a turnkey package. This library should be in service not later than November 2005.

1.1.3 Final Library Service

The final CHM digital repository should be chosen very carefully. We can anticipate that considerable effort will be required to adapt whatever package is the chosen starting point for CHM use, including writing a significant number of software extensions and manuals for local (CHM) usage. The choice should have been made by year-end 2005. Requirements for extensions and a plan for creating, testing, and putting them into service should be sufficiently complete to start execution by mid-2006. Concurrently, estimates should be made of the resources that will be required, and the financing for this should be sought using the CHM management methodology. The target date for public service should be chosen. Tentatively, a small subset of the full service might start as early as 2008; realistically, the beginning of 'complete' service cannot be earlier than 3Q09.³

¹ Perhaps parts of it might be opened for public service. However, until we have a requirements statement for publicly available CHM software collection access for the general public, we cannot prudently consider this topic.

² The Greenstone package from New Zealand is an attractive base for this service. See [Witten 03].

³ This depends on personal judgments of the state of available software and of what CHM will eventually decide it requires. The dates suggested will surely be revised as requirements analyses and planning proceed.