



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Digital Preservation Pioneer: David Riecks

When you take a digital photo, the camera immediately records information about the aperture setting, shutter speed, focal length, metering mode and more. Some cameras have a global positioning system that adds information about where the photo was taken.

But David Riecks (rhymes with “clicks”) – professional photographer, digital-image technologist and metadata evangelist – believes that a digital photo should contain more information about itself. And he is on a mission to spread the word about the current and long-term value of photo metadata.



David Riecks, © 2008 David Riecks

Riecks became an activist, not only promoting the cause of photo metadata but also working to help improve the technology.

He chaired the Digital Photography Standards & Practices committees of the [American Society of Media Photographers](#), was a founding member of the [Universal Photographic Digital Imaging Guidelines](#) coalition and participated in the [International Press Telecommunications Council](#) Core metadata schema and wrote the IPTC Core Users Guide for photographers.

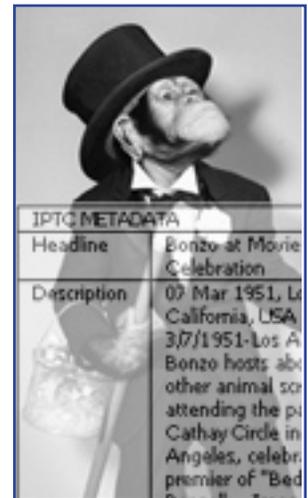
Riecks admits there is still much more to do to spread awareness about photo metadata. “Many, many digital photo creators don’t even know that metadata can be saved within an image file,” said Riecks. He points out that photo metadata’s usefulness to those who sell their photographs is obvious. The information is in turn vital for the long-term preservation of and access to photographs.

He is working with developers and commercial interests to ensure that graphics-processing software retains user-generated information. Riecks is the Chief Technical Advisor to the [Picture Licensing Universal System](#) coalition and he chairs the Imaging Technology Standards committee of the [Stock Artists Alliance](#) (NDIIP partners in the [Standard-](#)

[ized Metadata for Stock Photography project](#)). This summer he was on the road lecturing for the [get-METAsmart tour](#).

Riecks hopes that the PhotoMetadata.org website will show image makers that it is easy to add photo metadata to their images, show image users how useful embedded information can be and encourage developers – and others involved in digital-image preservation – to make sure this information is not accidentally removed.

Read [more](#) about how Riecks became interested in photometadata at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).



Example of photometadata.

MN White Papers Address Digital Legislative Data

Preserving legislative information is vexing government leaders as drafting bills, laws and reports moves to modern digital legislative information systems.

[The Model Technological and Social Architecture for the Preservation of State Government Digital Information Project](#), led by the Minnesota Historical Society and supported by the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, is addressing this issue. The project is working on XML metadata schema for legislative data and has recently published a series of white papers to share early project findings.

The XML schema is designed to describe documents such as bills, resolutions, and acts as well as to facilitate the interchange, use, and preservation of these documents. In most cases, the metadata elements can be automatically populated from information already in government bill drafting systems. A draft version of the schema should be available for public comment in early 2010.

Read [more](#) about the white papers at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).



K-12 Web Archiving Program

Following a successful [pilot program](#) during the spring of 2008, the [Library of Congress](#), [Internet Archive](#) and [California Digital Library](#) initiated a web archiving program that explored archiving websites from the perspective of students in elementary, middle and high schools. Two Library activities supported the pilot: the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program and the [Teaching with Primary Sources](#) program.

The [K-12 Web Archiving Program](#) gives students the opportunity to think about history by selecting sources for ongoing research use. Teens and younger students select and capture web content using Internet Archive's [Archive-It service](#), creating "time capsules" of what is important to them to represent their current lives.

During the 2008-09 school year, students from ten different schools in nine states participated in the program. Over 1,700 websites and 233 million URLs, or objects, were collected during the year, totaling 11.7 terabytes of data. The Internet Archive noted that 96 percent of the websites selected by students have not been archived by any other Archive-It partner, and 24 percent of the websites are not in the Internet Archive's general archive. Examples include websites for the [Iowa Farm Bureau](#), [Women's Adventures in Science](#), and [How to Make a Sock Monkey](#). In total, 68 web collections were created.



Fifth-grade participants at The Harry Eichler School, Public School 56, Queens, New York.

Read [more](#) about the K-12 Web Archiving Program at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

Recent Meetings

- [NDIIPP at SAA](#): NDIIPP partners were well-represented at the [2009 Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting](#), held August 11-16 in Austin, Texas.
- [Experts Discuss Saving Public Policy Web Content](#): Public policy experts convened at the Library to explore strategies for preserving public policy content that has been made available only on the web.

LOCKSS Chief Scientist Speaks at Library of Congress

David Rosenthal, Chief Scientist of the [LOCKSS](#) program, spoke recently at the Library of Congress on [How Are We Ensuring the Longevity of Digital Documents?](#) Rosenthal's talk was a reprise of his widely-discussed [plenary](#) at the Spring 2009 Coalition for Networked Information Task Force meeting. His presentation was filmed and is available as a [webcast](#).

Rosenthal began with a provocative question, musing on whether the current digital infrastructure constructed over the past 20 years had actually saved anything from oblivion. He said he found little evidence that it had, and framed his argument as a subtle rebuttal to Jeff Rothenberg's 1995 *Scientific American* paper "Ensuring the Longevity of Digital Information."



Rosenthal speaking at the Library.

Read [more](#) about Rosenthal's talk at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

Digital Initiatives Profiled in Library Journal

Flickr, iTunes, YouTube, linked data, and cloud storage: The Library of Congress is using all of these new technologies to preserve and make available its holdings. This work is neatly summarized in "[Stacking the Tech: The Library of Congress Talks Digital Initiatives](#)," published in *Library Journal*. The article features interviews with Library staff discussing a variety of topics.

Upcoming Events

- [iPRES 2009](#): October 5-6, 2009 in San Francisco, CA. [Registration](#) is open.
- [Cultural Heritage Online Conference](#): December 15-16, 2009 in Florence, Italy.

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