Research and Development for Digital Cultural Heritage: An Open Forum

NDSA Cultural Heritage Content Working Group | Joshua Sternfeld | Gail Truman
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Response to Content Working Group: How do humanities/arts collections compare to other collection types and formats? Too complex for small set of case studies

Inspired by current efforts: Preserving.exe, Smithsonian Time-Based Media Working Group,

Abstract in blog *The Signal*
Session Objectives

- Open discussion
- Determine pressing issues around R&D for digital cultural heritage
- Discuss methods for continuing discussion, turning ideas into actionable projects
What does Success Mean?

Results in one or more of the following:

- Surfaces ideas
- Results in action items
- Inspires us to collaborate, network, or form a project together
- Agenda items for the Content Working Group
Data Explosion (100s Exabytes by 2017)

What Happens in an Internet Minute?

639,800 GB of global IP data transferred

- 635 Retweet infections
- 86 New Wikipedia articles published
- 1,300 New mobile users
- 47,000 App downloads
- 583,000 In sales
- 204 million Emails sent
- 130 million App downloads
- 20 million Photo views
- 320+ New Twitter accounts
- 61,141 Hours of music
- 100,000 New tweets
- 20 million Photo uploads
- 277,000 Logins
- 30 Hours of video uploaded
- 1.3 million Video views
- 2.4 million Facebook views
- 2+ million Search queries
- 6 million YouTube views

And Future Growth is Staggering

Today, the number of networked devices = the global population
By 2015, the number of networked devices = 2x the global population
In 2015, it would take you 5 years to view all video crossing IP networks each second

Three Areas of Exploration

- State of the Field: Issues, problems, trends
- A recipe for success
- Sustainability
State of the Field: Issues, Problems, Trends

- What issues are YOU facing?
- If you could solve one problem, what would it be?
- What trends do you see?
- What areas are worth considering?
- What are the Meta Topics
State of the Field: Issues, Problems, Trends

- Distinguishing qualities of contemporary digital cultural heritage
- Formats or data types on the horizon?
- Standards vs. recommended practices vs. work flows?
- Cultural heritage curation?
- Access?
- New modes of use (i.e. scholarship, pedagogy, programming)?
Meta Topic – Scale & Sustainability

- How to analyze and archive so much data? (e.g. Twitter, web)
- Automation – growth of data means human hands are insufficient
- Selection
- Appraisal
- Metadata generation
- Authority – impact of moving away from curator/archivist as central authority
  - Crowd, social tagging for e.g.
A Recipe for Success

- Necessary ingredients for a successful project? Personnel? Expertise? How to mobilize?
- Methods of engagement with appropriate audiences (i.e. humanities scholars, artists, educators)
- Case Studies – Best model for cultural heritage?
- Interdisciplinarity – How to bridge differences in vocabulary, culture
(Program) Sustainability

- Marketing project outcomes
- Moving from start-up mode to full-fledged implementation
- Balancing commercial and public support
Next Steps?

- Continuing dialogue – best media/forums?
- Continuing education?
- Collaborations/Projects on the horizon?