Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Personal Digital Archiving Conference

Staff from the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program attended the Personal Digital Archiving 2011 Conference in San Francisco on February 24-25. Held at the Internet Archive, the meeting aimed to share information and build a practitioner community for ensuring long term access to personal digital information.

About 200 people attended the conference. There were representatives from large and small collecting institutions, large and small companies and academic departments, as well as a number of unaffiliated individuals.

In keeping with the varied audience, the speakers offered different perspectives. A sampling follows:

Cathy Marshall from Microsoft Research presented an opening keynote discussing her findings from interviews with people about their personal digital materials.

Gary Wright, of FamilySearch, discussed some suggested best practices for personal digital archiving, including recommendations for digital formats and metadata.

Jeremy Leighton John provided a perspective from the British Library, including use of an "ancestral computing" capability when processing digital manuscripts.

Read more about the conference at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Follow @ndiipp on Twitter

The Library of Congress National Digital Information Infrastructure Preservation Program is now tweeting! Follow us on Twitter: @ndiipp

NDIIPP 2010 Report Released

Preserving Our Digital Heritage: The National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program 2010 Report (PDF) has just been released. It documents the achievements of the Library of Congress and its NDIIPP partners working together to create sustainable long-term access to digital materials. Since NDIIPP was founded in 2000 by an act of Congress, a network of over 185 partners in 44 states and 25 countries have developed a distributed technical infrastructure, preserved over 1400 at-risk collections, and have made strides to support a legal environment conducive to digital preservation. The report describes a decade of action in digital preservation and outlays the short and long term plans to ensure libraries, archives, and other heritage institutions in the United States can collect and provide long-term access to the resources of the 21st Century and beyond.•

New Library Video Release: America's Young Archivists

The Library of Congress released a new video titled "America's Young Archivists: The K-12 Web Archiving Program," which profiles the web-archiving activities of an eight-grade class from the James Moran school in Wallingford, CT.

James H. Moran Middle School students with their teacher, Paul Bogush

Students who participate in the K-12 Web Archiving Program use Archive-It to capture websites. This eight minute video explores the website collection choices the students made and their resulting awareness of how websites require active management to ensure their ongoing accessibility.•

Digital Preservation Pioneer: Ed Papenfuse

Maryland has long been at the forefront of technology in providing online access to land and other permanently valuable archival records, thanks in large part to State Archivist Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse. Papenfuse has a gift for recognizing opportunities and imagining possibilities.

Edward Papenfuse.

For example, he started working on automating recordkeeping over forty years ago and made Maryland one of the first states to put government information on the web. He also has done an exemplary job in overseeing an economically self-sustaining digital repository.

The first job of Papenfuse's early professional career was as an editor bibliographer at the American Historical Review, and he had the tedious chore of typesetting handwritten bibliographic notices that historians gathered from their reading. A publisher colleague at Byrd Press suggested to him that much of what was being keyboarded for typesetting could be retained and managed electronically. Papenfuse began researching the idea and in 1970, long before the digital revolution, he got hooked on databases.

Read more about Papenfuse and his career at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Webcast: FDsys and Federal Digital Publications

"It's like an all-you-can eat buffet, but all the options are healthy for you," said Kate Zwaard, the Government Printing Office's Lead Program Planner for Digital Preservation, in a visit to the Library of Congress on November 16, 2010. Zwaard was talking about the GPO Federal Digital System, a suite of tools and services that helps the agency preserve and provide long-term access to the digital publications of the federal government. A webcast of the event is now available.

Read more about Zwaard's briefing at digitalpreservation.gov.•

ARTstor: Metadata Extraction Tool(EMET) & Report

The Preserving Digital Still Images project, led by the nonprofit organization ARTstor, has released its final report, along with the EMET tool for extracting embedded photographic metadata.

ARTstor's EMET project was funded under the Preserving Creative America program. The project explored how to encourage professional and scholarly photographers to use embedded metadata to facilitate the creation of archive-ready born-digital images.

Read more about the project at digitalpreservation.gov. •

GeoMAPP Adds Two New State Partners

The Geospatial Multistate Archive and Preservation Partnership, a multistate partnership exploring ways to expand the capabilities of state governments to provide long-term access to geospatial data, has selected Missouri and Montana from a national invitation for bids to join the partnership as full partner states.

Read more about the new partners at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Upcoming Events

- Library of Congress staff from the Copyright Office, the Recorded Sound Section and NDIIPP will participate in the 2011 South By Southwest Festival, Mar. 14-17, in Austin, Tx.

- Siva Vaidhyanathan professor of Media Studies at the University of Virginia, will discuss his new book The Googlization of Everything, Mar. 25 at noon at the Library of Congress, in Wash, DC.

- In conjunction with Preservation Week 2011, NDIIPP will present a webinar hosted by the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services on Apr.28, 2011 on the subject of "Preserving Your Personal Digital Memories."