A2.0 Archive

The Samaritan Archive 2.0 Project

Tailoring the digital archive to the needs of cultural and community stakeholders

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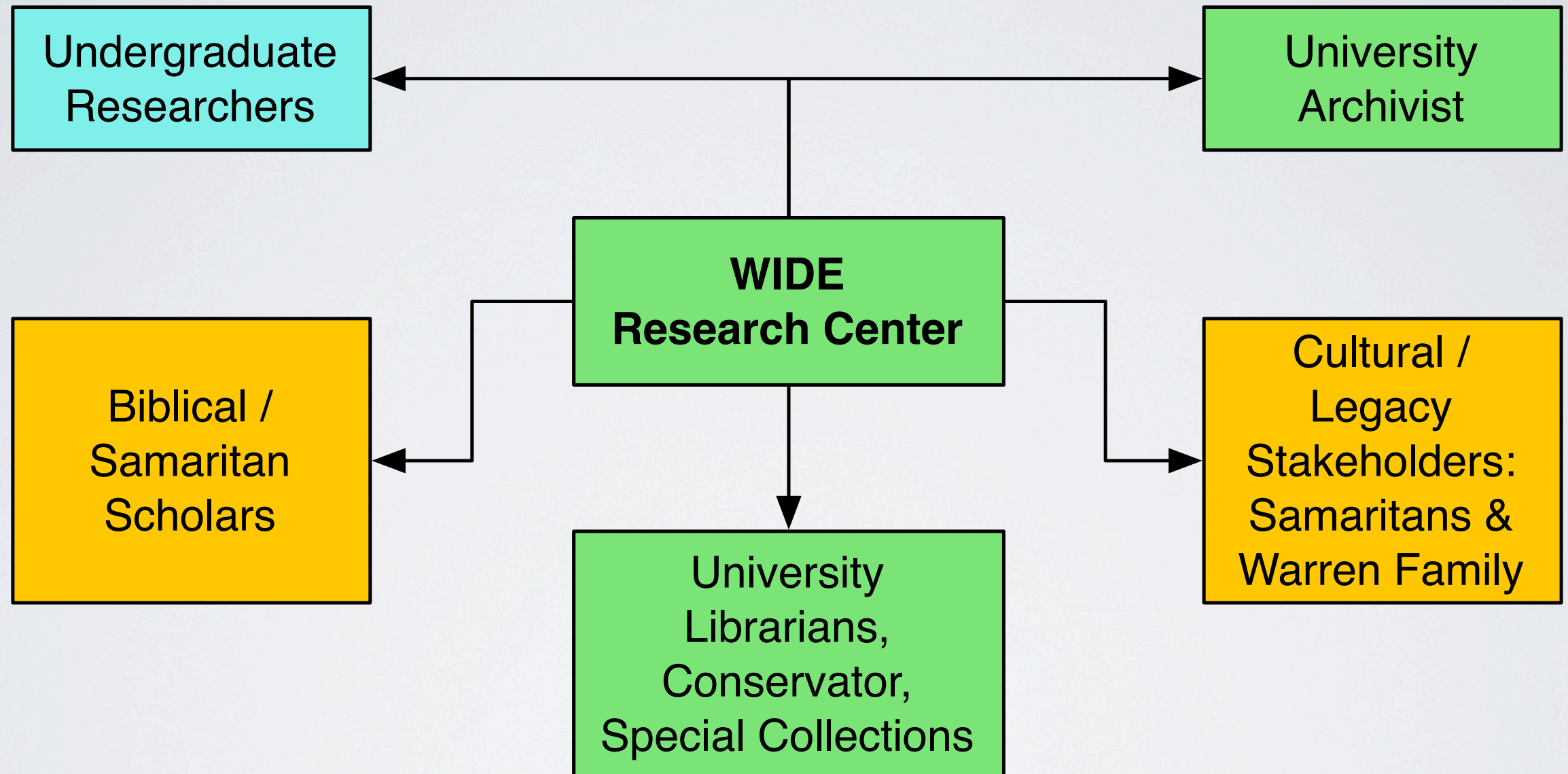**Mike McLeod** - Michigan State University - **@mcleodm3**
User Experience Researcher and Systems Designer, WIDE Research Center

Project Goals

- To create a working model of a **culturally-sensitive repository** of Samaritan texts

- Support a variety of learning activities including **online teaching, learning,** and **research**

- Provide access to digital versions of the scrolls enhanced with **Web 2.0**

- Follow a model of system development consistent with best practices of **user-centered design**

Collaboration

A2.0 Archive

Undergraduate Researchers		University Archivist
	WIDE Research Center	
Biblical / Samaritan Scholars		Cultural / Legacy Stakeholders: Samaritans & Warren Family
	University Librarians, Conservator, Special Collections	

Legend:
- Stakeholders
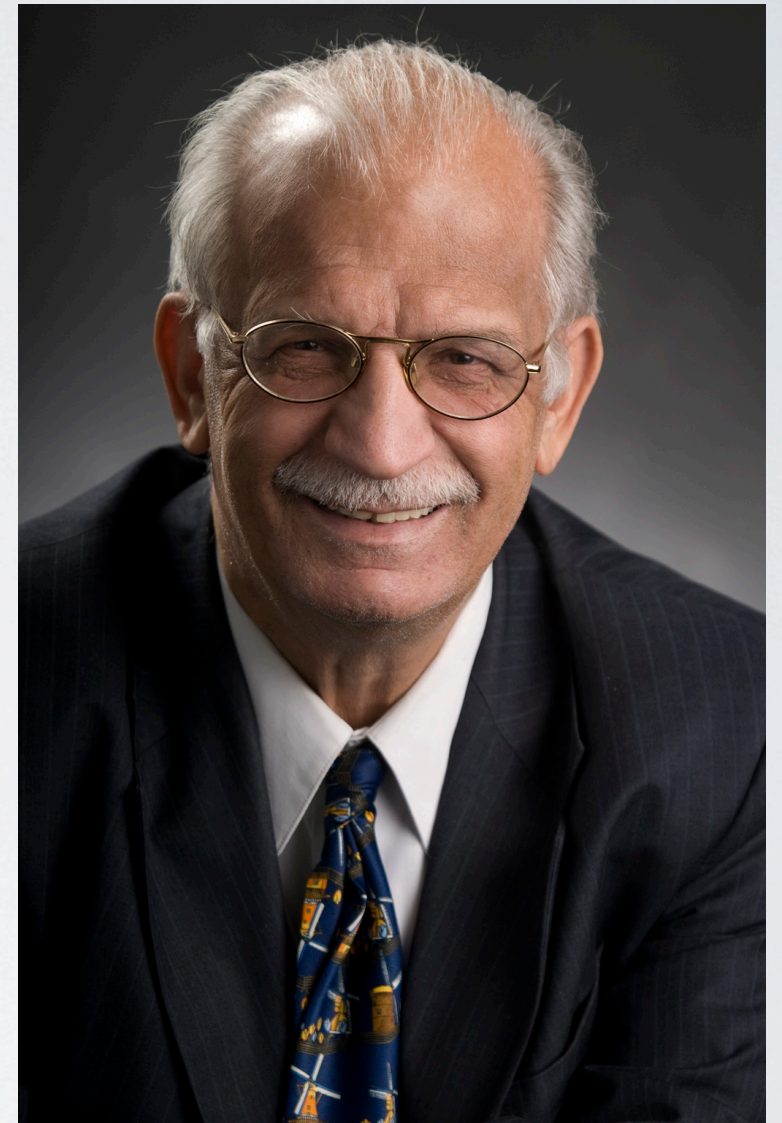- University Units
- Students

Phase I: Stakeholder Interviews

Interviews with key stakeholders in a digital Pentateuch archive to develop an initial set of design prototypes the team believed would best meet their various requirements.
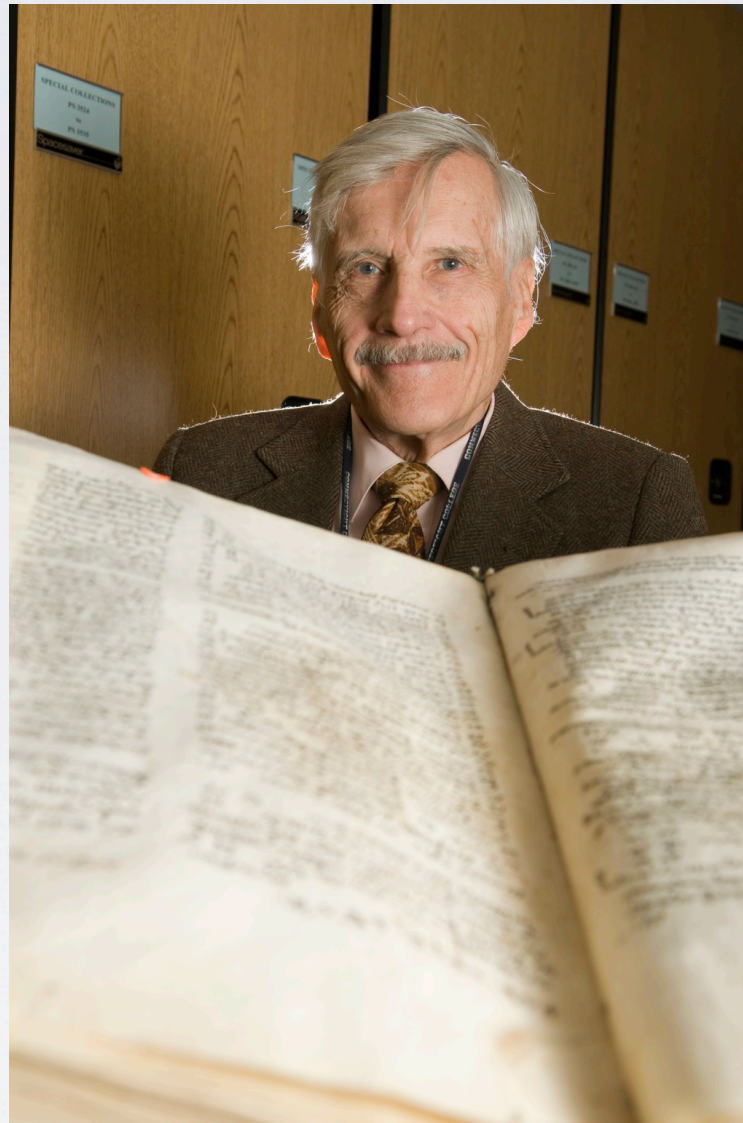
Professor Robert Anderson,
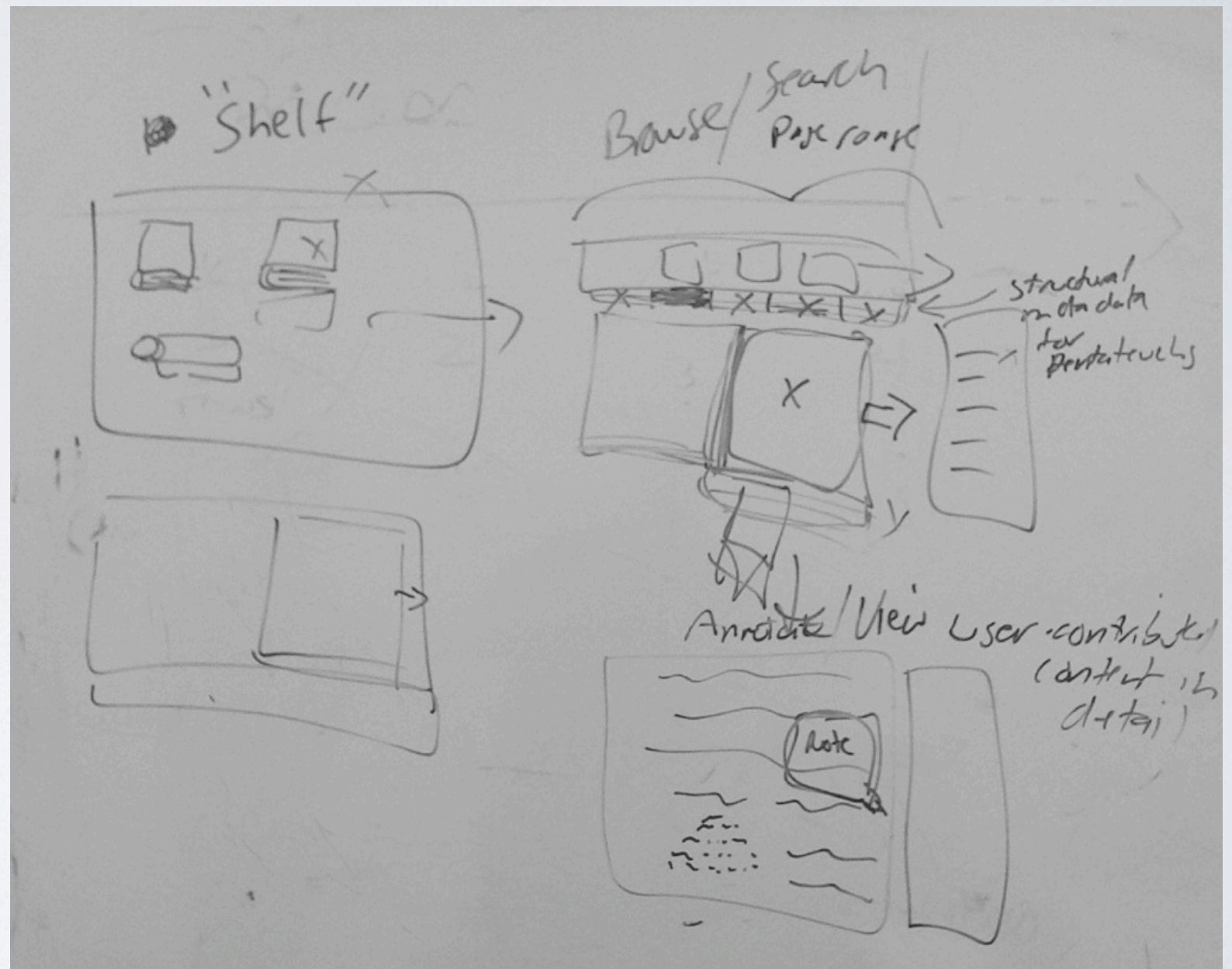Samaritan Scholar,
Michigan State University

Binyamin Tsedaka,
Samaritan Elder,
Holon, Israel

With a basic understanding of features and functions the stakeholders required, the team began brainstorming ideas for interface designs that would meet their needs.

Low-fidelity prototype design informed by initial interviews

Phase II: High-fidelity Mockups

Having done the initial interviews and brainstorming, the research team developed a series of higher-quality mockups to demonstrate potential interfaces.

High-fidelity mockup based on initial research and team inspiration (utilizes an ancient Hebrew text – created before Samaritan texts scanned)

Two members of the research team travelled to Israel and the West Bank to get feedback on the prototypes and to observe the ways in which the Samaritans use their sacred texts.

The Samaritan Community on Mount Gerizim in the West Bank

Phase III:
Field Research

The research team was warmly welcomed by the community and granted permission to conduct interviews and given access to many private libraries.

Binyamin Tsedaka, the Samaritan High Priest Elazar ben Tsedaka ben Yitzhaq, Gus Whalen, the great-grandson of E.K. Warren, and Jim Ridolfo, WIDE Research Center.

Understanding how the Samaritans use their sacred texts gave the team greater insight into how a useful online archive might work.

A 14th-Century Samaritan Pentatuech from a private family library. Each piece of cloth represents one generation of family ownership.

Phase IV: Implementing Research

Using input from the community, a working prototype was built to assist in gathering archive information that would be useful to the Samaritans - data that would be invisible in a traditional archive.

Prototype asked users to identify portions of the text in a scanned page.

Next Steps

- Preservation and digitization of three MSU Pentateuchs

- Building a fully-functional web-based archive for multiple stakeholder communities

- Cultivating partnerships with other libraries to digitize more Samaritan texts

- Integrating archives with social networks to encourage greater community participation

Thank You

For more information:

- National Endowment for the Humanities whitepaper
  http://wide.msu.edu/special/archive

- Ariadne, Issue 63: "Balancing Stakeholder Needs: Archive 2.0 as Community-Centered Design"
  http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue63/ridolfo-et-al/

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National Endowment for the Humanities Project Whitepaper,* Archive 2.0:
Imagining The Michigan State University Israelite Samaritan Scroll
Collection as the Foundation for a Thriving Social Network *
http://www.wide.msu.edu/content/archive

Ariadne article,* Balancing Stakeholder Needs: Archive 2.0 as
Community-centred Design, *http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue63/ridolfo-et-al/

http://rid.olfo.org/research/archive2/