We Talked and Talked About Personal Digital Archiving

By Erin Engle – A man wanted to migrate his dissertation from punch cards. A young girl held a floppy disk for the first time and expressed wonder that it had anything to do with digital information. A woman—the family archivist—wanted to pass her digital collection to the next generation.

These are some of personal stories I heard at the National Book Festival on the National Mall in Washington, DC, Sept. 24-25.

We enjoyed talking with hundreds of people who stopped by. Over the two day festival, we passed out handouts providing high-level personal digital archiving tips (based on information from our website), answered questions about how to save digital photos and other forms of digital information, and talked to people about how technology has changed over time. Read more about Engle’s NBF recap.

The ABCs Series: B and C

Martha Anderson continues a series that explores the topic of digital preservation in an alphabetical way. Each post will use a word or phrase as a device to explore a concept and point to a useful resource for understanding specific aspects of the practice of digital preservation. B is for Bit Preservation and C is for Collections are her latest musings.

Digital Preservation Grants

Barrie Howard continues a series on “The Signal” about U.S. government grant programs that have funded digital preservation since 2000, profiling IMLS and the NHPRC in recent posts.

The Library: One Place for Publications and Data

By Bill LeFurgy – Scientific data management has some buzz going. As a longtime data archivist/advocate this is a dream come true for me. I’ve pinched myself a couple of times to make sure it’s really happening.

There has been a steady stream of big, serious reports from big, serious organizations about the importance of data to drive economic and technological innovation. The White House National Science and Technology Council, for example, issued Harnessing the Power of Digital Data for Science and Society in 2009. The report presented a vision for preserving federally funded research data and making it broadly accessible.

Perhaps most significantly, the National Science Foundation recently declared that all funding proposals must include a data management plan to encourage dissemination and sharing of data sets that underlie formal research results. Given the vast scientific work that NSF supports, this edict will have far-reaching impact.

More from LeFurgy about scientific data management on “The Signal.”

Web Archiving News

“The Signal” recently featured a few blog posts from members of the Library of Congress Web Archiving Team. Here’s a quick summary of their latest news.

- Those 1’s and 0’s are Heavier than You Think! Laura Graham describes bit preservation activities for web archives.
- Election Websites Reveal Technology Adoption Trends. Summer intern Victoria Priester analyzed trends in web technology on sites featured in the Library’s Web Archives.
Recap of Recent Meetings

Leslie Johnston talked about the recently held Designing Storage Architectures for Preservation Collections meeting on “The Signal.” This was just one recent meetingconference that NDIIPP staff reported on.

- Voices from the World of Video Archiving. Carl Fleischhauer reported from the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives in Frankfurt, Germany.
- Simple, Weak, Scalable and Open. Bill LeFurgy highlighted the 2011 Annual Summer Meeting of DataCite.

Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Training

By Ellen O’Donnell - Sponsored by the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education program, the first Library of Congress train the trainer workshop in digital preservation was held September 20-23 in Washington, DC.

The DPOE Baseline Workshop was the test run of a workshop model designed to produce a national corps of trainers equipped to teach others basic principles and practices of preserving digital materials. Read more about the workshop’s outcomes.

More From “The Signal”

- Historical Recordings, From the Past into the Future. Sue Manus looks at the the Library’s new National Jukebox.
- Welcome to the Library: Now Transfer! Kate Zwaard joins the Library’s Repository Development group.

Upcoming Events

- DLF Fall Forum, Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2011, Baltimore, MD.