Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Top 10 in 2010

Digital preservation made important strides during 2010. These happenings aroused the attention of practitioners and, to the greatest extent yet, the mainstream media. One way to look at this is that greater popular awareness of digital preservation flows from a growing importance of the subject for the work of institutions and the lives of individuals.

NDIIPP staff speak with the general public about saving personal digital information at the 2010 National Book Festival.

This list covers events, trends and other developments covered in digitalpreservation.gov stories during 2010. Given that our home is the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, many of these stories relate to the Library of Congress. We do, however, cover other activities that take place around the world.

• Library of Congress Acquires Twitter Archives

• Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access Issues Final Report

• Memento Wins the Digital Preservation Award

• Rise of the Digital Preservation Awareness Video

• Collaborative Efforts Expand: NDSA, LOCKSS, Hathi Trust

• Planets Project Garners Attention

• Launch of Personal Archiving Outreach

• Focus on Geospatial Data Preservation

• Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative Progress

• Introduction of Digital Forensics for Cultural Heritage

Read more about each event or trend at digital-preservation.gov.•

Organizing the NDSA

Members of the new National Digital Stewardship Alliance gathered for a two-day workshop, held December 15-16, 2010 in Washington, DC, to discuss how the NDSA will be structured and function as a collaborative, volunteer organization.

Over 30 members representing government agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations and businesses participated in group discussions at the workshop focusing on what the core values of the Alliance should be, how new members will join the Alliance and how the Alliance will conduct business.

The Alliance is an initiative of NDIIPP, which the Library of Congress has administered since 2000. In establishing the Program, Congress directed the Library to work with other federal agencies and a variety of additional communities to develop a national approach to digital preservation. The Program has worked with partner organizations to take action for long-term digital preservation resulting in selecting over 1,400 at-risk collections and developing over 36 tools and services by the end of 2010.

NDSA members at the workshop. Credit: Abby Brack.

This work demonstrates that a collective effort of networks with shared interests and trust can achieve far more than individual institutions working alone.

Read more about the workshop at digitalpreservation.gov .•

Recent Interviews

• Associate Librarian for Strategic Initiatives Laura Campbell and Director of Program Management, NDIIPP Martha Anderson were interviewed by CNI about current NDIIPP initiatives for the coming year. A podcast of the interview is available.

• Martha Anderson was interviewed by Federal News Radio and offered an overview of "Memento," noting how the tool can be used to access past versions of any given website.

Digital Preservation Pioneer: Michele Kimpton

Michele Kimpton has played a pivotal role in some of the most significant advances in Internet-related digital preservation. Her contributions have also had an international impact on saved content and the tools used for preservation.

Kimpton was a mechanical engineer early in her career. Eventually she got her MBA, which helped her jump from engineering to product management to sales management and into a leadership position. She said, "I was able to take a product from an idea through to developing a market and a sales channel… basically all the aspects of running a business."

Read more about Kimpton and her career at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Personal Archiving: Save Our African American Treasures

For the second time, the Library of Congress participated in the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture "Save Our African American Treasures Program."

Held November 20, 2010 at the Detroit Public Library in Detroit, Mich., the program offered area residents an opportunity to have conservation and preservation experts help identify and preserve items of historical and cultural significance they brought from their homes. The program also featured presentations, hands-on activities and preservation tips.

Reviewers examine a quilt during the Treasures program. Credit: Michael Barnes, Smithsonian.

During the Detroit program, NDIIPP staff member Erin Engle gave a session, "Preserving Your Digital Memories," that focused on how digital photos and other forms of new media are fragile and require special care to keep them useable.

Read more about the program at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Capturing Congressional Social Media

NDIIPP is preserving the political record by capturing websites from the House of Representatives, Senate, congressional committees and related entities. Increasingly, many members of Congress use social media, such as Facebook and YouTube, to communicate with constituents.

Screenshot of from a Member's social media account. From LC Web Archives, Congressional Collection.

Information available through these sources is useful for documenting the political process, and the Web Archiving Team is working to identify the variety of social media sites used.

Read more about it at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Library Considers Data Appraisal, Selection

NDIIPP convened a variety of experts during Nov. 17 and 18, 2010, to consider issues associated with geospatial data appraisal and selection. An earlier meeting to discuss framing a National Preservation and Access Strategy for Geospatial Data recommended a near-term focus on how collecting institutions should work together to decide which data sets merit preservation and how best to keep them accessible.

Institutions that keep geospatial data traditionally have used separate approaches to deciding what sources to add to their collections. Libraries often think about selection, a term based on institutional collection policies. Archives, on the other hand, use appraisal, which is a term rooted in recordkeeping mandates, including determinations of what constitutes permanent or archival records.

Read more about the meeting at digitalpreservation.gov. •

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