



# Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

## CBS Looks at "Data Rot"

Digital preservation was featured on the "CBS Sunday Morning" show that aired on March 1, 2009 with a story titled "Bye, Tech: Dealing with Data Rot."

Host David Pogue used real-life examples to show how "data rot" affects large organizations and individuals. The segment featured interviews with two Library of Congress experts; Laura Campbell, Associate Librarian for Strategic Initiatives, and Helena Zinkham, Acting Chief of the Prints and Photographs Division. Read [more](#) on [digitalpreservation.gov](#) and [watch](#) the informative segment. •



Laura Campbell and host David Pogue from the CBS Sunday Morning broadcast.

## GeoMAPP Engaging National Geospatial Networks

The National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program supported [GeoMAPP](#) project is a multi-agency partnership working to preserve significant geospatial data. A key part of this work involves engaging with the long-standing network among federal, state, and local geospatial agencies.

NDIIPP staff attended the [Fifty States Federal Stakeholders Workshop](#) held in Washington, DC, on February 3, 2009. The Fifty States Initiative is a partnership between the [National States Geographic Information Council](#) and the [Federal Geographic Data Committee](#).

Designed to bring public and private stakeholders together, the Fifty States Initiative develops and implements statewide strategic and business plans that facilitate resource coordination for geospatial infor-

mation. GeoMAPP objectives overlap with a number of initiative objectives and the two activities are interested in sharing information.

GeoMAPP also figures prominently in connection with the [National Geospatial Advisory Committee](#), a federal body sponsored by the Department of the Interior, that held its bi-annual meeting in Alexandria, VA on February 4-5, 2009.

GeoMAPP principal investigator Zsolt Nagy of the North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis is a member of the committee, as is Dennis Goreham, the former Manager of the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center, another partnering agency on the GeoMAPP project.

NGAC reports to the Chair of the Federal Geographic Data Committee, with an objective to provide advice and recommendations about sharing geospatial data. The committee also reviews geospatial policy and management issues and provides a forum to convey views representative of non-federal stakeholders in the geospatial community.

The meeting featured spirited discussion on current geospatial issues, including reports on the Federal government transition and updates on the [National Map](#) and the Imagery for the Nation initiatives. Nagy is planning to initiate a discussion on geospatial data preservation at a future meeting. •

## State Project Brochures Available



The four projects of the [Preserving State Government Information](#) initiative are reaching out to government officials and professional communities by releasing full color informational brochures. The initiatives are focused on capturing, preserving, and providing access to a rich variety of state and local government digital information. Download [PDFs](#) of the brochures at [digitalpreservation.gov](#). •



## Federal Agencies Collaborate on Digitization Guidelines

*This is the last of three articles addressing the activities of the Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative.*

Books, photographic slides, audio tapes: these and other documentary materials require specialized techniques to create long-term, sustainable digital versions. Developing best practices for digitizing sound, video recordings and motion picture film is the specific challenge faced by the Audio-Visual Working Group, a component of the Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative.



Part of NARA's College Park audio-visual digitization facility.

Because of the specialized issues involved, the working group is divided into two separate areas of focus: recorded sound and moving image. Guidelines for recorded sound will draw on publications from organizations and activities such as the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives, the National Recording Preservation Board, the Sound Directions project at Indiana and Harvard universities and others. The goal is to build on existing work, identify new issues in need of study, and come up with a set of overall recommendations for the digitization of sound recordings.

While digital reformatting for recorded sound is relatively mature, digital file-based preservation approaches for video recordings and motion picture film are less well established. "There is quite a range of experience in the audio-visual realm," says Carl Fleischhauer, a Program Officer at the Library of Congress and an organizer of the working group. "Most specialists are confident about what to do regarding sound, but we are still sorting out the details for video and film. The work that is now under way in some of our federal agencies will provide the experience we need to begin recommending practices to others."

One key challenge is to develop a good approach for the preservation reformatting of historical videotape. Fleischhauer says, "archivists wish to break away from the current practice of tape-to-tape copying, and begin to transfer content from tapes to digital files."

Read [more](#) about the communities involved and check the [Guidelines Web site](#) for regular updates. •

## ACE Trumps Integrity Threats

The University of Maryland has released the Audit Control Environment (ACE) to help archives and libraries manage the integrity of their holdings. ACE continuously monitors digital objects and provides a way for independent third-party auditors to certify the integrity of any object.

The NDIIPP project Chronopolis uses ACE with three partners, the University of California, San Diego, San Diego Supercomputer Center, the University of Maryland's Institute for Advanced Computer Studies, and the National Center for Atmospheric Research. These installations monitor files stored with each partner and supply data to a project portal. Over a million files per day are audited on a regular basis.

More information detailing the ACE integrity mechanism and a download of the Audit Manager software is available at <http://adapt.umiacs.umd.edu/ace>. •

## Upcoming Events

- NDIIPP Briefing: A Public Interest in Private Records by Dr. David Kirsch

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

- Digital Preservation Management: Short-Term Solutions for Long-Term Problems Workshop

Dates: May 3-8, 2009

Place: ICPSR, Ann Arbor, MI

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