Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

NDIIPP Meeting Draws Record Crowd

The Library of Congress annual National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program meeting drew over 150 people from 20 states to share results from digital stewardship projects. This was the largest number of attendees yet, and indicates success in building a fledgling national network of digital preservation partners.

NDIIPP 2009 Meeting Attendees. Credit: Barry Wheeler

Laura Campbell, Associate Librarian for Strategic Initiatives, opened the meeting with words of appreciation. "The energy and momentum you have created is very impressive," she said. "NDIIPP is recognized around the world as a model for national approaches to digital preservation, and a big reason for this is the enthusiasm and quality of the network members—all of you."

Clay Shirky provided the meeting keynote. He discussed the social nature of digital preservation issues, including the distributed publishing model of the internet and what he described as "filter failure." Metadata is the key, but everyone is involved in assigning descriptors, not just librarians and archivists

The meeting featured 12 breakout sessions focusing on metadata, collaboration agreements, preserving dynamic content, web archiving and other topics. Other talks

Author and media theorist Clay Shirky. Credit: Barry Wheeler

provided details about projects to retrieve web content that is inaccessible through referenced hyperlinks; using cloud computing for digital preservation; and current U.S. copyright policies.

Social media covered the meeting in some detail. The blog L'Archivista summarized all three days of the meeting, and there were a number of Twitter tweets sent during the meeting.

Read more about the other talks during the meeting at digitalpreservation.gov. Slides and notes from all meeting sessions are available from the events section of the NDIIPP website. •

Digital Preservation Pioneer: Jerry Handfield

Washington State's Top Archivist Jerry Handfield.

Washington State Archivist Jerry Handfield traces his work on the innovative Washington State Digital Archives back to a history project he did in high school in Norwich, Connecticut. Handfield had to virtually "move" an 1830s-era family from the East cross country to the Oregon territories, drawing upon historical people and events. As his research took him through memoirs, biographies, newspapers and public records, he became more absorbed in the work than expected. He relished solving mysteries, and discovered a dedication to and a knack for historical research. He felt the vitality of history and sensed that the lines connecting the past and present are taut and humming with relevance. His career course was set.

Prior to his tenure as Washington State Archivist, Handfield taught history at Indiana University and Purdue University at Indianapolis and worked at the Indiana State Library. From 1987 until 2001, he served as the Indiana State Archivist and headed the Commission on Public Records as a gubernatorial appointee. During this time he became a fervent advocate for electronic records.

Read more about Handfield's work and experiences at digitalpreservation.gov. •

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

NDIIPP Digital Preservation Video Series

The National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program has released a new video: Bagit: Transferring Content for Digital Preservation.

Screenshot from the Video.

Just over three minutes long, the video is aimed at librarians, archivists, and others interested in working with digital content.

The Bagit production is the first in a planned series of videos that will address specific digital preservation issues. Currently, the library has a number of online video presentations featuring NDIIPP partners discussing their projects at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Digital Preservation in the Round

The 2009 annual Special Libraries Association conference, held in Washington, D.C. in mid-June, featured a session entitled "Digital Preservation: Discovery in the Round."

Session attendees—seated on all four sides of the speakers for the in-the-round effect—had many questions. Issues raised included preserving computer-assisted design data, securing institutional support for preservation activities and appraising scientific databases. Web archiving was a topic of special interest, with several participants inquiring about existing practices, tools and services.

Read more about the meeting at digitalpreservation.gov. •

MetaNews

• Battling Link Rot. Following a two-year pilot project evaluating its digital preservation efforts, the Chesapeake Project Legal Information Archive has released a report illustrating the severity of link rot.

• WARC File Format Published as an International Standard. The WARC file format is now approved as an international standard: ISO 28500:2009. WARC is expected to be a standard way to structure, manage and store billions of resources collected from the web and elsewhere.

Web Preservationists Meet

On May 4-7, 2009, 60 participants from 20 countries gathered at the Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa for the annual International Internet Preservation Consortium General Assembly. The meeting focused on activities of the three IIPC working groups: the Access Working Group; the Harvesting Working Group; and the Preservation Working Group.

In addition to working group meetings, the Canadian Association of Research Libraries helped sponsor an open session with panelists from the Library of Congress, Internet Archive and Netarchive talking about preserving Internet content for future generations.

IIPC General Assembly Members. Credit: David Knox

Read more about the meeting at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Upcoming Events

• The Call for Proposals for Best Practices Exchange 2009 is open until August 5, 2009, and registration is open until August 25, 2009. The 4th annual conference will be held at the University at Albany, State University of New York on September 2-4, 2009.

• iPRES 2009, sponsored by the California Digital Library, will be held October 5-6, 2009 in San Francisco.

• On October 7, 2009, the IIPC will sponsor a free, one-day event, "Active Solutions for Preserving Internet Content," at the California Mission Bay Conference Center in San Francisco, California. This event immediately follows iPRES 2009.