Library of Congress
Digital Preservation Newsletter

July 2013

Upcoming Events

Digital Preservation 2013, July 23-25, Alexandria, VA National Agenda for Digital Stewardship to be released. Stay tuned!

iPres 2013 September 2-5, Lisbon, Portugal

Best Practices Exchange, November 13-15, 2013

More Web Archiving

Step One, Fit In

Digital Preservation Bits

The Darker Side of Digital Content Lifecycle

Respect Des Bits: Archival Theory: Encounters Digital Objects & Media

Where is Applied Digital Preservation Research?

Towards Digital Preservation Policy for Museums

Word Processing: The Enduring Killer App

Working with File Formats: A Dream Job

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And the Winner Is...Announcing the NDSA Innovation Award Winners

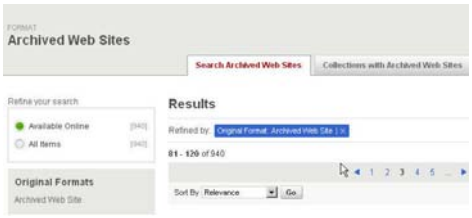
The National Digital Stewardship Alliance Innovation Working Group awards team is excited to announce the 2013 winners of the NDSA Innovation Awards. In this, the second year of these Awards, four outstanding individuals and projects have been recognized for their contributions to innovation in digital stewardship. Last year's winners can be seen in a previous post on The Signal.

Selected from a large pool of nominations, this year's Innovation Award winners represent the creativity, collaboration and willingness to explore novel approaches to complex challenges that define innovation in the preservation and accessibility of digital content. The four winners also represent the diversity of institutions, projects, individuals, and communities working to provide stewardship to digital materials of value.

The awards will be handed out at the upcoming Digital Preservation 2013 conference, July 23-25 in Washington D.C., where the winners will also give brief presentations on their projects. As with last year's Innovation Award recipients, we hope to feature full interviews with each of the winners here on The Signal.

Please join us in congratulating the 2013 Innovation Award winners! See the blog post for the full list.

Moving on Up: New Web Archives Presentation Home



We're excited to finally announce something a team of Library staff has been involved with for over a year now – a big project to integrate the Library's web archives into the rest of the loc.gov web presence. It's the new "Archived Web Site" format type and is a part of the Library's main search function.

This update provides, for the first time, a way for the Library's web archive content to be searched alongside other formats such as books, photos, maps, periodicals and more.

This "soft launch" (or "we're putting it out there but still have improvements to make") includes content from eight of our publicly accessible web archives. We have plans for more content to be released later this year, including some archived sites not already on the LCWA site.

Read on to see some of the features of this new release!

10 Resources for Community Digital Archives

We write frequently about the value of personal digital archiving–empowering people to pass on digital memories to their families and others. We've always seen public libraries as key allies in promoting personal archiving, and have highlighted libraries that undertake outreach and training in this area.

There is a related role for public libraries and allied organizations: facilitating development of community digital archives. A community collection could consist of born-digital and digitized images, audio, text or other materials.

Read the blog post to see the full list of resources.

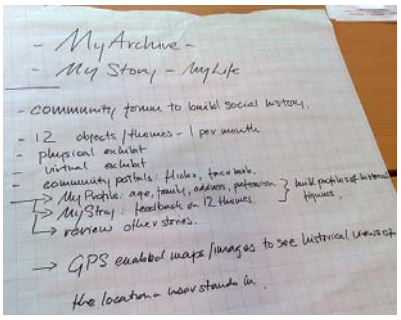
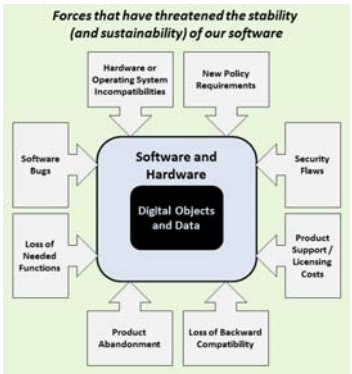


Photo by Virtueel Platform, on Flickr

Why Can't You Just Build it and Leave it Alone?



In the early1990s, the National Library of Medicine experimented with arranging, describing and digitizing historical manuscript collections. The earliest experiments involved a collection containing correspondence and reports from the 1960s and 1970s. At that time, they used a proprietary document management system. Over time components were replaced and modified to meet evolving needs. Today, the metadata and digital images still survive.

Read more about how NLM kept their system sustainable over the years.

What People are Asking About Personal Digital Archiving, Part 1

During Preservation Week 2013, NDIIPP hosted a webinar about personal digital archiving. Over 600 people participated and, during the post-presentation question section, 91 people submitted questions online. After the webinar, The Association for Library Collections and Technical Services sent the complete list of questions. Seeing the questions helps to improve and expand our information resources.

The questions covered a variety of topics — email preservation, file naming, digital video, file migration, scanning and digital asset management — but the most striking fact is that two-thirds of all the questions could be grouped into just two main topics: digital photos and storage.

See the answers to the most popular questions in the full post.

Digital Preservation Outreach and Education

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

Announcing the Inaugural Class of Residents. See the list of those chosen for this year's NDSR.

Highlighting Resources

I Made Metadata Fun: A True Story

NDSA Members Report on Digital Storage Systems

Personal Digital Archiving

Someone Help: Personal Digital Un-Archive

Digital Preservation for the People!

Conversation Corner

Content Matters Interview: With David McClure of the Neatline Project

Teaching Digital Libraries With Viewshare: An Interview with Erik Mitchell

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