THE
DOCUMENT
COMPANY
FUJI XEROX

University of South Australia

CASE STUDY

Bob Hawke lends his life to knowledge sharing at University of South Australia

Fuji Xerox software solution catalogues life and times of one of Australia's most notable Prime Ministers

A joint collaboration between Fuji Xerox Australia and the University of South Australia will see a major collection of archives, books and memorabilia on former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke made available for research and public access. Part of the Hawke Centre, a project initiated by the University of South Australia to deliver dynamic education programs and foster excellent research for public good, the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Library is one of the first of its kind in Australia. It aims to identify, collect, conserve and make available the Prime Minister's papers and memorabilia, and those of his colleagues in public life, and related materials from his times.

According to Elizabeth Ho, director of the Hawke Centre, the Prime Ministerial Library represents a major information resource for external researchers and digital access is a critical requirement.

"Digital archiving removes the barriers of distance," explained Ms Ho. "We needed to be able to take hard copy documents and photographs and make them available in an easily-searchable digital format over the internet. It is all about access: we wanted to make it easy, for example, for secondary schools across Australia to research the Hawke era on line, with unparalleled archived resources at their fingertips."

Finding the right solution to fit

Within the University of South Australia, The Hawke Centre turned to its own Document Services department for advice on handling the mass of documents. With digitisation, storage and searchability all key issues, Information Technology Coordinator Mike Hobart turned to Fuji Xerox Australia for advice.

"The University of South Australia has a successful strategic partnership with Fuji Xerox. They have worked closely with us over the past six years, helping us make the university print room more efficient, improving our workflow and revolutionising the way we serve the needs of our clients within the University. Fuji Xerox deals with the document in all its forms – be it hard copy or digitised – and I had no hesitation in approaching them for advice on the right solution."

Fuji Xerox proposed DocuShare, its web technology-based document management system. Like the Web, DocuShare is an inherently 'open' system and can be installed on Wndows NT or UNIX Web Servers, with users able to access from any desktop that has a Web Browser and Intranet or Extranet access.
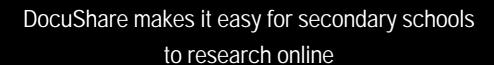
Thanks to DocuShare's tools that allow us to assign different users with access to various directories, we were able to quickly 'share' the newly digitised files with the Hawke Centre…

DocuShare makes it easy for secondary schools to research online

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Sharing knowledge across many locations

"Any business or organisation that needs to share information and knowledge can benefit from DocuShare," explained John Murphy, Education Industry Manager, Fuji Xerox Australia. "It is ideally suited to applications across multiple sites, as between Document Services and the Hawke Centre – two sites at the University of South Australia." Another key suitability of DocuShare came from it allowing each party involved to focus on its own core competencies:

"Whilst Document Services had the skills and expertise to create digitised documents from the hard-copies being made available, it had no experience in archiving library documents appropriately. Similarly, the library was unsure which types of screen resolutions or file formats best digitise the document. DocuShare solved this."

How it works: using a standard web browser users can post, change, search for and retrieve information in a secure, controlled environment with all changes immediately accessable to authorised users. Office documents, calenders, bulletin boards, scanned images, video clips, sound files and more can be added and recovered without the intervention of a web master or site administrator.

"Thanks to DocuShare's tools that allow us to assign different users with access to various directories, we were able to quickly 'share' the newly digitised files with the Hawke Centre for them to categorise accordingly in the correct on-line directory," said Hobart.

He added: "For example, Document Services places the scanned files into the 'general' directory to which the archivist has prior access rights assigned. Whether the files are JPEGs of scanned photographs, PDFs of speeches, even video streams, they go to the same place – the archivist is then responsible for where that digitised file ends up."

Storage and sharing made easy

Being web-browser based, DocuShare means there is no extra programming or training required. Similarly, it allows storage of files to be platform independent. To Hobart's delight, even presenting images on-line is made easy:

"Any web designer will tell you about the long winded approach of preparing images for web download. First of all the image is scanned, then a separate thumbnail is created, then a link has to be set up between the two. With DocuShare, once you scan an image, the thumbnail and relevant link is generated automatically."

Working with Fuji Xerox Document Services is now able to create digital resources and make them available via the Web, quickly and easily, paving the way for other applications.

"This project was an opportunity for Fuji Xerox to demonstrate an integrated solution utilising an intranet and Internet access relationship," said John Murphy. "As one of the first projects in Australia for delivering digital library services, we see it as having huge potential for demonstration and referral to other clients requiring this type of collection management support."

Further Information

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