NDIIPP Named “Great Government IT Project”

Government Computer News has named the Library of Congress National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program as one of the top federal information technology projects of 2009. Director of Program Management Martha Anderson received the award on behalf of NDIIPP at the GCN Awards Gala in late October in Washington, D.C.

The GCN Awards, now in their 22nd year, embody one of the most sought-after and respected accolades in the government IT community, recognizing federal, state and local government project teams for extraordinary IT accomplishments and significant contributions to the performance of their agencies.

“‘We are honored to receive this award,” said Laura Campbell, associate librarian for strategic initiatives. “The credit really goes to our excellent network of partners around the country who have worked with us to save valuable digital content and keep it accessible over time. Digital preservation is a challenge that demands new kinds of outreach, engagement and collaboration.’”

NDIIPP Digital Preservation Video Series

The Library of Congress National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program recently released the second video in its digital preservation video series: Web Archiving. The three-minute video discusses the Library’s approach to collecting and preserving content found on the World Wide Web and is meant to help librarians, archivists and others interested in working with digital content.

The Library of Congress has been working to provide permanent access to web content of historical importance for almost a decade. The Library selects websites for collection, requests permissions from the website owners, addresses the technology for collecting and preserving the websites and finally makes them available. The video examines each of these four challenges.

More online video presentations are available at digitalpreservation.gov.

Exploring Digital Preservation Storage

A goal of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program is to support collaborative efforts between the public and the private sectors. A recent example is the third Designing Storage Architectures for Digital Preservation meeting, held Sept. 22-23, 2009, in Washington, D.C.

The first meeting, held in 2006, was an opening salvo in exposing the technical storage community to the needs of the digital preservation community, and focused on the unique challenges of acquiring and managing digital collections. The 2009 meeting expanded on those efforts, bringing together more than 80 academic researchers, NDIIPP partners, Library of Congress staff and private sector technical representatives to discuss the latest developments in storage technology as they relate to the specific needs of the digital preservation community. The agenda, a background reading list, copies of all presentations and meeting notes are available.

The meeting featured a variety of presentations. Discussions touched on data integrity; movement and distribution of data; as well as myriad issues involved in the migration of formats. There was also a great deal of discussion on cloud computing, with several vendors noting the potentially disruptive effects of dynamically scalable storage and infrastructure services.

Read more about the meeting at digitalpreservation.gov.
iPRES 2009

The 2009 International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects was held in San Francisco, CA, Oct. 5 – 6. The California Digital Library, a National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program partner, hosted the meeting, which brought together digital preservation researchers and practitioners from 70 universities and 33 national libraries, as well as a variety of other interested parties.

Martha Anderson, NDIIPP Director of Program Management, gave a keynote address and announced an intent to develop a National Digital Stewardship Alliance with a goal of enabling collaboration across institutional, industrial and state boundaries while encouraging diverse solutions.

A panel session considered the work of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access. There were also several other presentations about other projects in which the Library of Congress is involved.

Read more about iPRES2009 at digitalpreservation.gov.

Meetings Held Around iPRES

• The International Internet Preservation Consortium held a conference in San Francisco on Oct. 7. The one-day conference allowed participants to share their web archiving experiences, collections, infrastructures and workflows.

• Information technologists from around the world shared their data-preservation experiences at the Sun Preservation and Archiving Special Interest Group conference in San Francisco on Oct. 7 – 9.

Upcoming Events

• dpBestflow.org Kick-off: Nov. 11, 2009 in Washington, D.C. Registration is free.

• Cultural Heritage Online Conference: Dec.15-16, 2009 in Florence, Italy. The program is available and registration is open.

GeoMAPP Meeting and New Partners

The Geospatial Multi-state Archive and Preservation Partnership is working to identify strategies and solutions for the preservation of digital geospatial information. A recent Raleigh, NC meeting was the fourth face-to-face gathering of the project, part of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program’s Preserving State Government Information initiative.

In related news, GeoMAPP announced the addition of 10 informational partners to join with existing partners North Carolina, Kentucky and Utah in exploring the long-term preservation of digital geospatial information. The new partners will expand perspectives on developing best practices for the preservation and long-term stewardship of geospatial data.

Read more about the Raleigh meeting and the new informational partners at digitalpreservation.gov.

MetaNews

• Proceedings from the 9th International Web Archiving Workshop, held Sept. 30 – Oct. 1, 2009 in conjunction with ECDL2009, feature papers covering new approaches and new research (from virtual worlds preservation to temporal dimension of web archives) as well as practical issues addressed by archiving institutions.

• Martin Halbert, who was the principal investigator of the MetaArchive Project, started his tenure as dean of the University of North Texas Libraries on Oct. 1, 2009.

• NDIIPP sponsored a web conference about recent developments with the DuraCloud project. Presentation slides and an audio recording of the conference are available on the DuraSpace web site.