Learning from our mistakes:

Using legacy projects to create better librarian/faculty collaborations

Slides; rough notes: https://tinyurl.com/paige3-dh2018

Hello!

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a few months after I got to UM, I started getting questions about having the library host projects, and I said, "well, that's a conversation" and I set out to have it, not expecting it to be simple or quick.

University of Miami Libraries Digital Exhibits

Below are links to digital exhibits prepared by University of Miami archivists and librarians. The majority of resources featured in these sites are held in the University of Miami Special Collections, Cuban Heritage Collection, and the University Archives. Visitors may also find content attributed to University students, faculty and departments. The exhibits are arranged by publication date, most recent first.

UM LIBRARY HOMEPAGE

University of Miami Libraries

DIGITAL EXHIBITS

Cuban Heritage Collection

Special Collections

University Archives

flickr

RESOURCES

Finding Aids

Copyright Guidelines

Image Use & Requests

Cleared to Land: The Records of the Pan American World Airways, Inc.

The Pan American World Airways, Inc. Records collection is one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of aviation history in the country. The 1,500 box collection provides a unique lens into the life of a pioneer airline that captured the hearts and imaginations of past and present travelers and historians, as well as evidence of human actions and transactions that helped shape the twentieth century. âCleared to Landâ guides researchers through this first-class archival collection.

Between Despair and Hope: Cuban Rafters at the U.S. Naval Base Guantánamo Bay, 1994-1996

From August 1994 to February 1996, over 30,000 Cubans were detained at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, after attempting to reach the United States on rafts and other make shift vessels. "Between Despair and Hope" tells the story of how the U.S. Government managed that crisis.

This Space, This Place

In Fall 2014, the Richter Library hosted This Space, This Place, an exhibition exploring how visual strategies are used for communicating ideas throughout the academic landscape and beyond. Materials

Past is Prologue : The Bard @ UM

This exhibit features items from the University of Miami Libraries Special Collections's rare book and archival collections that represent William Shakespeare's enduring legacy, including the

I knew we had one page in our library's digital collections site with digital projects, but I found that actually...

Other Digital Initiatives at the University of Miami Libraries

The University of Miami Libraries features projects and initiatives developed to preserve and support the research, teaching, and learning mission of the University. These initiatives feature materials from the collections at University of Miami Libraries including Special Collections and the Cuban Heritage Collection, and from collaborative projects and publications developed with faculty and Students.

UM LIBRARY HOMEPAGE

University of Miami Libraries

RESOURCES

Finding Aids

Use and Reproductions

Copyright Guidelines

Cuban Theater Digital Archive

A bilingual cultural heritage site developed by Dr. Lillian Manzor that provides inter-related information on writers, directors, texts, productions, festival, venues and theater companies. Also included are digitized photographs, theater programs, and other resources, including video excerpts of theater productions. This project was funded by the Mellon Foundation.

dLOC - Digital Library of the Caribbean

The Digital Library of the Caribbean (dLOC) is a cooperative digital library for resources from and about the Caribbean and circum-Caribbean. dLOC provides access to digitized versions of Caribbean cultural, historical and research materials currently held in archives, libraries, and private collections.

Swingle Plant Anatomy Reference Collection

The Swingle Plant Anatomy Reference Collection is a historical collection of plant anatomical microscope slides that were made early in the 20th century by Walter Tennyson Swingle (1871 - 1952), one of the twentieth century's foremost authorities on citrus plants. The site also features animated plant sections, information on Walter Tennyson Swingle, and references to literature and related sites.

we had two...

Digital Collections

The University of Miami Libraries digital collection features a growing collection of digital objects, projects, and publications developed to preserve and support digital scholarship and the research, teaching, and learning mission of the University. Many of these initiatives feature materials from the Special Collections Department. For more information, visit Special Collections Digital Collections.

Online Exhibits

Aaron Thomas: The Caribbean Journal of a Royal Navy Seaman, 1798-1799

The Caribbean Journal of Aaron Thomas, dating from June 15, 1789 through October 26, 1799, chronicles the daily life of a crew member of HMS Lapwing, a Royal Navy frigate cruising the waters of the Lesser Antilles. The handwritten journal includes accounts of battles with enemy ships, including a report detailing the events surrounding the taking of Surinam by the British during the month of August, 1799.

Amos Beebe Eaton: A Soldier's Journal of the Second Seminole Indian Wars

The Amos Beebe Eaton Papers include a journal kept by Eaton while serving as a soldier in the Second Seminole Indian Wars during 1837 and 1838. This handwritten journal chronicles an extraordinary year in the life of a young lieutenant and provides detailed insight into life in South Florida over 160 years ago.

The Alvan Stewart Papers

The Alvan Stewart Papers contains a diary written by the New York lawyer and abolitionist Alvan Stewart (1780-1849). The diary chronicles Stewart's travels in 1831, including a sea voyage from New York to Liverpool, his travels through England and France, and the return voyage.

The Bob Simms Collection: An Activist's Life and Legacy

This exhibit offers a snapshot of the life and legacy of Robert H. Simms and an overview of some of the
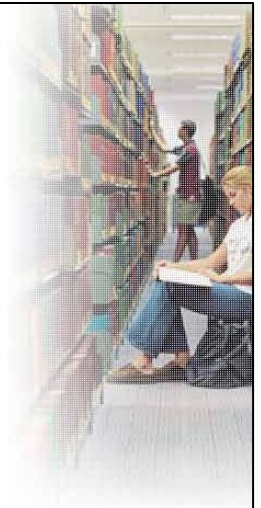
well, no, three. actually four; and I got an email a couple of months ago that said, hey, do you know about these two sites? are they on your list?

408
Request Timeout

the sites had, in many cases, been hand coded in html, though some used drupal, there was some flash -- they'd mostly been built by a librarian who had since retired; and they had been built in a context that was largely on demand; faculty would email and say "i need this changed," and the librarian would do it.

410
Gone

When you're dealing with code that was written by someone who's no longer at the organization, that's called legacy code. How easy it is to work with depends partly on whether the person has included comments or not, or whether their comments are well-written. Since these projects are built from legacy code, we call them "legacy projects." And teaching our faculty and students the meaning of and concept of legacy code and projects has been important.

415
Unsupported Media Type

And I sought clarification: when the library said that we needed to deal with these projects, did they mean that we should take the sites down from the listings on the library sites? But they didn't.

So fixing them wasn't an option, and deaccessioning them wasn't an option...
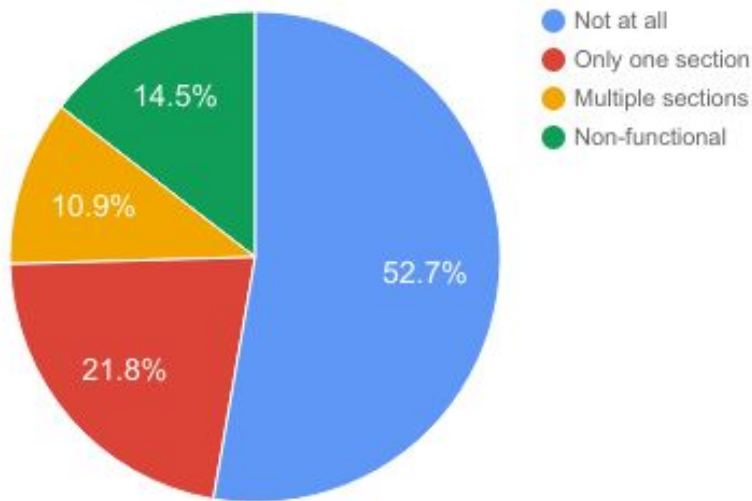
Extent of Brokenness

- Not at all
- Only one section
- Multiple sections
- Non-functional

52.7%
21.8%
10.9%
14.5%

Image: Ruth Trego, 2017

I asked my graduate fellow to start spending some time exploring the sites, giving us a clearer idea of what we were dealing with, in terms of both brokenness and ownership -- to be clear, we've since found that the "not at all" section is a bit overstated.
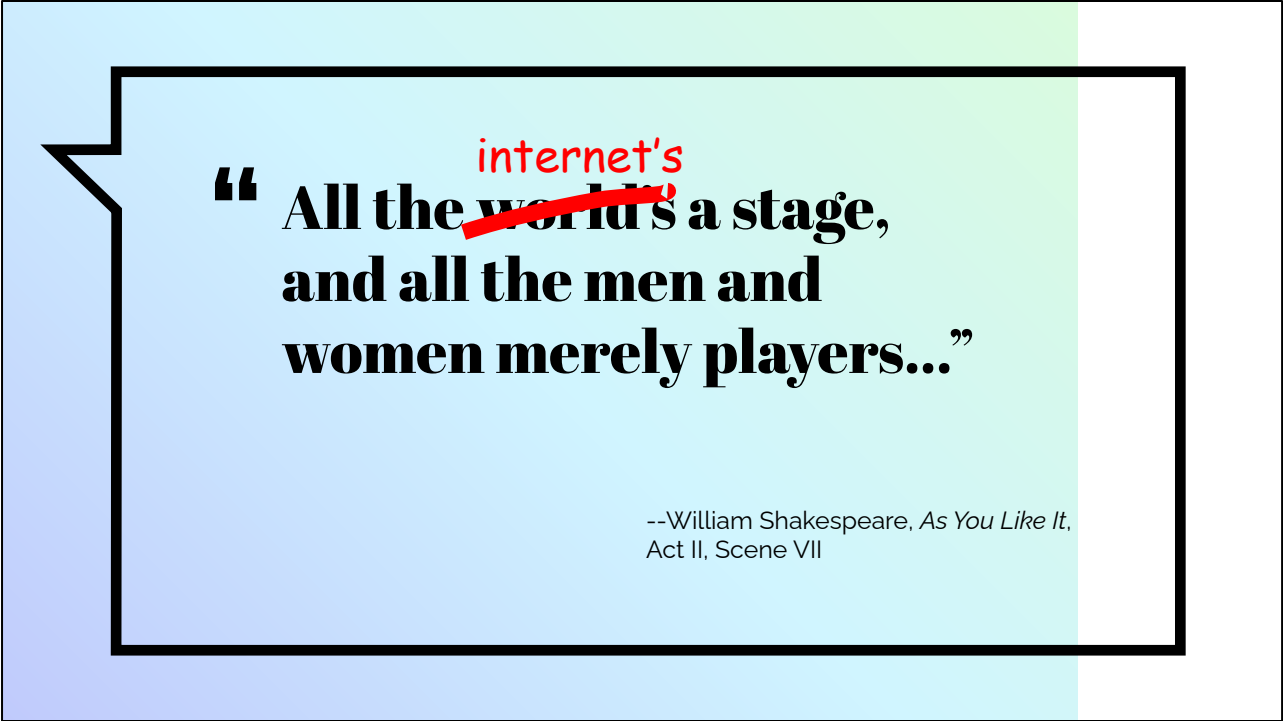
Ownership of sites

- Ownership extends beyond UM
- No ownership listed
- N/A - too broken
- Owners still here
- Owners not here
- Split - one still here, one not

7.4%
16.7%
7.4%
14.8%
44.4%
9.3%
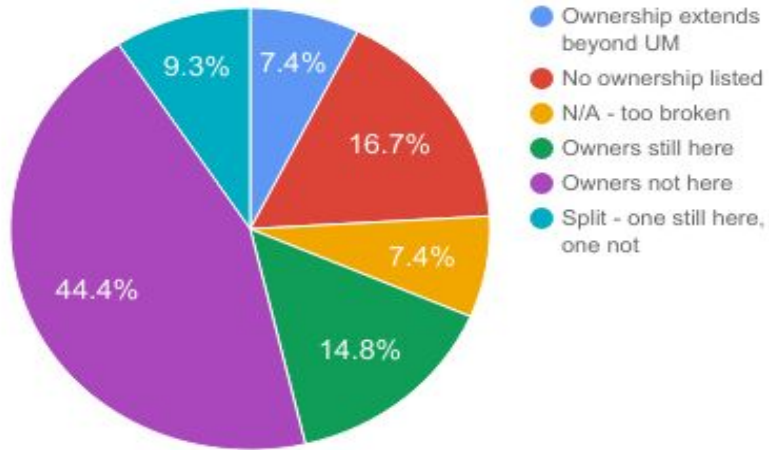
Image: Ruth Trego, 2017

Ownership was more complex -- about 23% of the sites had at least one creator who was still around; the rest didn't. So I kept thinking about what we needed to do, and here, I need to emphasize something.

Digital scholarship can mean very different things to different groups of people.

To developers and technologists and others providing support, it can mean projects that a) require reskilling that may not be useful elsewhere, and b) projects that lack detailed goals or milestones. So we also really needed to find a way of helping our students and faculty without a lot of tech experience understand what they were asking of developers when they said "fix my site!" Because in so many cases those faculty care a great deal about not being exploitative -- but they don't know enough about the labor contexts involved.

" **All the** ~~world's~~ internet's **a stage, and all the men and women merely players..."**

--William Shakespeare, *As You Like It*, Act II, Scene VII
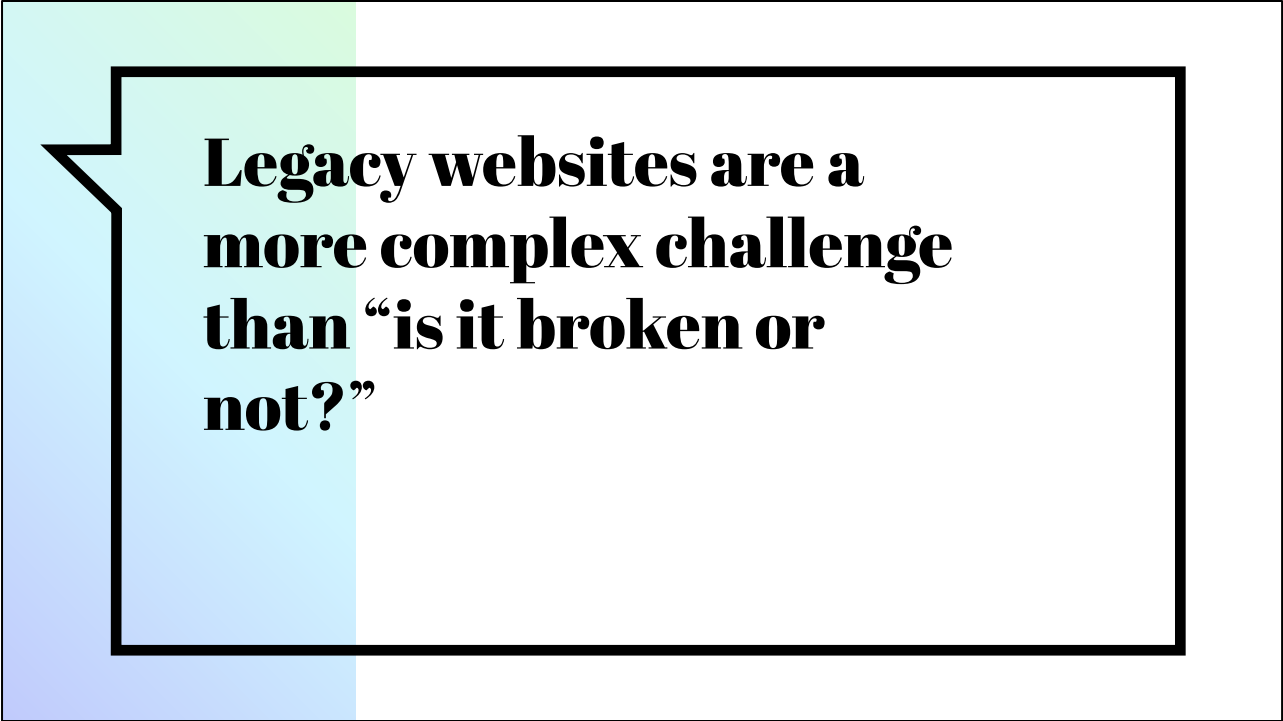
(how the internet is often presented in terms of academic professionalization, scholarship, etc. -- the internet is a place where you can promote your research, make an impact, etc., depending on what you do and say)

"Everything digital dies.

Everything on the web dies faster."

--Robin Camille Davis, "Die Hard: The Impossible, Absolutely Essential Task of Saving the Web for Scholars," Eastern New York ACRL Conference, May 23, 2016

Legacy websites are a more complex challenge than "is it broken or not?"

AMOS BEEBE EATON:

A SOLDIER'S JOURNAL OF THE SECOND SEMINOLE INDIAN WAR

Introduction   Biographical Sketch   The Journal   Sample Pages   Glossary   Bibliography   Links

The diary of Amos Beebe Eaton begins on July 31, 1837 and concludes on August 24, 1838. This handwritten journal chronicles an extraordinary year in the life of a young lieutenant who served in the Second Seminole Indian War. The Eaton diary contains insightful personal observations, detailed reports on military activities, occasional sketches and drawings, and extensive commentary on the Seminole Indians and life in Florida. All notations are in Eaton's hand, including the transcription of letters and military documents. Selected entries consist of brief or incomplete sentences, as military and weather conditions sometimes prevented Eaton from recording more complete thoughts and observations.

The diary serves as the core material for the Amos Beebe Eaton Papers, housed in the Archives and Special Collections Division of the Otto G. Richter Library at the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida. This diary closely parallels the personal journals of another Florida soldier, Lieutenant John Pickell. Pickell, an 1822 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, served in the Fourth Regiment of Artillery, and his journals are located in the Library of Congress. Although Eaton and Pickell apparently never met, their diaries offer similar descriptions and observations.

This site is based on a journal held in our Special Collections. It's a site that's a good candidate for GIS tools, but I have strong feelings about not contextualizing this material with narratives and material from the Seminole population, which for various reasons are difficult to obtain.

Incomplete data model for a bespoke site built ca. six years ago on a grant.

This site has a fantastically complex data model that makes it a poor fit for most off-the-shelf tools, or other platforms that the library can support, because it would require so much customization.

There are a lot of challenges. But let me tell you how we're moving forward. Though there are projects spinning up to find better ways to preserve legacy sites, like Carnegie Mellon's Digits project, and the workflow and tools that Karin Dalziel and folks at U Nebraska Lincoln have been working on, those don't quite meet our needs. Partly it's that they still require complex tech skill and infrastructure; and partly because I want our solution for this to shape the relationships we have with faculty and students, and be a bridge for them to understand sustainability better. To build on something that Hannah Alpert-Abrams said this morning, I want solutions that center relationships, not just technology.

BIBLIOGRAPHY ON MODERATE CUBAN POLITICS, 1952-1965

Compiled and annotated by Holly Ackerman, Otto. G. Richter Library, University of Miami

The Bibliography on Moderate Cuban Politics, 1952-1965 includes 271 annotated primary and secondary resources related to events, groups and individuals that advocated the return to democratic process during the three periods described in this essay:

▶ The Historical Context of the Literature

Author [   ]

Title & Abstract [   ]

[Search]

Author: Enter last or first & last name
Title/Abstract: Find results with All of the terms
Author, Title & Abstract: Find results with All of the terms

▶ Archives ▶ Magazines/Journals ▶ Memoirs & Biographies

▶ Microfilm ▶ Monographs

▶ Newspapers, Periodiquitos & Pamphlets ▶ Reference

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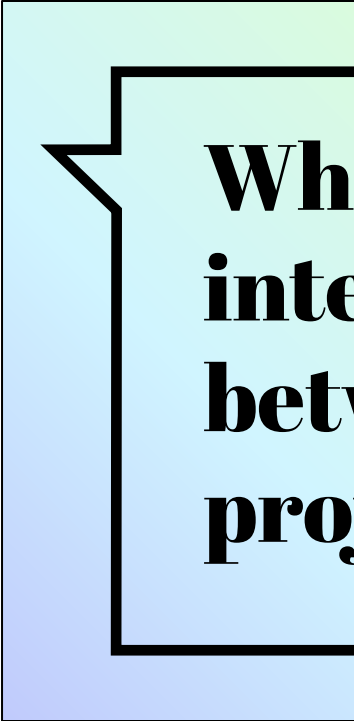
	University/Archive	Location	Year	Latitude	Lon
	Columbia University Library	New York, NY		40.7127753	-74.
th College Archives	Dartmouth College	Hanover, NH	1957-1961	43.7022451	-72.
s	Earlham College	Richmond, Indiana		39.8289369	-84.
ions, Cuban Pamphlet Collection	Florida International University	Miami, FL		25.7616798	-80.
Collections Department	Mississippi State University	Mississippi State, MS	1951 - 1966	33.4555279	-88.
ons	Princeton University	Princeton, NJ		40.3572976	-74.
Special Collections, Frances Grant Papers and Robert J. Alexander Papers	The State University of New Jersey Rutgers	New Brunswick, NJ	1952-1965	40.4862157	-74.
	University of Miami	Miami, FL	2002	25.7616798	-80.
. Sanger Collection	University of Wyoming	Laramie, Wyoming		41.3113669	-105
key Chapelle Papers, 1933-1967	Wisconsin State Historical Society	Madison, WI	1933-1967	43.0730517	-89.

Doing this isn't just about tech -- it's meant to be an intervention, too, in the way we work with DH projects
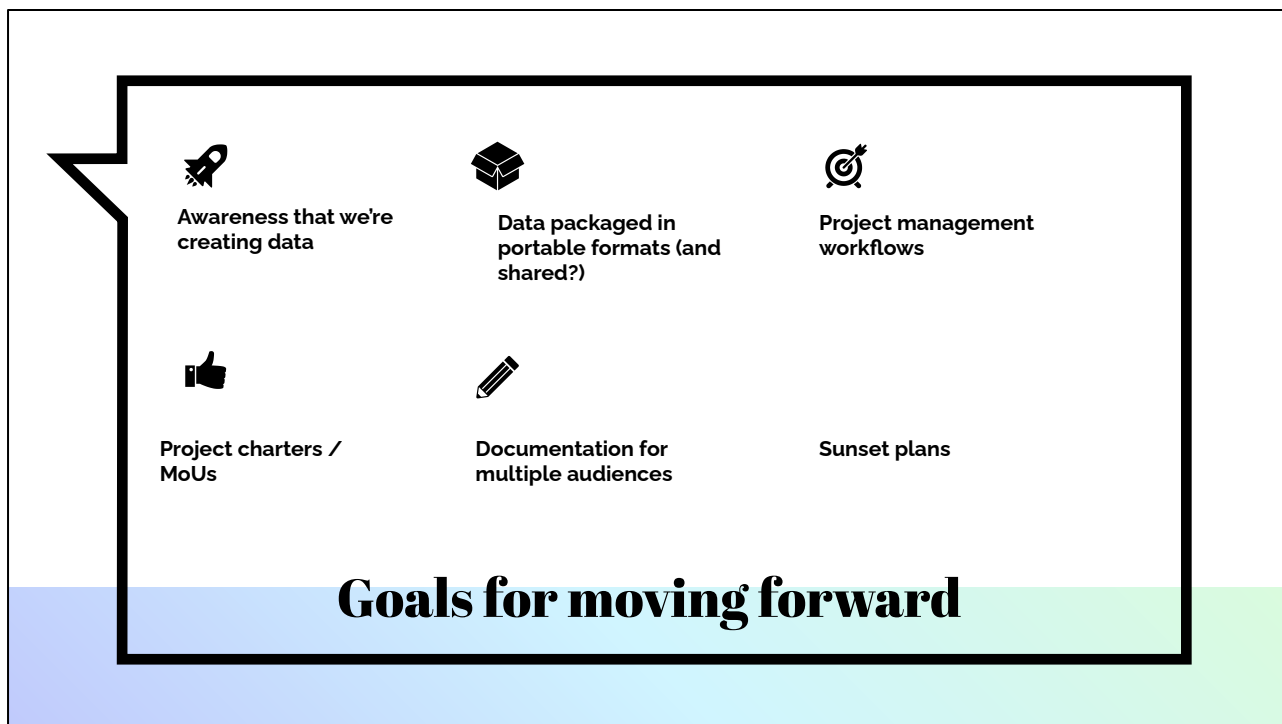
What does intertextuality between DH projects look like?

What might we aim for beyond static preservation?

Awareness that we're creating data

Data packaged in portable formats (and shared?)

Project management workflows

Project charters / MoUs

Documentation for multiple audiences

Sunset plans

Goals for moving forward

I want to foreground the idea of DH projects as having multiple formats with different lifespans -- the website might be one, but the dataset is another; workflows might be another...documentation, etc.

Thanks!

[Hadassah St. Hubert,](#) **Ruth Trego, and [Alok Amatya](#) contributed to this ongoing project.**

Any questions?

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Thanks to SlidesCarnival for use of the Florizel template!