



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Viewshare.org Launched

By Trevor Owens – We are thrilled to announce the launch of a new site, Viewshare.org, a platform for empowering curators, archivists and librarians to provide access to the digital cultural heritage objects they are preserving.



If you have been following us for a while you might realize that this looks and sounds a lot like [Recollection](#). That's because it is! Viewshare.org is the new domain name for our instance of the open source Recollection software. The transition to the new domain name represents a more significant commitment to this project. While we are still going to be actively refining, developing, and improving the software, putting it on its own domain name makes it easier to find, use, and share.

Read [more](#) about ViewShare's launch and some of its new features. •

Data is the New Black

By Leslie Johnston – At our recent [Preservation Storage Meeting](#), the word “data” was frequently mentioned. This was of some note to me, as cultural heritage organizations have, until recently, spoken of “collections” and “content” or even “files,” but not data. This is of course not the case at universities, where social science and observational datasets are very much a part of the custodial landscape. But most libraries, archives, and museums have not considered their collections to be data.



Linking Open Data cloud diagram, by Richard Cyganiak and Anja Jentzsch. <http://lod-cloud.net/>

Martha Anderson recently [blogged](#) on this topic very eloquently. I want to say this out loud: we all have data, from metadata to full-text collections to more formal datasets. We used to talk non-stop about metadata. Now we talk about data. Data is the new black. [More](#) about Johnston's view on “Big Data”. •

What I Learned at the First DPOE Workshop

By Sam Meister – During the week of September 20 – 23, 2011, a group of individuals from all across the United States descended on the Library of Congress to attend the [Digital Preservation Outreach and Education \(DPOE\)](#) initiative's first ever [Train the Trainer Baseline Workshop](#). We came from a wide array of geographical locations (including all the way from Hawaii!) and various types of organizations, ranging from academic libraries and state archives to historical societies, public libraries and many others.



The author receiving his workshop certificate from DPOE Program Director George Coulbourne. Photo credit: Abby Brack.

Read [about](#) Meister's experience at the workshop. •

Friendly File Formats for Scanned Images

By Bill LeFurgy – From a preservation standpoint, some digital file formats are better than others. The basic issue is how readable a format remains over the course of time and successive waves of technological change.



FILE 2009, by Andre Deak, on Flickr

The Library has developed a web resource to help guide preservation-optimal choices in selecting file formats. [Sustainability of Digital Formats Planning for the Library of Congress Collections](#) outlines a number of sustainability factors.

Read [more](#) about format choices. •

The ABCs Series: D and E

Martha Anderson continues a series that explores the topic of digital preservation in an alphabetical way. [D is for data](#) and [E is for ecology](#) are her latest postings. •



Digital Preservation Pioneer: Helen Tibbo

By Mike Ashenfelder – In 2000, Helen Tibbo started teaching Digital Preservation and Access, one of the first college courses of its kind in the world. She is responsible for creating an assortment of courses, credentials and degrees. Her grant-funded research projects, where she has been PI, have brought in over \$5 million to the [School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill](#), and have produced a framework for digital curation curricula.



Tibbo’s dynamism keeps her busy with many other projects and organizations. She recently finished a term as president of the [Society of American Archivists](#), noting that she attended her first SAA conference in 1986, the year it celebrated its 50th anniversary, and she became its president 25 years later.

Read [more](#) about Tibbo’s interests and career. •

Personal Archiving Info

“[The Signal](#)” recently featured a few blog posts about personal digital archiving. Here’s a quick summary of what you can read more about.



• [Mission Possible: An Easy Way to Add Descriptions to Digital Photos](#). Mike Ashenfelder invites readers to comment on a photo description experiment.

- [Four Easy Tips for Preserving Your Digital Photographs](#). Butch Dogg shares his favorite photo and talks about our guidance for saving your digital photos.

In-depth Interviews

“[The Signal](#)” recently featured conversations with two individuals involved in the digital humanities. [Brett Bobley](#), the CIO and Director of the Office for Digital Humanities at NEH was featured in the third [Insights interview](#), and [Michael Edson](#), Director of Web and New Media Strategy for the Smithsonian Institution, expanded on a recent [talk](#). •

Information or Artifact?

Carl Fleischhauer contributed a four-part series to “[The Signal](#)” on the topic of informational and artifactual values in the digitization of books (and other documents) and photographic negatives and transparencies. Read about the book-related blogs: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#), and photo-negative blogs: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#). •



Figure 3. From the Book of Hours, a 1524 French illuminated manuscript, number 10 in the Lessing J. Rosenwald Collection in the Library of Congress Rare Book and Special Collections Division

Recap of Recent Meetings

“[The Signal](#)” highlighted recent conferences and meetings.

- [Digital Asset Management in the Real World: Finish Moves and Stone Cold Stunners](#). Gloria Gonzalez writes about her experience at the Association of Moving Image Archivists Digital Asset Symposium 2011.
- [The Future of the Past of the Web](#). Abbey Potter recaps a jointly-hosted event about web archives and the future of researcher access.
- [Exchange of Best Digital Preservation Practices in Lexington, KY](#). Erin Engle talks about the Best Practices Exchange 2011.

More From “The Signal”

- [“Neighborhood Watch” for Repository Quality Assurance](#). Stephen Abrams writes about an NDSA innovation working group activity.
- [Open Source Tool Speeds Up Web Archive Scoping](#).



The depot walk just got 100% better, by tom.arthur, on Flickr

Kathleen Kenney talks about the open source tool the State Library of North Carolina developed to streamline web crawling.

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