Digital Preservation Pioneer: Sam Brylawski

When Sam Brylawski was a teenager he had to write a paper for his high school American history class about Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue,” so he did something that was ambitious for a high school student: he traveled to the Library of Congress to examine the composition’s original manuscript in the Gershwin collection.

“To actually examine a real Gershwin manuscript was a great thrill,” said Brylawski. “Those things worked to get me hooked on the Library of Congress and on libraries in general.”

Hooked enough to work in the Library’s Recorded Sound Section every summer during college, to get a job there after graduating college, and to immerse himself so deeply and thoroughly in his work that he would one day become the head of Recorded Sound. And hooked enough to crusade for unified action among public and private institutions to preserve and make accessible all recorded sound.

Welcome, NDSR Inaugural Class!

After years of planning, the staff, hosts, and benefactors are pleased to welcome the 2013-2014 National Digital Stewardship Residency Inaugural Class. The residents began with a two-week orientation and workshop at the Library of Congress. During the workshop, they received training on various components of digital stewardship before beginning their residencies at their host institutions.

During the opening ceremony, the Deputy Librarian of Congress, Robert Dizard, Jr., pointed out that the NDSR was not only going to help the residents and participating institutions, but would also help the Library identify areas of urgency in the field of digital preservation.

Read more about this exciting new residency program!
Announcing New Report: Preserving.exe

We are thrilled to announce the release of a new National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program report, *Preserving.exe: Toward a National Strategy for Preserving Software* (pdf) with perspectives from individuals working to ensure long term access to software.

Software is simultaneously a baseline infrastructure and a mode of creative expression. It is both the key to accessing and making sense of digital objects and an increasingly important historical artifact in its own right. When historians write the social, political, economic and cultural history of the 21st century they will need to consult the software of the times.

See more of what’s included in this new report.

Digital Portals to State and Community History

Through the blog, we have started two crowd sourcing projects to compile lists of digital portals for both state histories and community histories.

A recent NDIIPP intern did some research into current web resources that provide digital access to a broad array of primary source materials at the state level. She found a long list of sites that billed themselves as general-interest portals to historical resources. Those results are listed in one blog post which covers sites for individual states as well as those for multiple states.

NDSA Report on Geospatial Data

We have recently announced the release of a new National Digital Stewardship Alliance report, *Issues in the Appraisal and Selection of Geospatial Data* (pdf). Digital mapping information is an essential part of the backbone of our economy through consumer applications that allow us to track our location, find a nearby restaurant or guide us on a journey.

Get an overview of this research here in the blog post.