

# Planning a hackfest

Mark Jordan

Open Data Learning Summit  
Vancouver, September 21, 2012

# What is a whatfest?

A hackfest is an event where like-minded people collaborate on projects of common interest in an informal setting.

# Don't be misunderstood

'Hack' has many meanings, so be careful and clear when you use it.

# General principles

- Inclusive
- Output-oriented
- Learning and sharing are important
- Failing is valuable too

# Examples

- Access Conference Hackfests
- Future Citations Hack Days
- Camps
  - BarCamp, BADCamp, THATCamp, CURATEcamp, etc.
- Private hackfests
- Wikipedia sez...
  - For a cause of purpose
  - For a demographic group

# Gathering ideas

- Before event
  - Make them known
  - Keep them secret
- At event (Camp style)
- Specific task

# Access 2012 Hackfest – Let's get started!

Now that the registrations have started to pour in (you have [registered](#), right?), it seems like a good time to get the conversation going around the hackfest that will be happening as part of the preconference activities.

For those that are not familiar with the concept, the hackfest is essentially a day spent working collaboratively on bringing a particular project to fruition. The day will start with the folks involved deciding what they want to work on. The rest of the day is spent working on moving the project forward, completing it if possible. (We'll have more details on the hackfest later.)

As you may remember, back during the call for proposals we asked folks to submit ideas for the hackfest. Here is a summarized list of some of the great ideas that people sent through:

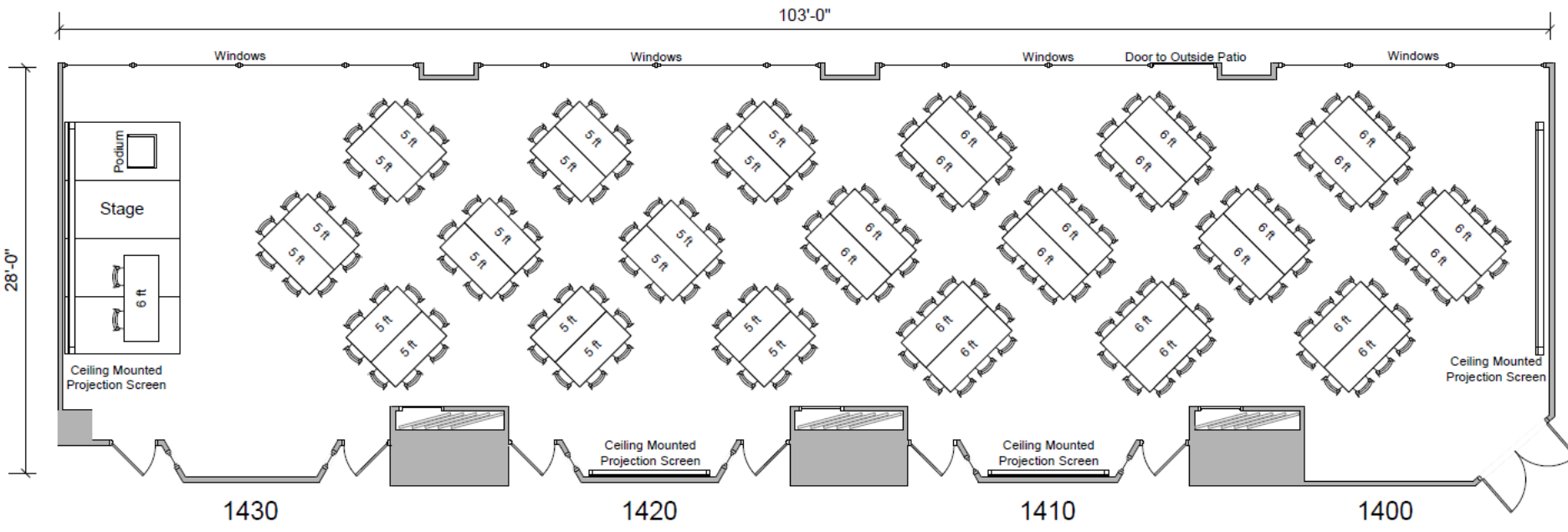
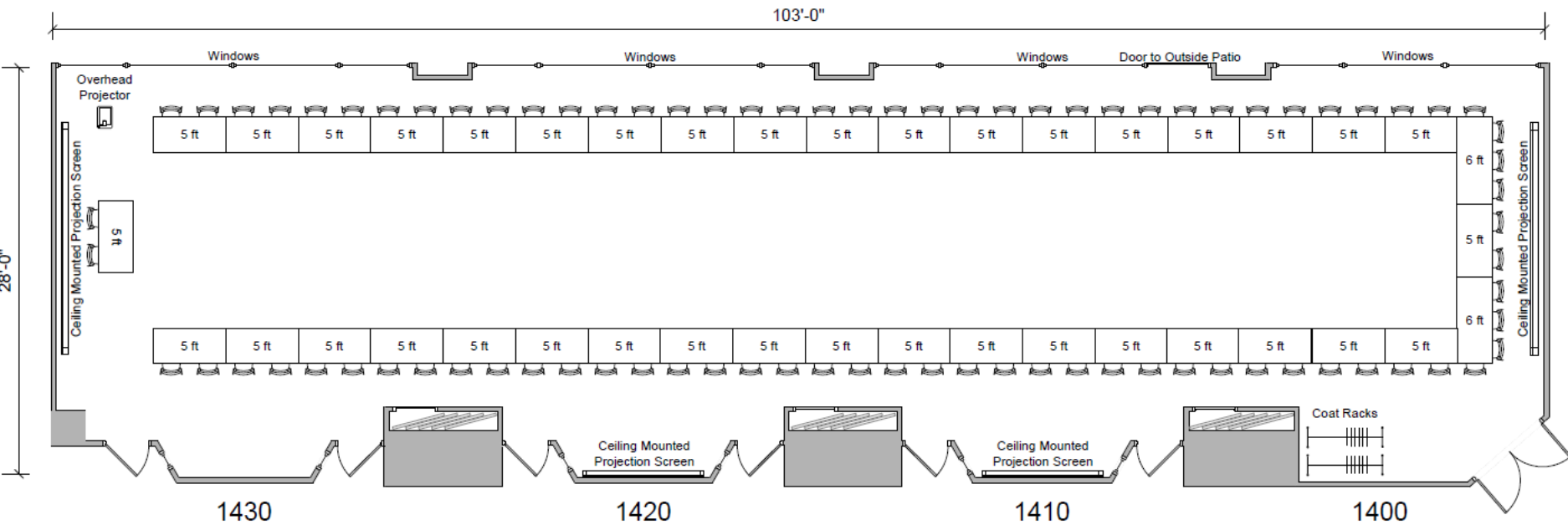
- chatbot/twitterbot to handle simple reference questions
- integration of said chatbot/twitterbot into discovery layer
- simple web-site archiving tool
- platform for coordination of multi-core code4lib events [[see also](#)]
- read/write access between [Evergreen](#) and [OpenLibrary](#)
- Hacking [Historypin](#)
- Hacking [Arduino](#)
- Mashing up [Archivematica](#) and [Islandora](#)

As I mentioned before, the folks attending the hackfest will decide that day what they will be working on. But why wait to get the conversation going?

# Physical logistics

- Flexible seating
- Whiteboards
- WiFi, electricity
- Windows, with an inspiring view, if possible





# Organizing people into groups

- Don't do this, let them self-organize
  - Sign up sheets / web sign up
  - Table tents
  - Whatever works
- Encourage group leaders, but don't mandate them

## CURATEcamp 2011 grid

### Monday, August 15

Time	Flex Lab (Meyer)	182 (Meyer)	Ida Green (Green)	SSRC (Green)	IC Classroom (Green)
1pm	Design and User Experience (William and Nate)	Building capacity to treat disk images as first-class objects (Cal Lee)	<a href="#">E-lab notebooks</a> and OMERO for data curation: tools used by/for researchers at the start of the digital life cycle (Brian Westra)	Born Digital Videos (Estlund)	How big is your bag? Measures of object size (R. Anderson)
2pm	Why are we doing this again? (Digpres strategies check-in) (Van Garderen + more)	<a href="#">Faculty outreach early in lifecycle (J. Starr)</a>	Best practices / carrots and sticks (Halliday)	Holistic approach to content records and archives mgmt (Don Post)	Metadata management (Aislinn Solelo, Cristela Garcia-Spitz)
3pm	Curation service models (needs/gaps, tools, collaboration) (D. Minor + E. O'Meara)	<a href="#">DataManagementPlan Tool for creating data management plans (P. Willett)</a>			Use of forensic software to process born-dig archives. (Chen)
4pm	WRAP-UP (to 4:30)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Tuesday, August 16

Time	Flex Lab (Meyer)	182 (Meyer)	Ida Green (Green)	SSRC (Green)	IC Classroom (Green)
9am	Common architecture for preserving/curating: 1) Faculty IR content 2) Born dig. special collections 3) Locally-digitized content (Jenn Riley)	"Keep it simple" - Solutions for the underfunded (Jody)	N/A	Preserving digital information (sketch of the book, work on prototyped software) (Gladney)	
10am	Rights and restrictions administration from accession to access(Mumma)	How to avoid reinventing the digital curation and repo wheel: standards-based dev and procurement of solutions (Don Post)	N/A		JP2? (matp)
11am	Hydra & microservices: perfect together? (Giarlo)		N/A		Representing filesystems in RDF (anarchivist)
1pm	PROVENANCE (ANARCHIVIST) (Matienzo)	Transfer and SIP creation: Archivematica reqs, tools, design analysis (Van Garderen)			Hydra followup (Giarlo)
2pm	Scientific data curation: communities, roles, conversations (Yarmey)	Version control of "digital objects:" options discussion (Giarlo)		N/A	
3pm	WRAP-UP (to 4:30)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**magic happens**

# After the event

- People finish the work... to the extent they want to or are able
- Report accomplishments, failures, roadmaps

**Hack locally,  
think globally**