

Upcoming Events

[NDSA regional meeting](#), Jan 23-24, 2014, Philadelphia, PA

[ALA MidWinter](#), Jan 24-28, 2014, Philadelphia, PA

[9th International Digital Curation Conference](#): Feb 24-27, 2014, San Francisco, CA

Digital Preservation Bits

[Can You Digitize a Digital Object? It's Complicated](#)

[Top Signal Posts of 2013](#)

[Happenings in the Web Archiving World](#)

More on the NDSA

[The NDSA at 3: Taking Stock and Looking Ahead](#)

[Protect Your Data: More on the Levels of Digital Preservation](#)

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Two Digital Preservation Pioneers

Steve Puglia *Digital Descartes*

Steve Puglia, manager of Digital Conversion Services at the Library of Congress, died peacefully on December 10, 2013 after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer. Puglia had a profound effect on his colleagues here in Washington and worldwide, and there is a great outpouring of grief and appreciation in the wake of his passing.

The testimony embedded in this tribute demonstrates that Steve's passing left the cultural heritage, conservation and preservation communities stunned, somber and affectionate. Their words attest to his character, his influence and the significance of his work. He was a rare combination of subject-matter expert and gifted, masterful teacher, who captivated and inspired audiences.



Steve Puglia. Photo by Barry Wheeler

We wanted to pay tribute to our colleague by naming him a Digital Preservation Pioneer. Read [the full blog post](#) for more about Steve's life and work.

Gary Marchionini *Educator and Researcher*

In 1971, Gary Marchionini had an epiphany about educational technology when he found himself competing with teletype machines for his students' attention. "I realized that there were two things going on.

One was personalization; each kid was getting his own special attention. The other thing was interactivity; it was back and forth, back and forth with the kids. It was engaging."

Since then, Marchionini, now Dean of the UNC School of Information and Library Science, has had a lifelong interest in computer interaction as a line of research.

He also has a long association with our Library of Congress community, starting with early work prototyping the American Memory collections, to the development of the NDIIPP funded "ContextMiner" tool. Read more about his research and career as an educator in the [full blog post](#).



Gary Marchionini. Photo by UNC, Chapel Hill.

New NDSA Report: Staffing for Effective Digital Preservation

The results of the 2012 National Digital Stewardship Alliance Standards and Practices Working Group's digital preservation staffing survey have just been released! [Staffing for Effective Digital Preservation: An NDSA Report](#) (pdf) shares what we learned by surveying 85 institutions with a mandate to preserve digital content and how they staffed and organized their preservation functions. A previous Signal blog post posed the question "[How do you staff your Digital Preservation Initiatives?](#)" and the responses are now publicly available and the survey data have been archived for future use.

Read the [full post](#) for an overview of the results.



Digital Preservation Outreach and Education

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

Resources

[COPTR for Digital Preservation Tools](#)

[Great Digital Preservation Photos](#)

Personal Digital Archiving

[Am I A Good Steward of My Own Digital Life?](#)

Conversation Corner

[Crossing the River](#): An interview with W. Walter Sampson of Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History

[Mapping the Movement of Books Using Viewshare](#): An Interview with Mitch Fraas of University of Pennsylvania

[BitCurator's Open Source Approach](#): An interview with Cal Lee of UNC

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.

Digital File Format Samples and Sets

metaGlue An Index of Metals

- Sample file artifacts can be of a range of qualities - not all are "gold"
 - gold Au engineered good
 - silver Ag agreed good
 - tin Sn tentative good
 - copper Cu claimed good
 - nickel Ni unknown, 3rd party
 - cobalt Co claimed bad
 - zinc Zn tentative bad
 - cadmium Cd agreed bad
 - lead Pb engineered bad
 - plutonium Pu engineered poisonous
- 'engineered' good and bad are created specifically for test purposes
- other files will include some or all real-world content
 - most incoming files will be Copper or Nickel or Cobalt
 - tests and debates will reveal them to be Silver or Tin, or Zinc or Cadmium
- note that artifacts may have a mixture of qualities, so they are like alloys
 - e.g. Bronze = Copper + Tin, Brass = Copper + Zinc...

Slide courtesy of Oliver Morgan, MetaGlue, Inc.

In the retail world, samples are an important tool to influence potential new customers who don't want to invest in an unknown entity. In the world of digital file formats, there are several areas of work where sample files and groups of sample files, or test sets, can be valuable. Oliver Morgan of MetaGlue, Inc., a consultant working with the [Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative](#), has recently developed the "Index of Metals" scale for sample files created specifically for testing purposes. See the [full blog post](#) for more detail on this process.

GIS Data at Montana State Library

This installment of the [Content Matters Interview Series](#) of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance features an interview with Diane Papineau, a geographic information systems analyst at the Montana State Library, who talks to us about the MSL's geospatial data collections.

This interview is in two parts - [part one](#) covers information on the state's natural resource information system, digital mapping collections, NDSA participation and more; [part two](#) covers current digital preservation challenges, changes in digital mapping technologies, access issues and more.



Diane Papineau. Photo by Patty Ceglio