



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Preserving Digital News

The Internet has impacted news and journalism more than almost any other category of information. Newspapers have always been important research resources for users of libraries, archives and historical societies. But significant events are now reported in new ways, such as through blogs, podcasts, social-networking services, online news aggregators and multimedia web content. To address this change, the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program convened a two-day workshop to discuss a national strategy for collecting and preserving news content that is disseminated only in digital form.



Example of digital news: screenshot of Army Times website from the middle of the Iraq War in 2003.

The meeting on September 2-3, 2009, brought together over fifty invited specialists in the field: creators, distributors, archivists, and researchers who depend upon historical news. The topics for discussion included the following:

- What is digital news? Who produces it? What forms does it take?
- What is important to preserve for the nation?
- What collaborative efforts for preservation are succeeding now?
- What are the roles for content owners and public archives in preserving digital news?
- What roles do “local” and “national” content and organizations serve?
- What are some strategies and possible models for addressing the issues in a distributed way?

Presentations from the Library’s Congressional

Research Service, the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, CNN, Associated Press, WGBH Boston, Wisconsin Historical Society, CBS News and DocumentCloud helped frame the discussion. A number of lively conversations among the diverse participants prompted several innovative solutions, including [blogs that self-archive](#) and newspapers that opt-in to public institution web archiving.

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

NDIIPP Partners at 2009 Best Practices Exchange

Embracing the theme of “Tackling Technology Together,” the 2009 Best Practices Exchange featured several presentations by National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program partners and staff. The meeting took place at the University at Albany, State University of New York.

The fourth annual BPE brought together “archivists, attorneys, information technology professionals, librarians, educators, product developers, records managers and others interested in the management and preservation of digital information in state government.”



Ray Matthews speaks at BPE.

This community has independently supported BPE meetings ever since the Library of

Congress first brought them together through a series of workshops convened in 2005.

NDIIPP staff led sessions on using social media, transferring digital content, preserving geospatial data and communicating digital preservation. Blogger L’Archivista published a number of descriptive posts about the conference, including a [detailed description about a session on managing change](#).

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



Digital Preservation Workshop Held at the Library

Over twenty Library of Congress staff had an opportunity to participate in a special workshop, [Digital Preservation Management: Implementing Short-term Strategies for Long-term Problems](#), hosted by the [Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research](#), held September 21-22, 2009 in Washington, DC.

Initially developed at Cornell University Library and supported with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Digital Preservation Management workshop is a structured curriculum geared toward managing digital preservation planning and policies for libraries, archives and other cultural heritage institutions. The goal of the workshop is to provide those managers and staff responsible for digital assets the practical means to exercise stewardship in an age of technological change. Many institutions struggle with the initial stages of developing digital preservation policies, and the workshop aides participants in understanding the fundamental pieces of how to think about and enact planning for organizations.

Read [more](#) about the workshop held at the Library at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

NDIIPP Wins Award

Government Computer News announced that the National Digital Information Infrastructure and



Preservation Program is among the [best of Federal information technology initiatives of 2009](#).

“The annual GCN Awards honor agencies for their outstanding achievements in the application of information technology to advance their work and the services they provide,” said GCN Editor-in-Chief Wyatt Kash. The Library of Congress will receive the award at the GCN annual fall awards gala.

Upcoming Event

- [Cultural Heritage Online Conference](#): December 15-16, 2009 in Florence, Italy. [Registration](#) is open.

Permanent Digital Access in the Netherlands

The [Netherlands Coalition for Digital Preservation](#) sponsored a national conference in The Hague on September 18, 2009, to discuss its interim report, [A Future for Our Digital Memory: Permanent Access to Information in the Netherlands](#). National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program staff member Abigail Potter served as the keynote speaker.



Potter talked about the U.S. experience in coordinating a national digital preservation program based on intersectoral collaboration.

Her [remarks](#), coupled with the recommendation of the NCDD interim report, promoted a lively discussion on strategy, roles and responsibilities and next steps in establishing a strong national environment for digital preservation and permanent access.

Read [more](#) about the conference and its report at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

MetaNews

- New “[Content Categories and Digitization Objectives](#)” guidelines are now available through the [Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative](#). This section contains recommended specifications for digital reformatting of printed matter, manuscripts and pictorial materials.
- National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program staff member Bill LeFurgy was interviewed by Federal News Radio about the [DuraSpace pilot project](#). The interview is available as a digital audio [podcast](#).

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