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### Preserving Central Ohio's History: A Study of Why IT Must Be a Consultant to the Business

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COLUMBUS  
METROPOLITAN  
LIBRARY

# PRESERVING CENTRAL OHIO'S HISTORY

## A Study of Why IT Must Be a Consultant to the Business

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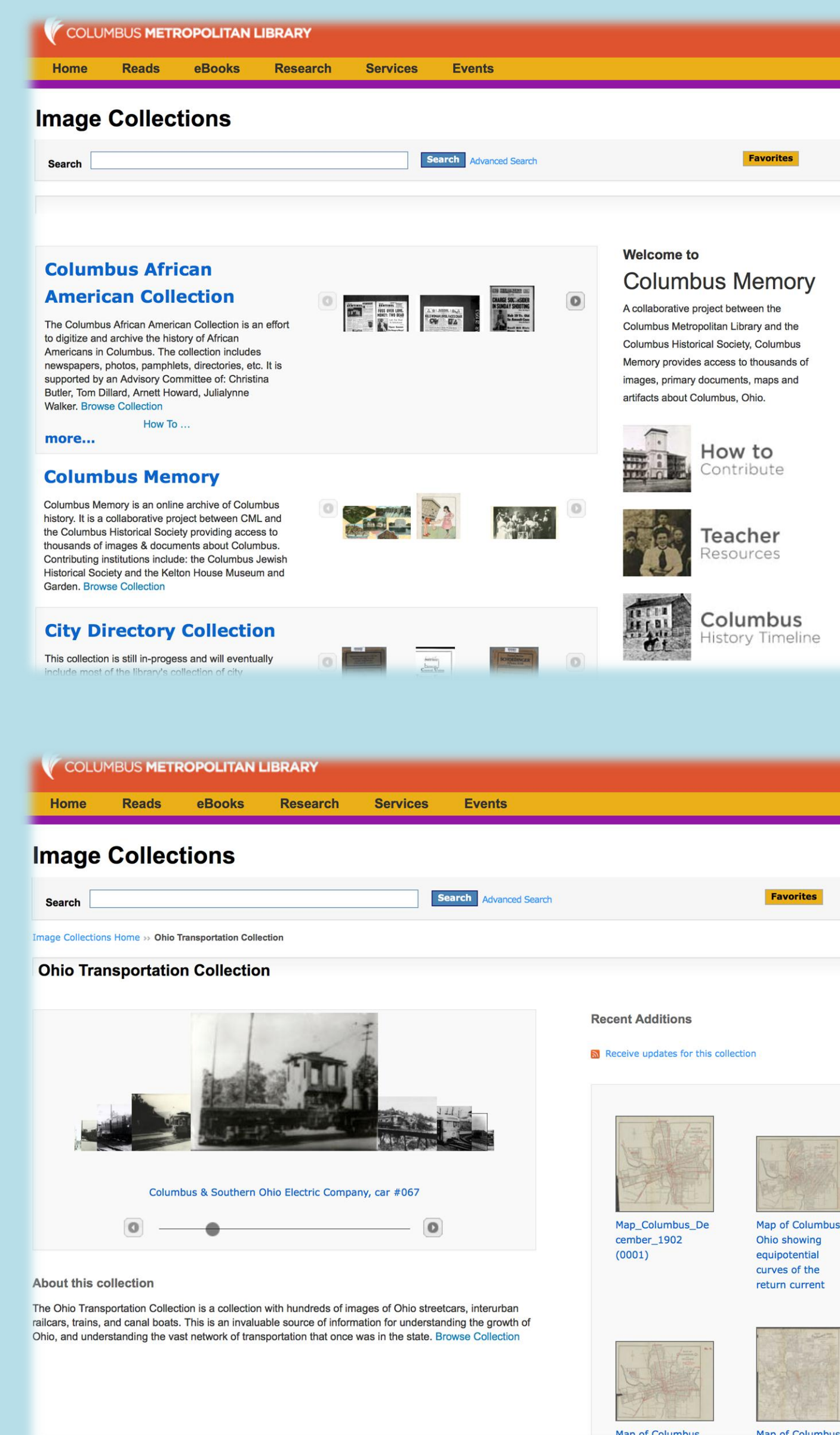
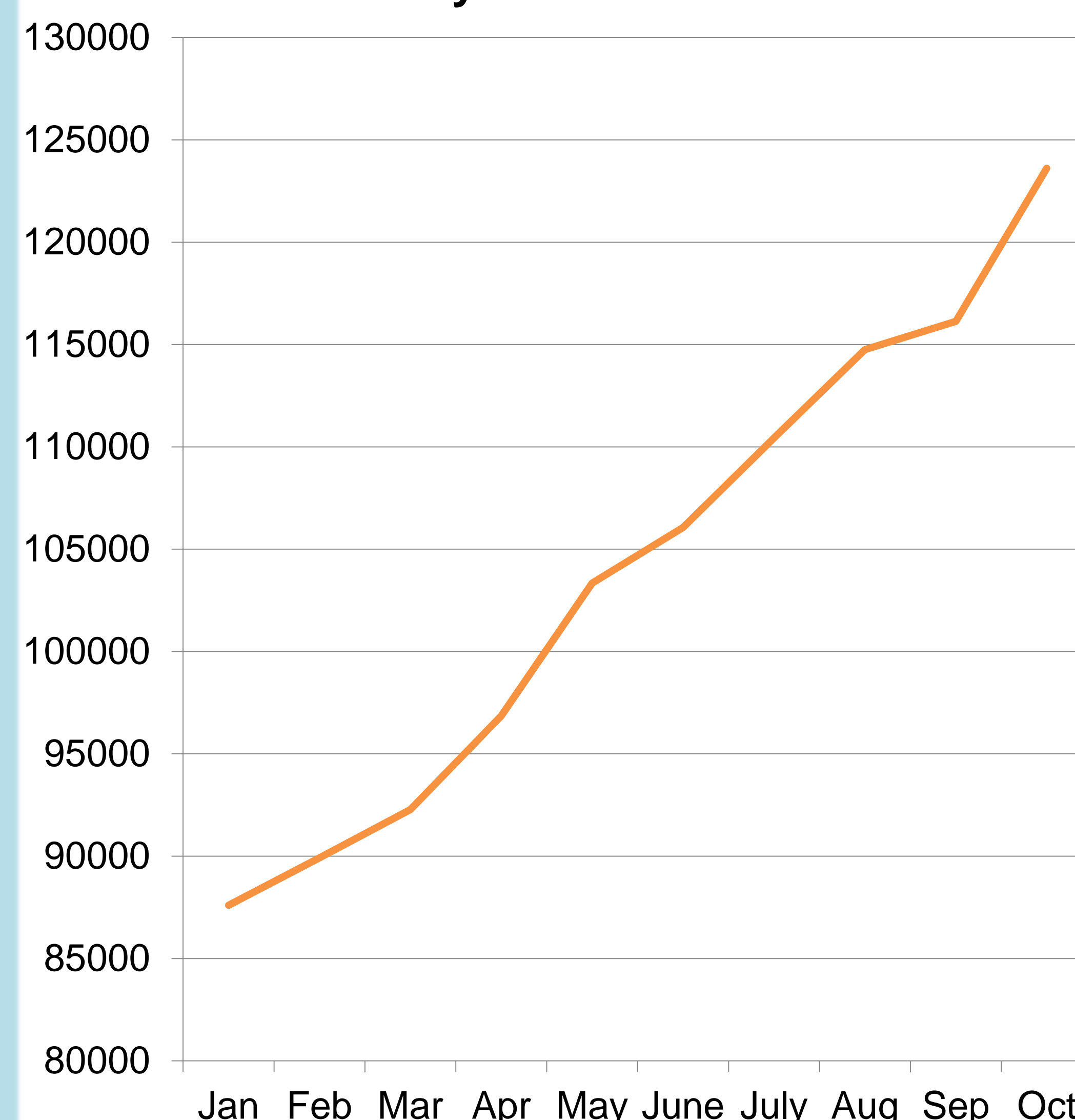
### INTRODUCTION

- The Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML), working with its partners, is preserving Central Ohio's rich history through expansion of its Digital Collections portal.
- Multiple departments are working together to use advanced technology to capture, catalog, and store data in a vast digital archive.
- Working through grants, vendors, and national organizations, CML Looks to establish itself as a leader in delivering digital content to, a national audience.
- How can IT enable the business to reach its goals?

### REQUIREMENTS

- Information systems capable of storing and indexing large quantities of data.
- Guidance on how to design a solution to capture, store, index, and present information.
- A high performing content delivery system for desktop and mobile platforms.
- Incorporate social media to promote our collections and allow customer to share their discoveries.
- Tie into other repositories, such as the Digital Public Library Association (<http://dp.la>)

Digital Collection Growth  
January – October 2014



### DISCUSSION

- Identifying the inter-relationships between elements of a system, better known as **Systems Theory**, is key to developing the infrastructure and necessary processes to support an initiative of this scale. (Bertalanffy, 1968)
- IT must be **consultant** to the business.
- IT is **uniquely qualified** to bridge technology and business requirements.
- IT's understanding of business processes, and how technology supports the organization's vision, is critical to the success of this project.
- IT must see the "big picture" and the fine details in order to anticipate customer needs and future technology trends.
- Risk assessment, fiscal management, and interpersonal communication are additional skills that IT can bring to the table.

### APPROACH

- By constantly evaluate each level of the **Enterprise Architecture** framework (Technology, Data, Application, Business) IT can design systems that scale and enable growth (Spewak, 1993).
- Using **data modeling**, we can anticipate how customers will search, find, access, and share information.
- Focus on **standardizing** database and application platforms to reduce complexity and quickly deliver content to customers.
- Work with business units to establish **requirements**, **scope**, and **governance** necessary to execute the project.

### CREDITS

Special thanks to **Angela O'Neil**, GHT Manager at the Columbus Metropolitan Library.

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