



Digital Heritage Consultants

We offer strategic development, from initial conceptualisation to implementation and maintenance of cultural and heritage projects that want to incorporate digital elements and Web 2.0 technologies. Our services would be of use to cultural and heritage programmes, community-oriented projects, archival holdings, databases and material collections, as well as those who wish to digitise textual, audio and visual materials.

Our services are broadly divided into the following (click for more detail):

1. **Digital Heritage Strategy**
2. **Project Management**
3. **Training**

Industry Knowledge

Consulting on digital heritage projects is not just a matter of developing digital resources and hosting a website. It requires an understanding of the contexts and ways in which these resources will be used in order to fulfill the potential of the project. We have a good understanding of the South African heritage sector and the application of digital technologies to cultural and heritage projects. Many of these are with community organisations and we have experience training and working with people with limited or no digital skills.

Approach

We use open-source software as we believe in its advantages. It is often developed in a public, collaborative manner, which we consider better as it is constantly evolving, cheaper as it does not require commercial licensing and is in line with our philosophy of open access to information. To this end, we promote the circulation of information and community involvement, facilitated through new technologies and social media networks such as blogs, Facebook and Twitter.

Projects

Below is a selection of projects we have worked on:

- **The Ulwazi Programme** – an indigenous knowledge management project using Web 2.0 technology, run through the eThekweni Municipal Library (www.ulwazi.org).
- **ccrri (Centre for Critical Research on Race and Identity)** – a digital archive of newspaper clippings, organised with Dublin Core metadata and a ‘tagging’ folksonomy (ccrri.ukzn.ac.za).
- **CAVA (Human Communication: an Audio-Visual Archive)** – an online repository for audio-visual data on real-life human communication for spoken and signed languages (www.ucl.ac.uk/ls/cava/about.shtml).
- **KZN Literary Tourism** - an online database of author profiles with a selection of literary podcasts, writers trails and an interactive literary map (www.literarytourism.co.za)



Who We Are

Niall McNulty is a digital media consultant with an MA from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. He has over ten years experience developing websites, blogs and multi-user databases. Since 2006 he has developed and managed a number of projects for local government, academic institutions and other organisations. He works extensively with open-source software and, as an important aspect of his work, is dedicated to digital skills transference. Niall has an in-depth knowledge of HTML, CSS and PHP; has managed MySQL databases and Linux servers; and has also worked with digital audio and video, facilitating its storage and distribution online. Niall regularly presents at conferences around South Africa and has written new media strategy documents for a number of clients, including the National Department of Arts and Culture.

Grant McNulty has significant experience as an academic researcher and consultant. Through his current PhD work (Social Anthropology, University of Cape Town), he has a growing conceptual knowledge of history and the functioning of heritage in South Africa. He has an MA in Zulu from the University of Natal, a postgraduate qualification in digital video production and experience in the digitisation and manipulation of video for use in various contexts (promotional purposes, online and digital storage). Grant worked on developing the first digital video archive of human communication (CAVA) at University College London's Department of Human Communication Sciences. He has also worked as a research associate at UCL, using digital video to improve cross-cultural pharmacy consultations and as a research assistant with the National Heritage Council of South Africa. Grant has a keen interest in new social media networks and keeps abreast of developments in this field.

Partners

We have partnered with Digital Innovation South Africa (DISA) to provide training in digital resource management. DISA is a not-for-profit centre of expertise in South Africa, developing skills, knowledge and capacity in digital technologies for libraries, archives and memory institutions. They play a leading national role in ensuring best practices are used with internationally accepted standards for systems, architecture, metadata, indexing and retrieval.

Contact

For a more detailed company profile and case studies of projects we have worked on, please visit our website at www.mcn2.com.

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