

Upcoming Events

[National Book Festival](#)

September 21-22,
Washington, DC

[Cultural Heritage Archives: Networks, Innovation & Collaboration Symposium](#)

September 26-27,
Washington, DC

[2013 DLF Forum](#), November 3-6, Austin, TX

[Best Practices Exchange](#), November 13-15, 2013, Salt Lake City, UT

[Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation: An Action Assembly](#), November 18-20, 2013, Barcelona, Spain

Digital Preservation Bits

[Help to Pick Panels for the 2014 South By Southwest Conference](#)

[Is There Such A Thing as Digital Preservation?](#)

[Xporting Digital Format Sustainability Descriptions as XML](#)

[Format Migration: More Launching Points for Applied Research](#)

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Using the Levels of Digital Preservation

Raegan Swanson, archivist with Aanischaaukamikw Cree Cultural Institute, recently contacted members of the NDSA group working on the Levels of Digital Preservation with her thoughts and comments. We were excited to offer her the opportunity to share her comments on the utility of the Levels with a broader audience in a [guest blog post](#) on *The Signal*.

In her post she briefly describes the work of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#) and the value that the [NDSA Levels of Digital Preservation](#) provided in helping her think through how to best to prioritize her organization's work to ensure long-term access to the records of the Commission.

It started in November 2012, when the TRC saw the post about NDSA Levels of Digital Preservation on *The Signal*. They began to

analyze their digital holdings using the Levels over a three-month period. Their holdings were complex and heterogeneous, as they held materials they had created as well as material from the Government of Canada and several different Church entities. For each of the different types of holdings they were able to determine the Level which the collection fit in. It gave them a great opportunity to review and clarify where all their projects stood. For them, the Levels document was usable far beyond thinking about preservation.

You can read her full guest post [here](#).

The George Sanger Collection at UT Austin Videogame Archive

In 2007, George Sanger and three other videogame industry leaders collaborated with the University of Texas at Austin to create the UT [Videogame Archive](#) at the [Briscoe Center for American History](#). Sanger — who is best known by his persona, [The Fat Man](#) — is an award-winning, groundbreaking composer and sound designer who has created audio for more than 250 games. He was ready to simplify his life by getting rid of a lot of his stuff and the Briscoe Center welcomed his collection. But they did not expect the complexity of the project they were about to take on.

When his archives arrived at the Briscoe Center, the caravan of sixty blue plastic bins was packed with at least nine types of storage media, most of which required special



hardware to access their contents. Some of the storage media were obsolete and some of the files they contained were in obsolete formats created by obsolete programs.

Read all about Sanger's donation and how the Briscoe Center archives managed his materials in [the full blog post](#).

The Digital Preservation Business Case Toolkit

Paul Wheatley of the [SPRUCE Project](#), which is “aiming to foster a vibrant and self-supporting community of digital preservation practitioners and developers via a mixture of online interaction and face to face events,” recently discussed on *The Signal* a new online guide to help make the case to fund digital preservation projects. You can read his full [quest post here](#).

In it, he discusses the project team’s experience building expertise and experience in various aspects of writing digital preservation focused business cases and the collaborative approach the team took to develop the first



Step by step, from SPRUCE Digital Preservation illustrations

version of the [Digital Preservation Business Case Toolkit](#). The team is also soliciting feedback from other users for a future release.

Analysis of Current Digital Preservation Policies

2013 Summer Junior Fellow [Madeline Sheldon](#) worked on a project to identify and analyze cultural heritage institution digital preservation policies around the world. She discussed her findings in [quest blog post](#) on *The Signal*.

Here are some brief findings from her report.

- Out of 33 institutions surveyed, 16 archives (48%) published digital preservation policies/strategies from 2008 – 2013. Of these archives, eleven government agencies and five academic institutions sponsored the publication of these documents.
- 15 libraries (45%) published digital preservation policies/strategies from 2008 –

2013. Of these libraries, eight academic institutions, and seven government agencies sponsored the publication of these documents.

- 2 museums (7%) published digital preservation policies/strategies from 2008 – 2013.
- Academic and state governments predominately published policies or strategies in North America, while most of the organizations that sponsored publications in Europe, Australia, and New Zealand originated from provinces or national government bodies.

What Is It That We Actually DO?

[Leslie Johnston](#), chief of the Repository Development Center at the Library, has often been asked by family, friends and complete strangers to explain what she does. In a recent [blog post](#) on *The Signal*, she describes some of the work she and her colleagues do.

Some of those things include: research, attending meetings and conferences, presenting, writing, building relationships,



A day at the Library of Congress by wlef70 on Flickr

working with collections, and writing code. What to know more about these activities? Read the full post [here](#).

Digital Preservation Outreach and Education

[Calendar of Events](#): Access training and educational offerings in the practice of digital preservation.

Resources

[Four Reasons You Might Need Digital Preservation in a Box](#)

[The Activists' Guide to Archiving Video](#)

[Back to School: Digital Preservation Videos for the Classroom](#)

[Rich Online Resources Document the 1963 March on Washington](#)

Conversation Corner

[Insights Interview](#): With Jason Scott of Archive Team

[Content Matters Interview](#): With Ben Blackwell of Third Man Records

[What's a Nice English Professor Like You Doing in a Place Like This](#): An Interview With Matthew Kirschenbaum

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.