An Annual Meeting of the Minds

Digital Preservation 2014: It's a Thing

The annual Digital Preservation meeting, held each summer in Washington, DC, brings together experts in academia, government and the private and non-profit sectors to celebrate key work and share the latest developments, guidelines, best practices and standards in digital preservation.

Digital Preservation 2014, held July 22-24, marked the 13th major meeting hosted by NDIIPP in support of the broad community of digital preservation practitioners, and it was certainly the largest, if not the best. This meeting has rapidly evolved to welcome an ever-expanding group of practitioners, ranging from students to policy-makers to computer scientists to academic researchers.

Preserving Born Digital News at DP2014

As news is increasingly going digital, news organizations don’t have the expertise or resources to properly archive or preserve their digital work for future generations.

This is true at small regional newspapers struggling to maintain a web presence and keep digital backups of their articles, images and videos. It’s also true at the biggest national news organizations building interactive news apps and data-driven journalism projects.

Important initiatives like the National Digital Newspaper Program (a partnership of the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities) are helping save the legacy of print journalism for future generations. But what about the digital news being created today?

Anne Wootton, CEO of Pop Up Archive, provides a preview of the session, and slides from the full panel are now available.

Most news organizations create digital content in text format (Figure above). But what does it mean that 6% of Hybrid enterprises report that they don’t produce text?
LOLCats and Libraries with Amanda Brennan

Julia Fernandez, NDIIPP Junior Fellow, recently interviewed Amanda Brennan, internet librarian specializing in image macros, memes and other viral content on the web.

According to Amanda, even though some memes will only last a short time, they are reflective of their time and that specific moment in internet culture. Yes, there are dozens upon dozens of Advice Animal-style image macros, some of which are so flash in the pan no one will remember them. Recording these smaller moments are like recording local history.

Amanda Brennan

Digital Preservation Questions & Answers

Back in 2012, the NDSA Innovation Working Group explored ways to better capture and make accessible the anecdotal wisdom and knowledge sharing of the digital preservation community. After some early experimenting with various platforms, Open Planets Foundation offered server space to host a Q&A forum and the new site was born, a product of the collaboration of the NDSA and OPF.

Digital Preservation Q and A is currently active under the stewardship of the preservation-minded. This new forum, for the novice and experienced alike, offers a searchable, community site where digital preservation knowledge can be shared. Check out the full post for more information on this and the NDSA working group.

End-of-Life Care for Aging, Fragile CDs

Many institutions and individuals that use CDs as a storage medium are now concerned because information technologists have deemed the medium to be unsuitable for long-term use.

As a result, institutions are racing to get the data off the discs as quickly and safely as possible and into a more reliable digital storage environment.

John Passmore, archivist at New York Public Radio, gave a presentation at the recent Digital Preservation 2014 about NYPR’s experiences in transferring the contents of their archive of over 30,000 CD-Rs. Passmore said that some of the older discs exhibit “end-of-life symptoms,” which creates an urgency to move the content off the CD-Rs and into the organization’s asset management system.