Key Challenges Facing Quotient's Federal Government Clients

Mission: Solve significant environmental issues in La Ventosa by tapping into local botanical knowledge.

Web Services

"We need a website that describes plants in Oaxaca, Mexico from the perspective of its indigenous people."

Case Study: Smithsonian Institutes (SI) National Ethnobotanical Herbarium Online (NEHO)

NEHO is a collaborative effort among indigenous people living in the La Ventosa part of Oaxaca, Mexico including linguists, botanists and artists. The initiative's purpose is to document thousands of native plants in the region in three languages including native Zapotec. The objective is to capture, communicate and leverage local knowledge about their plants to address environmental degradation and to further scientific research. It is believed this data would be important to improve biodiversity and to aid pharmaceutical, agricultural and environmental research being conducted worldwide to solve difficult nutritional and disease related problems.

PROBLEM WAS:

- No existing website.
- The new website needed to present data organized from the perspective of indigenous people.
- Must support 3 languages.
- The plant data was logged into eMuseum but needed to be accessed via the new site.
- Subject Matter Experts spoke different languages.

SOLVED BY:

- Listening carefully to client needs and communicating among all stakeholders.
- Working with Smithsonian's dev team to guide the API build.
- Building the website with Drupal 7, contributing custom built modules to automatically retrieve data.
- Customizing a design theme appealing to the intended audience.
- Implementing translation modules

RESULTS WERE:

- An attractive website that allows La Ventosa plant data to be organized and accessed from the indigenous perspective. The site can be read in Zapotec, Spanish or English.
- Website administrators can maintain site content and translations.
- Sharing of local plant knowledge to remedy their significant regional environmental issues. Preservation of an endangered language.

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