Spotlight on Digital Collections

Machine Scale Analysis with Lisa Green

How do we make digital collections available at scale for today’s scholars and researchers? Lisa Green, director of Common Crawl, tackled this and related questions in her keynote address at Digital Preservation 2013 (view her slides and watch a video of her talk online.)

As a follow up to ongoing discussions of what users can do with large sets of data, we explore these issues in more depth here in the full insights interview with Lisa.

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Cultural Heritage of the Great Smoky Mountains

At Western Carolina University (which was built on the site of a Cherokee village) in the town of Cullowhee, Anna Fariello has helped create digital cultural records of Cherokee society, made accessible online as the Cherokee Traditions collection. Given the potential longevity of digital collections, Cherokee Traditions might be accessible for many years.

Fariello is trying to digitally preserve as much of the rich cultural heritage of the western North Carolina Smoky Mountain region as she can and make those collections available online. Read the full blog post for more about the digital collections at Hunter Library.

Postcard showing Cora Wahnetah, Cherokee potter, Hunter Library Digital and Special Collections, Western Carolina University.
Digital Preservation Aid in Response to Tornado

On November 17, 2013 a tornado hit central Illinois, not far from the new Fondulac District Library building. The library had just celebrated its grand opening to the public only two weeks before the tornado hit the area.

Genna Buhr, Public Services Manager at the library, and the staff created a web page packed with storm assistance information for the community. In addition, within two weeks they set up a digitizing station along with advice for local residents on digitizing and preserving any photos that might have been damaged.

Read more about how this library provided a valuable service at this critical time.

NDSA Digital Content Area: Web and Social Media

You may have seen the news on this blog and elsewhere that the National Digital Stewardship Alliance launched the first ever National Agenda for Digital Stewardship last July. One major section of that document addresses digital content areas.

Selection is increasingly a concern with digital content. With so much data, how do we decide what to preserve?

Audiences increasingly desire not only access, but enhanced options and tools. Members of the NDSA’s Content Working Group contributed to the 2014 agenda by discussing what content was particularly challenging - one area was web and social media.

Read the full blog post for more on this and the group’s work on other content areas.

Wikipedia and Digital Preservation

Did you know Wikipedia is the sixth most popular website? That was the inspiration behind the NDSA Standards and Practices Working Group’s project, started in 2012, to use Wikipedia as a platform for information about digital preservation standards and best practices.

This idea proved more challenging than it first appeared. Read more to find out how the group built upon and expanded Wikipedia’s digital preservation information.

The logo for WikiProject Digital Preservation

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.

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