Each Greater than the Sum of its Parts: Custom Aggregations of Fedora Objects

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Personal collections of repository content with a service for users to select, describe, combine, and re-distribute objects housed in a Fedora repository.

1. Locate objects in the repository to include in a personal collection.

   Our prototype repository uses Fedora 3 with a Drupal interface made possible by the Islandora module developed at the University of Prince Edward Island.

2. Review and organize selected datastreams.

   Use the management interface to browse datastreams selected for aggregation...

   ... and to order the datastreams in the aggregate.

3. Describe the aggregate, its datastreams, and their relationships.

   For each of the component datastreams:
   - describe the datastream;
   - customize and extend parent object’s Dublin Core metadata;
   - describe its relationship to others in the aggregate; does RDF to describe relationships?
   - add personal annotations.

4. Store the aggregate object in a personal workspace.

   The aggregation service has been developed as a Drupal 6 module.

   Authenticated users can access aggregate management tools from Drupal’s main menu.

   Use the management interface to view, organize, edit, and delete aggregate objects.

5. Package up aggregate objects for distribution.

   We create XHTML document fragments from the selected datastreams:

   XML, XSL, XHTML

   We combine the XHTML fragments with the additional descriptive, relationship, and annotation metadata to create a single XHTML document.

   Coming soon!

   We use Fedora’s FOI local service to create a PDF version of the aggregate.