CDN Middleware

Managing digital specimens in a distributed world.

Office of Museum Technology
https://floridamuseum.ufl.edu/omt
2020
The Big Picture

Each Digital Asset Gets Permanent Address (Permalink) on Florida Museum Namespace

CDN Middleware routes the Permalink to the current source.
What is a Permalink?

A permalink or permanent link is a URL that is intended to remain unchanged for many years into the future, yielding a hyperlink that is less susceptible to link rot. Permalinks are often rendered simply, that is, as friendly URLs, so as to be easy for people to type and remember. Wikipedia
Why Implement Permalinks?

- Protect publications. Permalinks are our only defense against link rot.
- Reinforce institutional reputation.
- Clearly communicate that the specimen is from the Florida Museum.
- Necessary for publishing to aggregators. Image permalinks are required for your images to appear in iDigBio.
- Reduces the number of copies necessary, which reduces storage footprint.
How does it work?

- Automatic for Collection Object Attachments.
- Automatic for Preparations.
- Collections can manage directly via Specify.
- Control public visibility.
- Control external hosting redirect.
How does it work with External?

- Automatic for Collection Object Attachments.
- Collections can manage directly via Specify.
- Control public visibility.
- Control external hosting redirect.
Next Steps

- Roll out for remaining Specify collections.
  - Coordinate with Zach for details here.
  - Collection switches over to using Permalinks as rolled out.
- OMT Extends Florida Museum Data Publishing Pipeline to include Audubon Core metadata.
  - This will allow your image manifests to be ingested by iDigBio and other interested aggregators.
- Host workshops to develop community engagement.