Research and Development for Digital Cultural Heritage: An Open Forum

NDSA Cultural Heritage Content Working Group| Joshua Sternfeld | Gail Truman
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Background

- 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
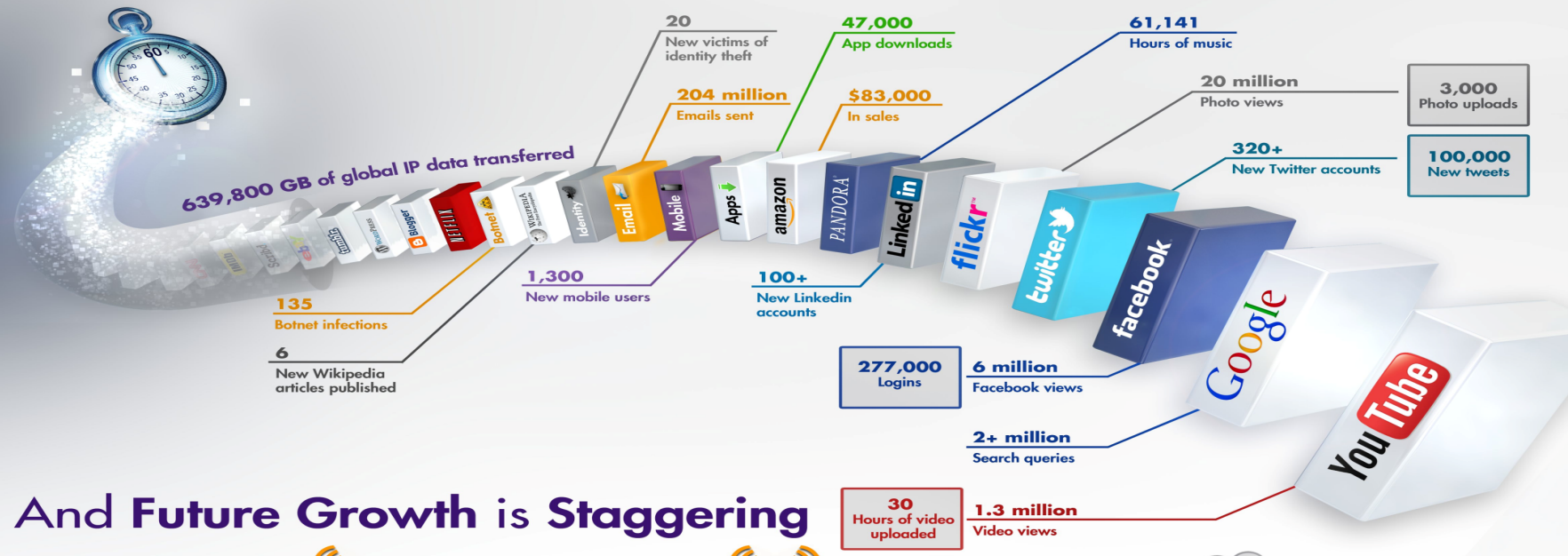
What does Success Mean?

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

20 New victims of identity theft

47,000 App downloads

61,141 Hours of music

20 million Photo views

3,000 Photo uploads

204 million Emails sent

$83,000 In sales

320+ New Twitter accounts

100,000 New tweets

135 Botnet infections

1,300 New mobile users

100+ New Linkedin accounts

6 New Wikipedia articles published

277,000 Logins

6 million Facebook views

2+ million Search queries

30 Hours of video uploaded

1.3 million Video 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

MAKE YOUR OWN ICE CREAM

1-pint carton of whipping cream
1/3 cup sugar
1 tsp vanilla
a pinch of table salt
clean coffee can with plastic lid
wooden spoon (especially one with a hole in it)
crushed ice
ice bucket or plastic pail
rock salt

1. Pour the whipping cream, sugar, table salt and vanilla into the coffee can and mix them together.

2. Punch a hole in the lid of the coffee can.

3. Push the handle of the wooden spoon through the lid. Then fit the lid on the can. The spoon is your "dasher."

- 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
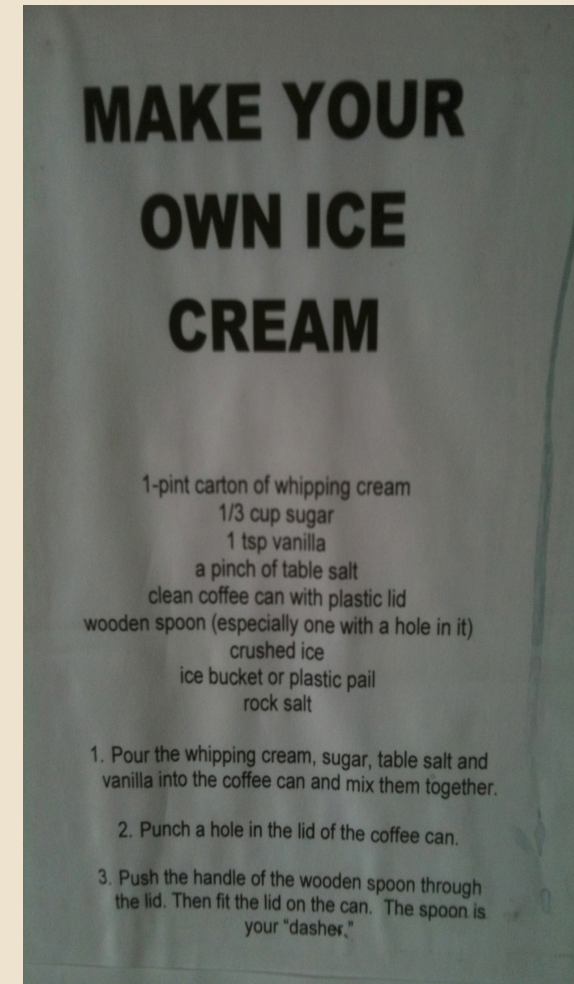
(Program) Sustainability

- 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?