Library of Congress
Digital Preservation Newsletter

May 2013

Upcoming Deadline

Nominate a project, organization, individual or student for the annual [NDSA Innovation Awards.](#) Nominations due **May 16.**

Digital Preservation Bits

[Official, Authenticated, Preserved, and Accessible: The Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act](#)

[Digital Humanities and Digital Preservation](#)

[Social Media Networks Stripping Data from Your Digital Photos](#)

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[The Signal](#)

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Opening Up the National Digital Newspaper Program

The [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) and the [Library of Congress](#) have partnered to enhance access to historic newspapers for many years with the National Digital Newspaper Program. A centerpiece of this partnership is the [Chronicling America](#) website. At over six million pages from over thirty states, the program meets this commitment by publishing historic newspapers on the web.

The software that runs this centerpiece is developed in the Library of Congress's Repository Development Center, and it is called chronam. It is available for anyone to use:

http://github.com/LibraryofCongress/chronam

From the project README:

"The idea of making chronam available here on Github is to provide a technical option to these awardees, or other interested parties who want to make their own websites of NDNP newspaper content available." to understand what has been preserved and what makes born digital collections unique."

 Read more about the release [here](#).

New Interview Series: *Content Matters*
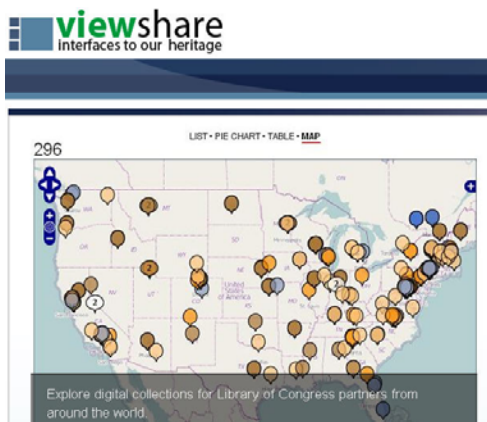
The National Digital Stewardship Alliance [Content Working Group](#) is excited to launch a new series for the Signal. We're calling it *Content Matters*, and much like the [*Insights series*](#) that the Innovation Working Group has published, the interview series will feature discussions and stories about the content that our members are passionate about, the importance of what they are stewarding and preserving, and the users of this content.

In this inaugural installment we're excited to chat with Deb Boyer, the project manager for *PhillyHistory.org*, which provides public access to digitized historic photographs and maps of Philadelphia. Deb was a big part of our [Why Digital Maps Can Reboot Cultural History](#) panel at the South By Southwest 2013 conference.

As Deb notes in the interview: *Philly*History.org provides free access to photographs and maps from the [Philadelphia City Archives](#) and other cultural organizations. Users can search over 100,000 images by geographic location (address, intersection, or neighborhood), keyword, and other criteria. We're still actively scanning images and add new photos to the site every week." You can read in the entire interview [here](#).

Viewshare Meet JSON, JSON Meet Viewshare

We are pleased to announce a fifth option for importing data into Viewshare – JSON. Users now have the ability to import data files in

JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) format that are available on the Web via a public URL. Cultural heritage institutions are increasingly sharing their data in JSON format to enhance discovery and scholarship for researchers and other users. Two recent blog posts (here and here) about Viewshare described the power of using linked open data for visualizations. The JSON import option serves to further make connections across data sources. For optimal Viewshare results, the new import feature works best with simple JSON data that has non-nested property values. Below are examples of data sets that work well in Viewshare. Read more about this new development.

Why a National Digital Stewardship Alliance Student Group?

By Kim Schroeder, Wayne State University Lecturer and WSU NDSA Student Group Faculty Advisor

Sometimes a professional conference offers you nothing new. Sometimes it changes your direction. Sometimes and perhaps more critically, it confirms your route.

When I went to my first Library of Congress NDSA conference, I heard not only from many warning the doom of certain formats but a lot of positive presentations on projects and technological innovations. I felt less alone in my work and more able to focus with my

colleagues to tackle the greatest challenge to archivists since our aged profession began.

As I left this conference, I thought deeply about how I could communicate this information to my students and how I could replicate this for them. The only possible answer was to create a student group at Wayne State University, where I teach.

Why start a student group? Read more to find out.

Link Persistence, Website Persistence

In an ideal web, webmasters would adhere to Tim Berners-Lee's notion of "cool URIs" – links that have been purposely maintained so as to remain stable. Stable links are more useful to users, and it is technically feasible to maintain any particular link for at least the lifespan of the resource it points to. However, given both the popular perception of and the abundance of scholarly literature on link decay, it's probably safe to say that Tim Berners-Lee's vision for a cool URI-enabled web hasn't yet been realized.

The good news is that websites are more durable than links. This is supported by multiple studies and makes intuitive sense, as well. The bad news is that most contemporary web archiving tools are actually link archiving tools; they are designed to agnostically capture and replay the content represented by links, not the intellectual objects (i.e., the websites) of interest per se. Read more about link and website persistence.

Digital Preservation Outreach and Education

Calendar of Events: Access training and educational offerings in the practice of digital preservation.

Personal Digital Archiving News

Older Personal Computers Aging Like Vintage Wine (if They Dodged the Landfill)

Mascots for Team Digipres!

Digital Preservation Sonnet

First Aid on the Front Lines: Immediate Training Needs

Before You Were Born: Image Digitization, a Personal Reminiscence

Conversation Corner

Challenges in the Curation of Time Based Media Art: An Interview with Michael Mansfield

The Metadata Games Crowdsourcing Toolset for Libraries & Archives: An Interview with Mary Flanagan

The Content Matters Interview Series: Dr. Sylvia Chou of the National Cancer Institute

Born Digital Archival Materials at NYPL: An Interview with Donald Mennerich

This is the newsletter of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance, the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education initiative and the National Digital Information Infrastructure Program.