JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY FOUNDATION

State-of-the-art digital asset management for a priceless presidential archive

ESSENTIALS

Challenge

- To digitize and bring under electronic management the most historically significant collections of President Kennedy

Solutions

- EMC Captiva Input*Accel*
- EMC Documentum Media WorkSpace, EMC Documentum enterprise content management platform
- EMC ApplicationXtender
- EMC Centera

Key benefits

- Time required by archivists to capture and manage images reduced by two-thirds
- Ensured compliance with National Archives and Records Administration standards
- Secure and efficient archiving scheme based on EMC storage hardware
- By accessing much smaller renditions, catalogers can perform quality control on scanned images in less than a third of the time once required to open up original 100 MB versions
- Customized metadata fields enable archivists to capture a richer set of information about each document and enable more refined, targeted searches

The primary mission of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation is to support the work of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum. The Museum's core function is to collect, preserve, and make available for research the documents, audiovisual material, and memorabilia of President Kennedy, his family, and his contemporaries. The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library is located in Boston, Massachusetts.

AN ONLINE ARCHIVE—ACCESSIBLE BY ALL FROM ANY LOCATION

With the goal of creating an online archive, accessible by everyone and from any location, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation launched an ambitious project. The target online archives include approximately 8.4 million pages of JFK's presidential papers, 400,000 still photographs, 9,000 hours of audio recording, 7.5 million feet of motion picture film, and 1,200 hours of video recordings.

To support such a vast undertaking, the Foundation sought a robust digital asset management solution that would enable rapid document and image capture, sharing, and access. The Foundation's legacy system, based on Kofax for image capture and EMC® ApplicationXtender®, had served the organization well—but the time had come for a more efficient, flexible, and scalable solution.

The Foundation engaged EMC Information Intelligence Group (IIG) Consulting to identify the technology solution and provide design, migration, installation, training, and support services.

A COMMON CONTENT REPOSITORY TO MANAGE, STORE, SECURE, AND SHARE PRICELESS HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

Working together with EMC IIG Consulting, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation has implemented a new digital media archive infrastructure based on EMC Captiva® Input*Accel*® for intelligently capturing documents and data, EMC Documentum® Media WorkSpace for image quality control, and the EMC Documentum enterprise content management platform for rich media handling. Working in tandem with EMC Centera® content-addressed storage, EMC provides a common content repository for the Foundation to manage, store, secure, and share priceless historical documents and materials.

In the first phase of the project, the development team created a solution to migrate 184,000 pages of content from the EMC ApplicationXtender system to the new Documentum archive, automatically migrating and populating all metadata at the same time. The project also included retiring the Kofax image capture system and replacing it with EMC Captiva Input*Accel*, which provides a more efficient and flexible enterprise capture environment. With the migration complete, the Foundation's focus is now on capturing the entire 48-million-page archive in the new solution.

NEWFOUND EFFICIENCIES AND COMPLIANCE

One of the Foundation's most important objectives for the new digital archive was to increase its compliance with the preservation and cataloguing standards set by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Taking pains to understand and define these requirements, EMC IIG Consulting developed a solution that is not only NARA-compliant, but delivers powerful new efficiencies to the document capture process.

"When we switched to Documentum, EMC worked closely with us to identify all of our needs and to configure the metadata entry user interfaces so that they met those needs exactly. The result is a significant improvement for us in our day-to-day work and for the project as a whole."

ERICA C. BOUDREAU
DIGITAL ARCHIVIST

Because documents are scanned at 600 dpi color, the new solution's transformation capabilities play a key role in helping archivists manage the very large (often up to 100 MB) files that result. When an item is scanned, Input*Accel* creates a text-searchable PDF file to serve as a rendition for the original TIFF file generated by the scan. Once the documents and data have been captured and processed, Input*Accel* exports the documents to Documentum and automatically creates the appropriate folder path based on the information entered by scanners. Once the digital files are transferred to the Documentum Content Server, the system's Media Transformation Services creates up to five renditions, the smallest being a 5 kb jpeg thumbnail. Every 30 minutes, Documentum Content Storage Services automatically transfers the large original TIFFs to the Centera storage systems, while the smaller thumbnails are kept on a separate storage system for easy access.

The former system required metadata catalogers to open up and work with the original 100 MB image, making page navigation extremely time consuming. Now, they can now work with a smaller rendition that is only 100 kb in size, but still human-readable. Documentum Media WorkSpace provides the catalogers with quick access to the repository via an intuitive user interface, which enables them to perform quality control by browsing images as thumbnails or in full-screen mode. They then use Documentum's Web interface to add and edit metadata for digitized assets.

"The new system has led to significant improvements in our workflow. Media WorkSpace has reduced the time it takes for our catalogers to perform quality control on our scanned images by enabling them to page through much smaller renditions in less than a third of the time," says Erica C. Boudreau, digital archivist, John F. Kennedy Library. "This has given us a level of access to our own material that we never could have dreamed of with our old image management system."

LIBRARY LAUNCHES DIGITAL ARCHIVES IN TIME FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF INAUGURATION

Based on EMC Captiva Input*Accel*, EMC Documentum Media WorkSpace, and the EMC Documentum enterprise content management platform, the John F. Kennedy Library

Foundation's new digital media archive infrastructure has greatly improved archivists' processes for scanning, managing, and cataloging the large volume of priceless materials in the Library's collection. Archivists are able to process images in a third of the time once required by the previous system, and they are to keep their manual interactions with the fragile original documents to a minimum. In addition, the Foundation has been able to reduce the carbon footprint of the archive by using higher-capacity EMC Centera storage systems and new "greener" servers. As a result, the Library launched the digital archives in January, 2011 in time for the 50th anniversary of President Kennedy's inauguration.

"Our old system could not accommodate all, or even most, of the metadata fields we wanted to capture about our materials. When we switched to Documentum, EMC worked closely with us to identify all of our needs and to configure the metadata entry user interfaces so that they met those needs exactly. The result is a significant improvement for us in our day-to-day work and for the project as a whole," says Boudreau.

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