



project update

March 2005

Highlights: Pachyderm 2.0 is in Beta!

Background

The *Pachyderm 2.0 Project* is a partnership led by NMC: The New Media Consortium and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), and funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The project brings software development teams and digital library experts from six NMC universities together with counterparts from five major museums to create a new, open source authoring environment for creators of web-based and multimedia learning experiences. The new tool will be based on Pachyderm, the authoring and publishing tool developed by SFMOMA to author its successful series, *Making Sense of Modern Art*.

Central to the Pachyderm 2.0 Project is the development of an interoperable, robust, easily distributable version of Pachyderm that will be open-source and include a wide range of pedagogical templates. The learning materials created with Pachyderm 2.0 will be optimized for Internet delivery, easily reusable, and conformant with key search, archival, and cataloging standards. The final product will be made available to the field at no charge as an explicit goal of the project.

Current Status

Pachyderm 2.0 went into beta at the end of February, 2005! The first round of testing (March 2005) is open to Pachyderm Partners. On April 12, 2005, testing will be opened to members of NMC institutions. Beta testing on the authoring system will continue through July 2005.

The beta opened with five fully functioning templates. The remaining eight templates will be added over the course of the summer. The beta will also benefit from professional usability testing provided by students at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Next steps for the project include adding and testing the remaining features and finalizing the download and installation package (to be tested in late summer 2005).

Project Leads

NMC: The New Media Consortium
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

University Partners

California State University
Case Western Reserve University
Northwestern University
University of Arizona
University of British Columbia
University of Calgary

Museum Partners

Berkeley Art Museum
Cleveland Museum of Art
Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco
Metropolitan Museum of Art
San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

Additional Partners

Design Worlds for Learning

The Pachyderm project is supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

