Collection Groups, Collections, and SubCollections

Hierarchy

Collection groups are aggregations of collections in UFDC. These collection groups simplify searching across multiple collection simultaneously. Thus, collection groups are usually constructed topically. Collection groups do not exist in Greenstone per se, only in the UFDC ASP.net application. There will often be a dummy collection in Greenstone which defines how search results and browses should display, but several collection groups can refer to this "formatting collection" on the Greenstone sever.

A single collection for UFDC is the same as the collection in Greenstone. As such, this is the level which Greenstone builds indexes for. A single collection can exist in several collection groups, as these are merely aids for searching and organizing.

Each collection in UFDC can contain several subcollections. These subcollections exist in Greenstone only as metadata. Because of this, search result formatting can not be customized to the subcollection level.

A single item can belong to several subcollections under the same collection, as well as multiple collections in multiple collection groups. If an item belongs to multiple subcollections under a single collection, there is just one copy of the resource in that collection, with references to all the subcollections. If an item belongs in more than collection, than there will be multiple copies of that item.

Codes

There are several restrictions which must be considered when creating codes for collection groups, collections, or subcollections. A new code must be unique across all the levels of the collection hierarchy. The codes are not case sensitive, so DLOC is the same as dLoC. The collection codes should not contain any punctuation. Additionally, the codes 'ALL' and 'NONE' are both reserved and cannot be used.

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January 20, 2006