



# Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

## NDIIPP Meeting Draws Record Crowd

The Library of Congress annual National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program meeting drew over 150 people from 20 states to share results from digital stewardship projects. This was the largest number of attendees yet, and indicates success in building a fledgling national network of digital preservation partners.



NDIIPP 2009 Meeting Attendees. Credit: Barry Wheeler

Laura Campbell, Associate Librarian for Strategic Initiatives, opened the meeting with words of appreciation. “The energy and momentum you have created is very impressive,” she said. “NDIIPP is recognized around the world as a model for national approaches to digital preservation, and a big reason for this is the enthusiasm and quality of the network members—all of you.”

Clay Shirky provided the meeting keynote. He discussed the social nature of digital preservation issues, including the distributed publishing model of the internet and what he described as “filter failure.” Metadata is the key, but everyone is involved in assigning descriptors, not just librarians and archivists

The meeting featured 12 breakout sessions focusing on metadata, collaboration agreements, preserving dynamic content, web archiving and other topics. Other talks



Author and media theorist Clay Shirky. Credit: Barry Wheeler

provided details about projects to retrieve web content that is inaccessible through referenced hyperlinks; using cloud computing for digital preservation; and current U.S. copyright policies.

Social media covered the meeting in some detail. The blog [L’Archivista](#) summarized all three days of the meeting, and there were a number of [Twitter tweets](#) sent during the meeting.

Read [more](#) about the other talks during the meeting at [digitalpreservation.gov](#). Slides and notes from all meeting sessions are available from the [events](#) section of the NDIIPP website. •

## Digital Preservation Pioneer: Jerry Handfield



Washington State’s Top Archivist Jerry Handfield.

Washington State Archivist Jerry Handfield traces his work on the innovative [Washington State Digital Archives](#) back to a history project he did in high school in Norwich, Connecticut. Handfield had to virtually “move” an 1830s-era family from the East cross country to the Oregon territories, drawing upon historical

people and events. As his research took him through memoirs, biographies, newspapers and public records, he became more absorbed in the work than expected. He relished solving mysteries, and discovered a dedication to and a knack for historical research. He felt the vitality of history and sensed that the lines connecting the past and present are taut and humming with relevance. His career course was set.

Prior to his tenure as Washington State Archivist, Handfield taught history at Indiana University and Purdue University at Indianapolis and worked at the Indiana State Library. From 1987 until 2001, he served as the Indiana State Archivist and headed the Commission on Public Records as a gubernatorial appointee. During this time he became a fervent advocate for electronic records.

Read [more](#) about Handfield’s work and experiences at [digitalpreservation.gov](#). •

