**Transcription tool meeting 3/12/14**

Present: Joel, Joe, John, Mike, Trish, William

Agenda:

1. Candidates: FromThePage, ALA, Scripto

2. Evaluation of Scripto code (Joel)

3. Evaluation of ALA tool code (John)

4. Consensus from tech standpoint?

5. Consensus from user standpoint?

No word from Smithsonian on tool. Did we discount last week? Joel says images go into DAM system and then into transcription center. We’d have to add then delete images from DAM which is not ideal. Not sure if SI will take in our content. Not sure how long to set up a project page on site

4000k images max

Could Harvard start transcribing April 1st if tool was ready? Joe says yes some in house staff that could get started

Transcribr was eliminated based on Mike’s summary of looking at code

Down to 3 options:

* Scripto (works with dRupal and WordPress now)
* From the Page
* ALA

Joel’s Scripto investigation – install is interesting. Relies on mediawiki, not sure why. Seems to store variations of transcriptions. About 1 hr to install. Issues 1) relies on zoom.it which is not well supported and didn’t work when tried it, 2) some work to make it look nice. Out of the box not pretty. Meant to be enhanced. Page images loaded into Drupal. 3) module last committed 2 yrs ago, Designed for Drupal 7. Maybe OK. What about transcriptions out? Part of “node” in drupal so shouldn’t be too hard. XML, CSV. Bigger issue of getting images in.

from the Page was discussed last week by Mike

John’s report on ALA – GRAILS,

Open source, lots of configuration options which haven’t explored

Uses CAS authentication product- hard coded into software

Tool has some good UI, toolset outside of what we normally use not sure I can recommend it. Heavily java-based, depends on Groovy language on top of JAVA, etc.

Joe has a developer contact we could talk to. Code not actively maintained. Doesn’t see advantage over fromThePage.

FromThePage – biggest issue was sustainability (1 developer). Not as user friendly aesthetically. We could re-skin it. Functionality issues? Mike says you can Mark pages as transcribed but no where to say it was done. Ben is very interested in working with us but not a lot of time. It can display images from IA directly with no need to upload which is a big plus. Export abilities? Mike say Module there and mostly works but not linked from interface.

Next steps:

* Joel another idea – Transcribr - out of box solution for transcription and he can setup and test out. Looks like National Archives. Mike looked already – found import/export lacking, Drupal errors, doesn’t look like great out of the box.
* John will talk with Joe’s contact at ALA
* Joe will followup with Carolyn about SI tool
* Joe will followup with Ben Brumfeld about Mike’s reservations

Try to make a decision next week unless we need Mike’s input (he is out all next week)