

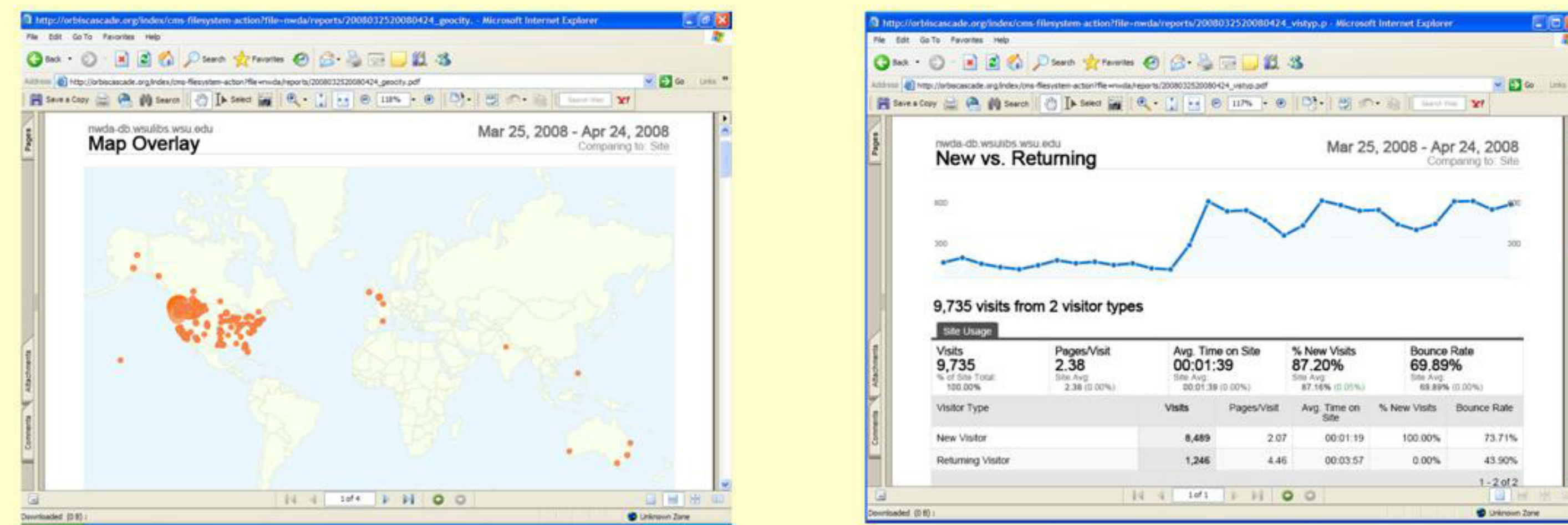


1. TITLE: ARCHIVAL DIGITAL IMAGES: A USER STUDY



- 2. AUTHORS:** Janet Hauck - Whitworth University Archivist
 Jodi Allison-Bunnell - NWDA Program Manager
 Elizabeth Yakel - University of Michigan School of Information
- 3. ABSTRACT:** This user study is being conducted to identify what information researchers want to see presented digitally and how they want to see it presented. The study is being conducted by the Northwest Digital Archives consortium, a program of the Orbis Cascades Alliance.

NWDA Users:



4. METHODS:

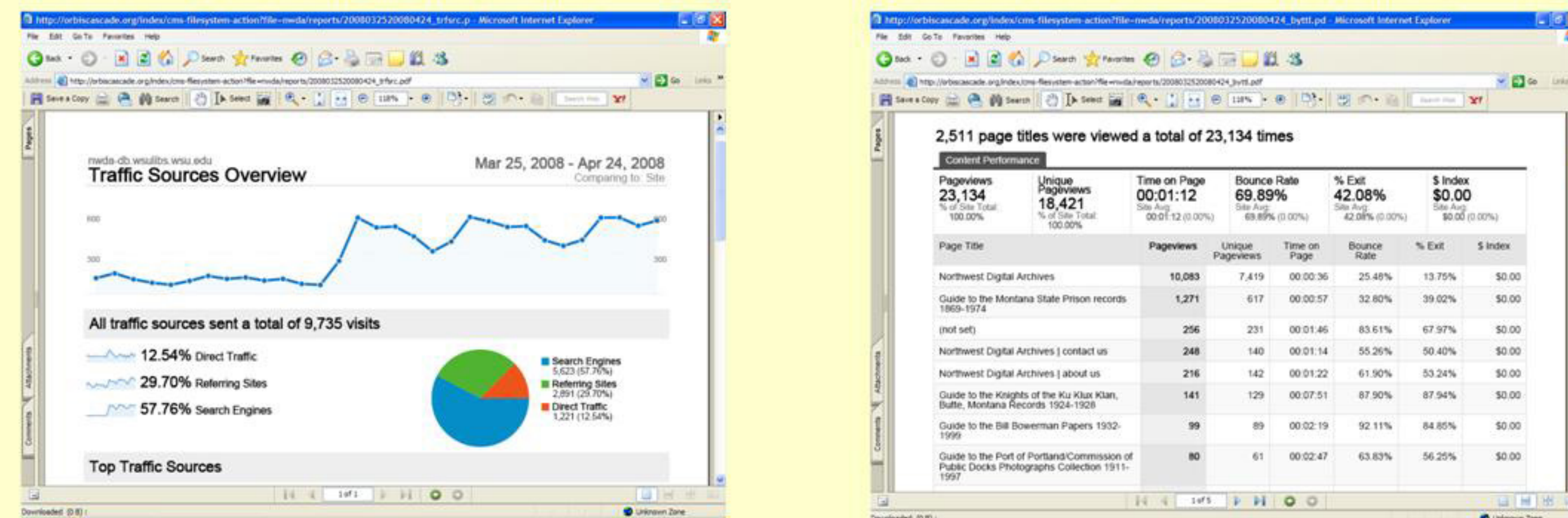
PRELIMINARY RESEARCH BY OTHERS:

- 1998 - CLIR paper, *Selecting Research Collections for Digitization*
- 2003 - CLIR paper, *Use and Users of Electronic Library Resources*
- 2003 - Helen Tibbo - "Primarily History in America: ...at the Dawn of the Digital Age" - *American Archivist*
- 2003 - Elizabeth Yakel and Deborah Torres - "AI: Archival Intelligence and User Expertise" - *American Archivist*

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH BY NWDA:

- Oct.-Nov. 2007 - NWDA Survey of Digitizing Initiatives - digital programs presently in place
- Dec. 2007-Jan. 2008 - NWDA Researcher Type Study - researchers presently served and priority audiences
- Aug.-Sept. 2008 - NWDA Institutional Needs Survey - needs in regard to technical infrastructure, standards, training

How Researchers Find Us and What They Use:



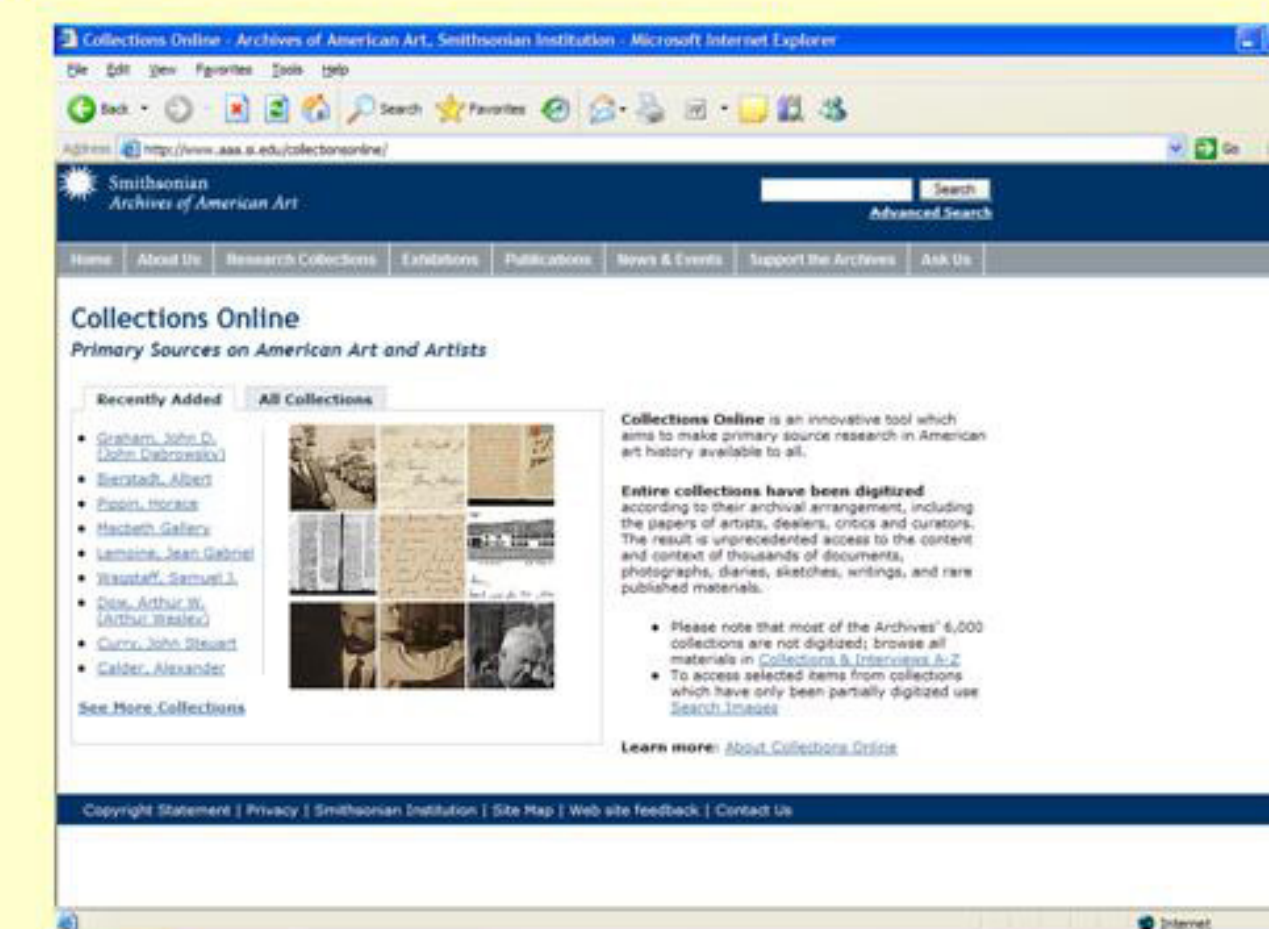
5. PRESENT TASKS:

- Bring in consultant Elizabeth Yakel, a leader in archival user studies
- Design a user survey based on researchers' reactions to screen shots
- Conduct a pilot test
- Recruit researchers from the 30 NWDA institutions, based on type and location
- Analyze survey results to learn user preferences
- Use results to prepare consortium-wide digitization project

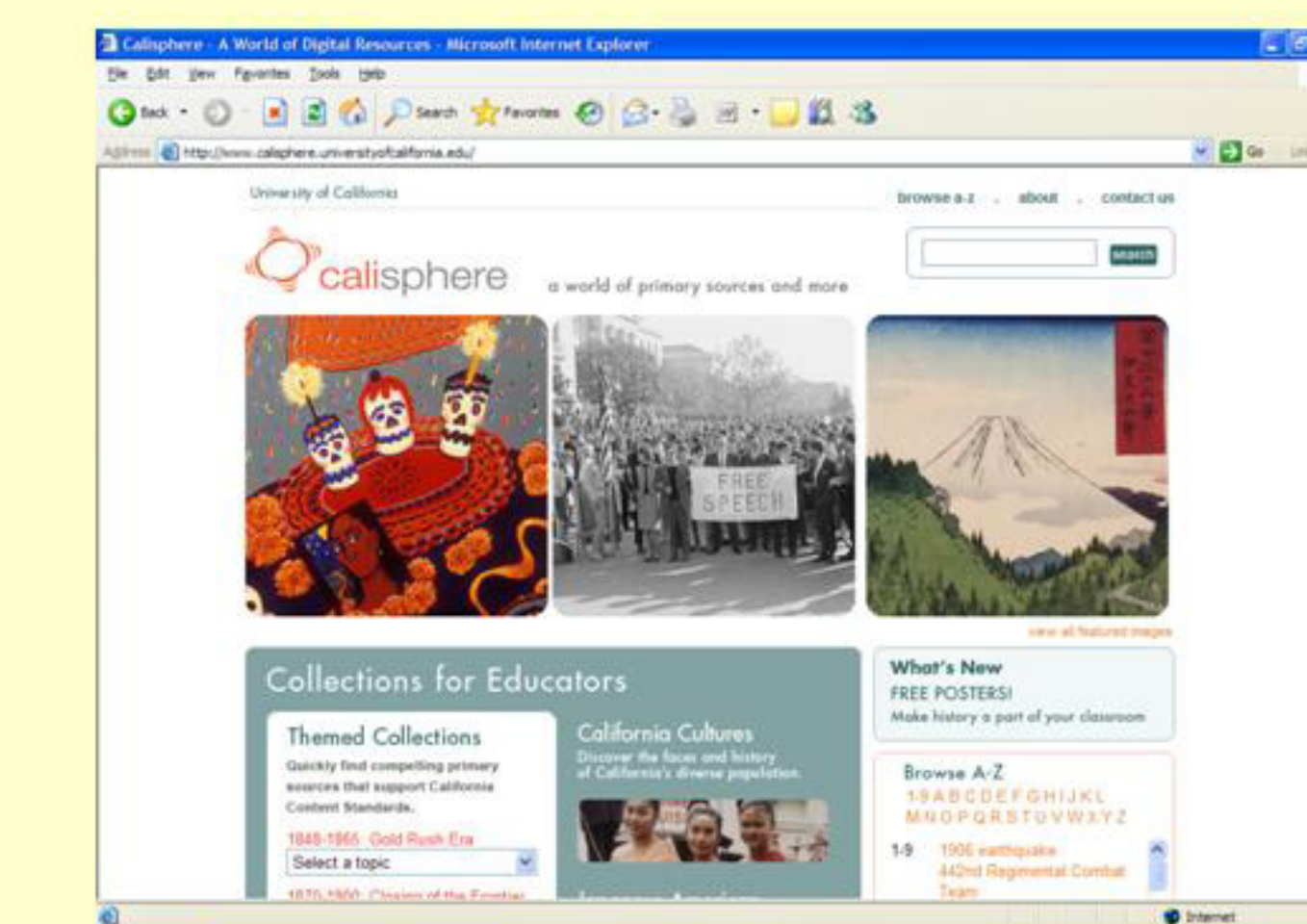
6. NEXT STEPS:

- Oct.-Nov. 2008 - "Archival Digital Images: a User Study"
- A survey conducted by web-conference and teleconference
- In-house and remote users
- Six pairings of websites offering digital content

Pair One:



Pair Two:



7. RESULTS:

- Recruitment to be conducted September 2008
- Survey to be conducted October 2008
- Results to be analyzed November 2008
- IMLS National Leadership Planning Grant to be received (hopefully!) September 2008
- NWDA Digitization Project to be implemented 2009-2010

8. SUMMARY: Findings indicate that what was true for paper collections back in 1980 is still true today; "Identifying the users and potential users of archives and manuscript collections, and how these users approach the collections, are the most important considerations in constructing an (archival) information system." - Richard Lytle