Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Election Archiving Season!

By Abbie Grotke – The United States national elections are a year away, but the Library of Congress is already busy archiving presidential campaign websites and preparing to archive House and Senate campaign sites and more starting in March 2012. This actually isn't the earliest we've started – for the 2008 archive we began a full nineteen months before the election. Our prior election archives (since 2000) are publicly available; Election 2010 is in production and isn't yet available for researcher access.

[Archives] http://mittromney.com/
[Archives] http://www.barackobama.com/
[Archives] http://www.buddyroemer.com/
[Archives] http://www.garyjohnson2012.com/
[Archives] http://www.hermancain.com/
[Archives] http://www.jon2012.com/
[Archives] http://www.michelebachmann.com/
[Archives] http://www.newt.org/get-involved-now
[Archives] http://www.rickperry.org/
[Archives] http://www.ricksantorum.com/index.php
[Archives] http://www.ronpaul2012.com/
[Archives] http://www.timpawlenty.com/

An example of a URL seed list

Read more about how the Library is building the 2012 campaign websites archive. •

NDSA Working Group Updates

"The Signal" featured blog posts about recent activities of two of the five National Digital Stewardship Alliance Working Groups.
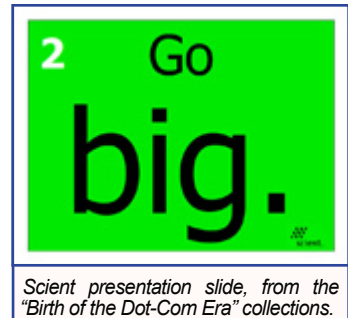

Measuring West from user steven-harris on Flickr

Jimi Jones blogs about the Standards Working Group project to identify, describe and contextualize established and emerging digital preservation standards, best practices and guidance documents in his post, "We Can Haz Standards? Yes, We Can!"

Sue Manus blogs about the two major projects of the Outreach Working Group in her post, "Digital Preservation Outreach through the NDSA." •

Preserving Business History

By Abigail Potter – Today's economic situation draws parallels with the booms and busts of markets past. Policy makers, pundits and economists (we hope) try to learn from the past, to not repeat mistakes or to try and duplicate success. David Kirsch, a long-time partner of the NDIIPP program and professor at the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business, has often referred to President Calvin Coolidge's observation that "the chief business of the American people is business." Then Kirsch

Scient presentation slide, from the "Birth of the Dot-Com Era" collections.

points out, surely the history of America is the history of American business. Helping to stop this loss and save the record of American business are two National Digital Stewardship Alliance members; The University of Maryland and The Hagley Library and Museum.

Read more about their efforts.•

UELMA: A Law We Can Love

By Butch Lazorchak – While most of us love a good movie about lawyers and the law, few of us read actual legal documents for fun. Well, I did say FEW of us…

Earlier this summer I wrote a post about the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act, a uniform law that will establish digital preservation protections for "official" state government electronic legal materials by requiring that official publishers provide for the preservation and security of the records. Recently, the Library hosted a meeting to discuss authenticity and preservation issues related to this Act. Read more about the meeting •

From Records to Data

Metadata Madness_wheel, by Musebrarian, on Flickr

Leslie Johnston blogs about her talk "From Records to Data: It's Not Just About Collections Any More" at the 2011 Best Practices Exchange. Read about what she covered.•
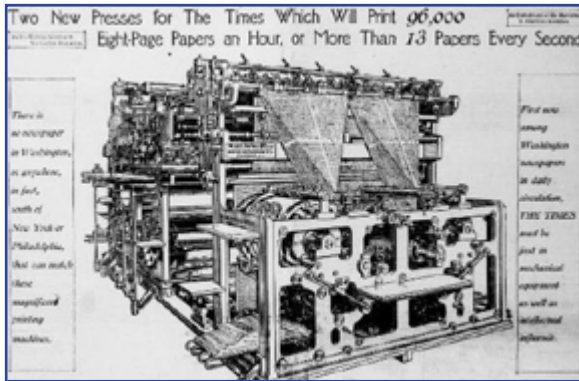
Unbreaking News

By David Brunton – I have heard the National Digital Newspaper Program jokingly described as "putting breaking new online, within 200 years." In some ways, it's a fitting tag line: the most current newspaper pages released on Chronicling America are nearly ninety years past.

From The Washington times. (Washington [D.C.]), February 14, 1902, Image 1

It's a phenomenal project: a joint venture between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress to digitize historic American newspapers. Read more about the project •

Growing OS Communities

By Sharon Leon – Historians are not the most likely candidates to design and develop an open source web publishing platform. But, as historians working at in the common spaces of libraries, museums and archives, we at the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media have done just that with Omeka. The impetus for this work grew out of our own experiences, but the results have proven useful to a much larger community. Read more about this work. •

Hashing Out Digital Trust

Kate Zwaard blogs about how the Library of Congress and its partners continue to work on ways to help users communicate and evaluate trustworthiness of the electronic material they are accessing. Read about how she describes content authentication programs. •

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The Average Lifespan of a Webpage

"Broken chain" by Flickr user kruemi

By Nicholas Taylor – What is the average lifespan of webpage? Predictably, estimates vary and vary over time. A 1997 special report in Scientific American claimed 44 days. A subsequent 2001 academic study in IEEE Computer suggested 75 days. More recently, in 2003, a Washington Post article indicated that the number was 100 days.

Read about calculating the longevity of a webpage. •

More From "The Signal"

- F is for Forensics. Martha Anderson's latest post in her alphabetical series.

- A Museum Perspective on Digital Preservation. Megan Forbes talks about the issues of digital preservation for museums.

- Digital Preservation and the 1963 Kennedy Assassination Study. Bill LeFurgy blogs about a data archeology example.

- Have You Got The Right Stuff? Steve McCollum talks about the development of the the Configurable Image Validator.

- Have Obsolete Digital Media, Will Travel. Keri Meyers talks about her personal experiences moving with storage media.

- Learning About Your Collectings With Viewshare. Trevor Owens blogs about a few examples that come from using Viewshare.org.

Announcements

- Registration is open for CurateGear: Enabling the Curation of Digital Collections, Jan. 6, 2012, Chapel Hill, NC.

- Call for Papers for the 12th ACM/IEEE Joint Conference on Digital Libraries (JCDL 2012), June 10-14, 2012, Washington, DC.

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