Preserving (and Creating) New Zealand's Digital Cultural Heritage

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New Zealand Digital Library Group

- Developers of Greenstone, software supporting
 - Design
 - Development
 - of a digital library
- Research including:
 - **Open repositories**

Information behavior

Distributed protocols

Alerting services

- Serving
- Maintenance

Multimedia DLs

Collaborative authoring

Data/Text mining

Personal productivity

A digital library is...

- a collection of digital objects (text, video, audio)
- along with methods for access and retrieval,
- and for selection, organisation, and maintenance, where
- a collection usually has a focus (by document type, user, intended use, ...)

We focus on developing the tools for others to use-but we begin with practical experience with real world information needs

We are committed to an open source, public domain software policy

Humanity Development Library: 1998

for sustainable development and basic human needs

Paper collection:

- 160,000 pages
- 30,000 images
- 800 books
- 430 magazines
- 340 kg
- US\$20,000

Greenstone Digital Library:

- CD-ROM
- US\$6
- Win3.1x(!)/95/98/NT
- Stand-alone
- and intranet server
- Web browser user interface

Global Help Project, Antwerp (+ UN agencies)

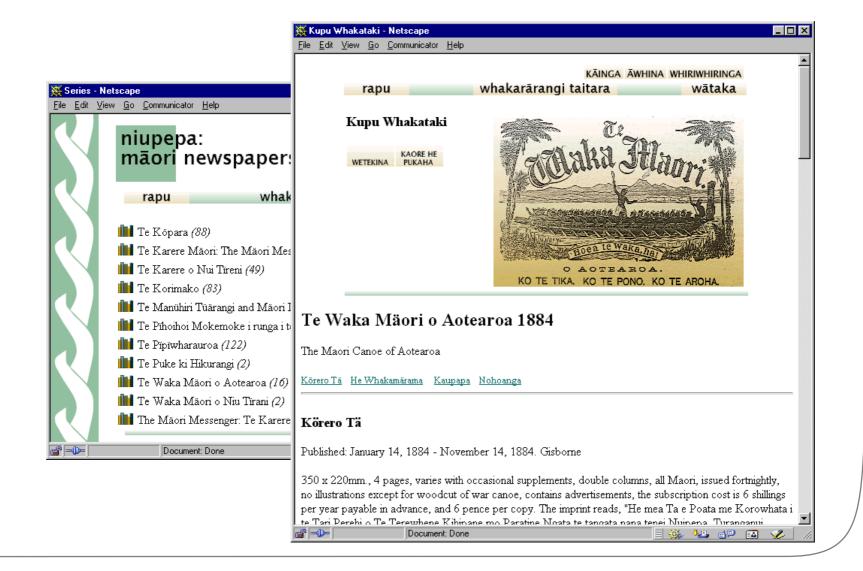
Humanitarian Aid Collections



Hamilton Public Library Oral History Project



Niupepa: Newspapers in Maori



Niupepa

- Maori language and (a little) English language newspapers ('niupepa)
- 34 periodicals
- Dates ranging from 1842 1933
- Made 'available' on microfiche for two decades
- 17K document pages: scanned, OCR-ed
- Well known in NZ research community, high level of public interest, useful in Maori language teaching



Niupepa Searching

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Kaana Waata (Arawa)					
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Limitations of this incarnation of Greenstone

- 'Librarian' interface for collection development is nonintuitive, requires background in library/information science
- Difficult to add documents on the fly: collection must be re-indexed ('rebuilt') with each set of additions
- Designed with the idea of a single collection manager ('librarian') as maintainer / controller of collection
- ⇒Conversation between collection users and document server is one way
- ⇒Impossible for users to participate in collection development, design

Our next goals: power to the users!

- Collection users contributing documents, metadata
- Collection users directly influencing collection design
- Avoiding 'write only' contributions from users

And we're hoping to achieve this by

- Software engineering: adding Web 2.0 capabilities to Greenstone (distributed submission, metadata mining, natural language tags/folksonomies, ...)
- Social engineering: supporting interests of users
- Knowledge engineering: including user contributions as first class elements of the collection

Proposed experimental collections

• Extending Niupepa

- Recasting from newspaper archive to Maori language resource
- Including other significant Maori language documents
- Supporting inter-user conversations on document contents (eg, geneology, linguistics, historic events, etc.)

Capturing New Zealand's IT heritage

- Geologic isolation and extreme tariffs: NZ developed its own PCs, gaming consoles, game / educational software, business software, ...
- NZers enthusiastically embrace technology: NZ Computer Society founded 6 months before the first computer reached NZ!
- Documents relating to IT heritage widely distributed, currently preserved in bits by a few enthusiasts
- Strong social interest in NZ IT at many levels of society

The plan:

- Add the technical extensions to Greenstone
- Trial development of collections
- Feed back lessons learned to further Greenstone development
- Hand over further development, maintenance of collections to interested parties

