Top 10 Digital Preservation Developments of 2011

By Bill Lefurgy - It’s time to take stock of the most memorable digital preservation happenings of 2011. This is a challenge, since many organizations around the world have done fine work and a full accounting would be long.

- National Preservation Week
- Viewshare Launch
- National Digital Stewardship Alliance
- DuraCloud
- Data Management Plans: DMPTool
- Digital File Analysis Tools: DROID 6/JHOVE2
- Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Program
- Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative JPEG 2000 Summit
- Keeping Emulation Environments Portable Project
- The Signal

Read more about each of these developments.

Online Science and Digital Preservation

By Trevor Owens and Abbey Potter - When historians look back on late 20th and early 21st century science they will undoubtedly be interested in understanding how the web has facilitated, altered and otherwise shifted scientific inquiry and the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

These shifts in practice involving openness, collaboration and “citizen” participation are recorded in the activities and outputs of scientists online.

As noted in an earlier post, we had the opportunity to talk about digital preservation at the Science Online 2012 gathering.

Read about some of the projects they saw first-hand.

Truth, Justice and the “Authenticity” Way

By Butch Lazorchak - Why should you care if a resource is authentic? You might care if you were a NASA scientist and a forgery introduced doubt about one of your agency’s most stellar historic achievements.

As the U.S. Government Printing Office has noted, digital technology makes documents easy to alter or copy, leading to multiple non-identical versions that can be used in unauthorized or illegitimate ways. The ease of alteration has introduced doubt in many user’s minds about the authenticity of all the digital documents they encounter.

While there are times when we gleefully acknowledge the inauthenticity of the content of a document, for the most part we want to be assured that the document in our inbox is what it purports to be and is free from tampering or corruption.

We’ve touched on authenticity issues in several previous posts on the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act, which is working to explore the authentication of digital state government legislative materials.

Read more about recent developments.

What Does Innovation Look Like?

In a collaborative blog post on The Signal, Micah Beck, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Tennessee, and Jane Mandelbaum, Trevor Owens and Jefferson Bailey in the Library of Congress discuss the four projects the NDSA Innovation working group is currently exploring. Check it out!
Bit By Bit: Recent Projects on Digital Forensics

Bradley Daigle, Matthew Kirschenbaum and Christopher (Cal) Lee discuss projects that have begun addressing the integration of forensic technologies within the specific context of the archival workflows at cultural heritage institutions. You can read about these projects in their blog post.

Web Archiving News

The Signal recently featured a few blog posts by Abbie Grotke of the Library of Congress Web Archiving Team.

In the third of her series of “Ask the Recommending Officer,” she interviewed Atish Chatterjee, of the Library of Congress Overseas Operations Division in the New Delhi Office in India, about the Indian General Elections 2009 Web Archive. She also blogged about the shut down of the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) program’s website and how it was archived.

NDSA Storage Survey

The NDSA Infrastructure Working Group recently conducted an extensive survey of NDSA member preservation storage systems. While the survey examined a wide range of preservation storage trends, it originated from the group’s interest in exploring the current use of cloud computing among members.

Read about the survey’s results.

New Videos

A handful of new videos about various digital preservation topics cropped up in January.

Digital Antiquities is a 15-minute science-fiction film that considers the social impact of data recovery in the not-too-distant future.

The set of newly released videos from the Belgian “Archipel” project look at digitization and digital preservation of cultural heritage materials.

The State Library of North Carolina released a four-part tutorial explaining the importance of file naming in doing digital preservation.

Thoughts on Personal Digital Archiving

The Signal recently featured blog posts about personal archiving challenges, solutions and general musings. Check them out!

- The Big Digital Sleep
- Personal Archiving – Year End Boot Camp
- Update: Adding Descriptions to Digital Photos
- From Chaos to Order: Diverse Communities Interested in Personal Digital Archiving Resources

More from The Signal

- Leslie Johnston blogs about attending The World Digital Library’s partner’s meeting.
- Dan Cohen’s talk, “The Future of Digital History,” at the National Library of Medicine, in Bethesda, Maryland, is profiled.
- Abbey Potter shows how Viewshare can be used to explore and share data about community history.
- Butch Lazorchak asks, “Are you using the Bagit specification tools?”