Andrew Weymouth, University of Idaho
"Humanizing Nature Research History with Static Web Design"

Abstract:

This presentation will outline how libraries can design digital spaces that can provide biographical, geological, and data-driven insight into nature research through static web design. The work focuses on a series of oral histories about the Taylor Wilderness Research Center, a secluded facility in the heart of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness in central Idaho, which the university has managed since 1970. The facility has been an invaluable resource for wildlife surveys, rangeland monitoring, and plant identification, but the Center's geographic isolation and the volume of its scholarly output makes the work of these researchers difficult to comprehend. Utilizing the University of Idaho's CollectionBuilder platform and incorporating Oral History as Data functionality, GIS, and bibliometric network visualizations, the site design attempts to present the researchers at a human scale, visualize their scholarly impact over time, and give readers a sense of place.

Bio:

Andrew Weymouth is a Digital Initiatives Librarian at the University of Idaho, primarily focusing on static web design to curate the institution's special collections and partner with faculty and graduate students on fellowship projects. He has created digital scholarship work for the University of Oregon, University of Washington, and the Tacoma Public Library Northwest Room archives, ranging from longform audio public history to regional architectural databases. He writes extensively about labor, film, and architectural history, most recently contributing the opening chapter to *Land in Libraries* (Litwin Books, 2023), on the development of pre-Carnegie libraries in the American West.