



# Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

## It's Our Second Anniversary

We want to know what you think! As the Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter marks its second anniversary, please take a moment to answer a few questions. Your feedback will help us to improve our newsletter product and bring you the information and resources you find most useful. The [survey](#) will take about 5 minutes to complete. •

## Digital Preservation Pioneer: Robert Horton

Minnesota State Archivist Bob Horton had his first significant electronic records experience in the early 1990s at boot camp. Camp Pitt was a workshop — sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission — on electronic records. Horton credits Camp Pitt for opening his eyes to the possibilities of technology, electronic recordkeeping and access to archival information. After that experience, Horton steered his archival work in the direction of public access to electronic records.



Minnesota State Archivist Bob Horton.

Horton went on to work with the Minnesota Historical Society in 1997 where he soon encountered one of the largest projects he was ever involved with: the Tobacco Document Library. The state of Minnesota won a lawsuit against the major tobacco companies and as part of its settlement the tobacco companies agreed to help establish a repository containing all of the documentation produced during the litigation, over 27 million pages of documents.

Horton brings an open-minded approach to the NDIIPP-funded [State Government Digital Information project](#). The MHS is trying to foster collaborations within and among states, recognizing that sharing resources will allow people to do things that they otherwise could not. A recent example of this took place at a project meeting in January (see the Minnesota Minnesota Project “eXists” article in this newsletter).

Read [more](#) about Horton’s interests and career -- or listen to a [podcast](#) or view a [webcast](#) featuring Horton-- at [digitalpreservation.gov](#). •

## March Reading Materials

At the beginning of March, the digital preservation community finds itself with two recently issued reports and a new guide on distributed digital preservation to read and digest.

The [Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access](#) has issued a final report, [Sustainable Economics for a Digital Planet](#).

The report caps over two years of work by the task force, which is made up of representatives from a variety of disciplines, including economics, computer science, libraries and archives. Task force members will discuss the report in detail during a April 1, 2010, [symposium](#) in Washington, D.C.



The [Preserving Digital Public Television Project](#) has released the report, [Strategies for Sustainable Preservation of Born Digital Public Television](#). The report is a thorough investigation into the technical, operational and economic requirements for sustainable preservation of file-based television production. It demonstrates how the development of a preservation repository can benefit the public television community.

The project is planning to release several other reports over the next few months, including a detailed analysis of the intellectual property and copyright issues relating to digital access and preservation of public television programs in the U.S.

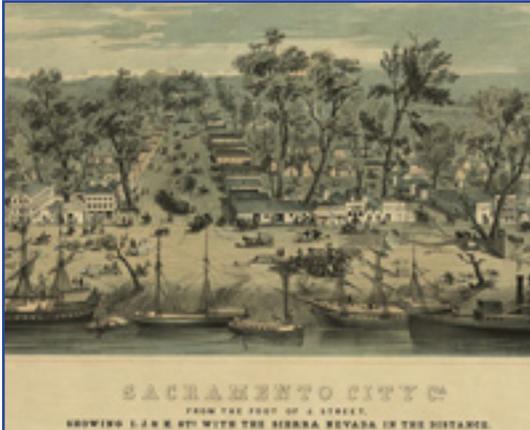
Members of the [MetaArchive Cooperative](#) have written [A Guide to Distributed Digital Preservation](#). Chapters cover topics such as preservation architecture, technical and organizational considerations, and content selection, preparation and management.

The guide, edited by Katherine Skinner and Matt Schultz, is available as a freely downloadable pdf file or as a print publication for purchase. •



## Minnesota Project “eXists” to Preserve

The partners from the [Model Technological and Social Architecture for the Preservation of State Government Digital Information Project](#) convened on January 20, 2010 in [Sacramento, California](#).



Sacramento City. Credit: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division).

The project, lead by the Minnesota Historical Society, is working with legislatures in several states to explore enhanced access to legislative digital records. The purpose of this meeting was to provide an update on recent activities, concentrating on a demonstration of the open source [eXist native XML database](#).

eXist has been selected by the project for building pilot applications for importing, searching, exporting and managing digital legislative information, much of which is already in XML format. In conjunction with the meeting, the project has published a [white paper](#) on XML Native Databases, providing background information on how XML has changed the way data can be stored and accessed.

Read [more](#) about the meeting at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

## NEH Offers Preservation Grants

The [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) recently announced the availability of [Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions](#) of up to \$6,000. These grants can help with all types of collections, including those in digital form. Applications are due May 18, 2010 and must be submitted through [Grants.gov](#).

## Leslie Johnston Joins NDIIPP

Leslie Johnston joined the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program as Manager of Technical Architecture Initiatives in March. She will work with NDIIPP partners and Library of Congress staff to coordinate technical strategy for distributed digital preservation and access initiatives.



Leslie Johnston.

Johnston has over twenty years experience in managing digitization programs, setting and applying metadata and content standards and developing digital content management and delivery systems.

Read [more](#) about Johnston at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

## Upcoming Events

- The Library of Congress is participating in a panel discussion at the [South By Southwest Music and Media Conference](#) in Austin, Tx. The discussion, [Library of Congress: Music for Generations](#), will be at 5 p.m. on Mar. 19, 2010.
- [National Institute of Standards and Technology](#) is sponsoring a two-part series on the Roadmap Development for Digital Preservation Interoperability Framework. The [U.S. Workshop](#) will be held Mar. 29-31, 2010, in Gaithersburg, Md. The [1st International Digital Preservation Interoperability Framework Symposium](#) will be held Apr. 21-23, 2010, in Dresden, Germany.
- [Chronopolis Webex](#). Mar. 19, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. EST/10:30 a.m. PST. Hear about Chronopolis’ tools and services for ingesting, storing, geographic replication and data monitoring. Participation is limited to 125 users, but the Library will record the event for later access.

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