

NEA Grantee: Pacifica Foundation / Pacifica Radio Archives
NEA Grant #: 07-3400-7004
Public Access Catalog Database Improvements

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PACIFICA RADIO ARCHIVES

PHASE 2 CATALOG DATABASE

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Phase 2, Database Replacement

The Pacifica Radio Archives, working with consultants and programmers, has completed Phase 2 of its database replacement and cleanup. In this phase, the following steps were undertaken:

1. The Archives' data was extracted from the inMagic database.
2. The data was loaded into a MySQL database on the site of the Pacifica Radio Archives' Web provider, Joyce Media.
3. The code behind the search page was re-written to direct the searches to the MySQL database.
4. Code for display of the records retrieved was written. The displays take place within the Pacifica Radio Archives' web site, retaining branding and a common look.
5. New fields were added to the database records to allow for the recording of a greater range of technical information about the original recordings and the copies of those recordings.
6. An editing system was developed that is accessible through the same web interface. This allows editing of all fields in the records, adding of new records, and deleting of fields and records.

Essentially, the Pacifica Radio Archives now have an online catalog based on common online search technology. The data can be searched and edited in a single interface, and should be easy to use for staff and for visitors to the site.

NEXT STEPS

This steps completed in Phase 2 provide the underlying framework for the remaining tasks.

1. Complete database cleanup. The primary goal of this task is to provide better user access to the holdings of the Pacifica Radio Archives. Much of this work will need to be done by hand, but there may be some opportunities for algorithmic modifications.
2. Bring database up to date with new recordings and with recently copied materials.

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3. Make it possible to search for items for which copies are available. Add an e-commerce capability to the main catalog so that copies of materials can be easily ordered.
4. Integrate the small database of recordings available for sale with the main catalog so that there is only one place that users need to look for materials.
5. Develop features that allow users to request more information about items, suggest information to add to existing records, and to suggest items for copying.

In addition to these specific tasks, the Archive must make arrangements for continuing maintenance of the database and the software that manages the database. This could be combined with general maintenance of the Web site, or with other duties at the Archive.