

Iter Community: Enabling Social Bibliography and User Project Creation

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The Iter community sought to facilitate and support communication, collaboration, and digital project creation for research communities of the Middle Ages and Renaissance.¹ In 2008, the Iter Community was envisioned as a social knowledge creation environment a Community space for collaboration, social networking and the hosting of Iter projects.² Now, a team made up of programmers and researchers from the University of Victoria and the University of Toronto, working with an advisory committee, are developing Iter Community in response to community needs.³ It's a space for social conferences, editions, and bibliographies, as well as for researchers at all career stages to share their scholarly activities with each other.

Furthermore, Iter Community has the following affordances:

- Tying Iter Community to the core Iter Bibliography 1.3 million record set;
- Providing metadata for points of interrelation from bibliography to community;
- Exploring social interactions with record sets (not just reading works cited, but

¹ For a history of Iter, see Castell (1997); Bowen (2000); and Bowen (2008).

² See the vision document written by Iter Associate Director Ray Siemens (2008).

³ Needs include "a community's 'scholarly primitives,'... from the perspective of professional/user interactions" (Ibid.).

- investigating reading practices in the bibliography);
- Maintaining discussions over user created records that may have been put on hold;
 - Promoting user capability to work with instantly citable records from libraries they curate.
 - Work was undertaken by the team at the University of Victoria's ETCL to create two key elements of the Iter Community project:
 - Iter Community Press : a citation plugin that pulls from Zotero records as well as a local database of MARC records to create libraries of bibliographic records that users add to their documents. By combining the data available from Iter Gateway along with the personal citation collections of Iter Community members, users can access a large repository of records to cite in their submissions to the Iter Community network.
 - The Sandboxer : a WordPress plugin to allow collaborators to deploy an empty project space in Drupal or WordPress that would integrate and feed its project updates back to the Iter Community site.

The Iter Community project builds on WordPress' "Commons In A Box" with custom plugins added to fulfill the goals of the Iter Community project. Our demonstration will showcase how Iter Community lets site users create their own projects and interoperate with the community site, and give project owners the autonomy to turn their sandbox into their own full fledged projects.

References

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