

Jon Voss

Founder, LookBackMaps



Jon Voss has innovated solutions and community engagement on “big picture” problems for fifteen years. In the mid-nineties, his early work on social responsibility led him to develop new business practices for music festivals and rock stars. A decade later, he helped religious communities and other institutions develop and implement technology infrastructure and strategies that fit with their beliefs, cultures and daily practice.

Today, Voss is helping to build an open ecosystem of historical data across libraries, archives, and museums worldwide. In his work at the intersection of history and technology, he’s jumpstarting important projects ranging from the development of institutional infrastructure (like linked databases, and game-changing conferences and working groups) to consumer facing web and mobile products.

Current Projects

Founder, *LookBackMaps*. Voss created LookBackMaps in 2008 to increase the visibility and accessibility of historical photos across archives on the web. Since then, Voss has led several pioneering collaborative efforts, including:

LookBackMaps: brings history to life in location-based web and mobile apps. With a team of developers, LBM works with institutions around the world to help improve access to their collection data, and leverage passionate, local volunteers to map historical photos. Partners include: The Historic New Orleans Collection, Missouri History Museum. (www.LookBackMaps.net)

Civil War Data 150: utilizes Linked Open Data to share and connect Civil War data across local, state and federal institutions during the sesquicentennial commemoration beginning in April, 2011. Partners include: Archives of Michigan, Internet Archive, Freebase/Google, and University of Richmond. (www.CivilWarData150.net)

THATCamp Bay Area. The initial San Francisco Bay Area installation of “The Humanities and Technology” unconference (THATCamp) took place in October 2010 and was attended by leading scholars, technologists, and enthusiasts. Voss was the lead organizer, and continues to organize local meetups. The event was supported entirely by sponsors, including WordPress.com, Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley, Stanford Libraries, Wordnik, and many others. (www.THATCampBayArea.org)

LOD-LAM Summit: June 2-3, 2011, The International Linked Open Data in Libraries, Archives, and Museums will gather world wide innovators active in this field of cutting edge internet technology. LOD-LAM is hosted by the Internet Archive and funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. (www.lod-lam.net)

Past Project Management

jumpSLIDE networks. 2003-present. Advise wide variety of organizations in information architecture, infrastructure, and technology integration.

San Francisco Zen Center, 2003-2004. Directed technology integration and planning for all aspects of this multifaceted institution which includes a monastery, working farm, book stores, retreat & conference centers, library, archive, and residential campus.

Trillium Asset Management, 1999-2003. Created ancillary entertainment industry consulting services for socially responsible investment firm. Advised on projects for David Crosby, Wyclef Jean, Harry Belafonte, and others. Managed Durham, NC branch equity trading technologies, including early development of algorithms to assist in stock-scoring and detection of technical analysis patterns.

Milarepa Fund & Tibetan Freedom Concerts, 1996-1998. Led economic action efforts and socially responsible business planning for stadium concert events, film, and music properties created by the Beastie Boys.

Jeffery Manor Community Revitalization Council, 1995-1996. Worked with low income Chicago community organization to conduct computer training and assist in the development of a computerized neighborhood mapping program, in coordination with citywide community technology agency.

National Catholic Council for Interracial Justice, 1993. Developed national college internship and outreach program to create interracial dialogue on college campuses.

Education

Voss graduated from Kalamazoo College in 1995 with a Bachelor of Arts in religion, having spent much of his college experience traveling. He interned in Washington, DC; studied Tibetan Buddhism and language in Nepal, India, and Tibet; and studied development economics and Catholic liberation theology in Haiti.