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EdLab Technical Report



PocketKnowledge: Creating Historical and Practical Pockets

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PURPOSE

PocketKnowledge is designed to serve as a digital archive, as well as a social network in which community members share intellectual materials. As such, it provides *pockets* which house digitized versions of physical materials and uploaded documents, hyperlinks, and other materials of interest. Through the creation of *historical pockets*, a selection of materials from the Teachers College physical archives will be digitized and made readily available to the PocketKnowledge community. *Practical pockets* provide users with exemplary pockets that will serve both as stores of information for interested users and as models for users to follow in the process of creating their own pockets that can be shared with the community.

PROCESS

The historical archiving process began with taking an inventory of Teachers College's historical archives. Team members then selected the archives that should take highest priority: faculty collections. From this list, each team member identified collections of personal interest. The team chose to explore the following collections: Mary Alice White, E.D. Thorndike, Bereday, Maxine Greene, Russell, Hertzberg, Cremin, Grace Dodge, Monroe. They studied the collections and chose fifty items from each to digitize. The main selection criterion for digitization was that items be authored by the archived figure or by an organization of which she was a part.

Team members went on to create practical pockets that were of scholarly and personal interest to them, and which they felt would be of interest and use to PocketKnowledge users. The following topics were chosen: Writing a Research Paper; The Winter Roundtable on Multicultural Issues in Psychology and Education; Distance Learning; Privatization in Education; Writing Grant Proposals/ Searching for Grant Opportunities; Education in the Muslim World; Carnegie Project, Faculty Executive Committee on Race, Culture, and Diversity. Team members conducted research on their topics and began uploading documents and hyperlinks into PocketKnowledge.

OUTCOMES

Completed historical and practical pockets provide future PocketKnowledge users with access to digitized archives, as well as information on topics of interest and models for creating their own personal pockets.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The historical pockets are the beginning of a mass digitization process wherein all of the Library's historical archives will be uploaded into PocketKnowledge. Once this process is complete, the Library and the College will be faced with decisions regarding, for example, whether or not the present physical archives should remain at the College. Additionally, the PocketKnowledge core team must consider the roles they will play in the digitization process, whether or not new team members will be hired, and what roles,

if any, present core members will play in the future of PocketKnowledge. Finally, because PocketKnowledge has been designed for use in communities and environments outside of Teachers College, discussion of how and when to market the product must take place.