Hydra UX call - 7 May 2015

Attendees:
- Jack Reed - Stanford, geospatial web engineer
- Axa Liauw - blacklight projects at Princeton
- John Kratz - data curation postdoc at CDL
- Mark Notess - IU, Avalon product owner; UX manager

Intros
- Mark mentioned he is leaving IU & Hydra at the end of the month. This meeting will continue, however.

Blacklight maps
Motivation:
- a stakeholder was interested in viewing collections in Spotlight; one need was a way to view items on a map from the geospatial data they had
- users are expecting map-type interfaces for discovery
- Blacklight maps grew organically out of the expressed need, but they looked at several commercial applications that used maps for discovery, e.g.,
- Google Maps, FourSquare. Also looked at GeoHollis beta at Harvard and the DPLA map
- UX design challenges include discovery vs. refinement (zooming updates results list) vs. visualization; large results sets; varying institutional needs;
- metadata (e.g., LC subject headings don't work so well for map-based results)
- latitude & longitude don't work that well if you want to reference a country and you are within that country; could do bounding boxes but not so helpful for the USA; could do polygonal outline--best?
- ArtWalk site at Oregon State (uses Blacklight Maps); also DPLA map view; Digital Commonwealth
- still a work in progress--would like feedback from this group; the github page is a good place to provide feedback; blacklight dev list also has discussion about it
- currently a plugin deployed at three institutions; Stanford interested in adding more map interfaces into their catalog; BPL has the most public/used version in their Digital Commonwealth site (Eben English)

Roundtable
- Axa: gallery plugin, very visual collection; American Ephemeral collection; trying to get the Bootstrap components out of it. Some of it was tied into Bootstrap too much. Were able to use other components such as Masonry.
- Jack: We just launched earthworks... based on GeoBlacklight.. a new discovery portal for gis data available at https://earthworks.stanford.edu
- John: early in project; ingest and discovery, with a research data focus; collecting metadata; improve the interface and allow it to sit on other repos. Current doing user stories and early wireframes.
- Mark: continuing Avalon work – structural metadata navigation of media; some new metadata fields; working on getting Avalon 4 out early this summer

No topics were suggested for future meetings.
Next call: Thursday, June 4, at 11:30 EDT.