

Upcoming Events

September 20 - 21, 2012:

[Designing Storage Architectures](#)

September 21 - 22, 2012:

NDIIPP at [National Book Festival](#)

December 4 - 6, 2012:

[Best Practices Exchange](#)

February 21 - 22, 2013:

[Personal Digital Archiving Conference](#)

Meetings Roundup

[Open Repositories](#)

[Preserving Online Science](#)

[Data Intensive Research](#)

Digital Preservation Bits

[Fighting the Battle for Fleeting Attention](#)

[Profile: William Kilbride](#)

[Training Digital Curators](#)

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DigitalPreservation 2012

Apps that want to be good. Messiness and meaning. Mature—and immature—organizations.

The Library of Congress provided a forum for innovative insights during its annual digital preservation meeting, held during July 24-25.

[DigitalPreservation 2012](#) drew record attendance from across the country and around the world.

The Library's National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program organized the event to meet several goals. One was to hear from prominent technologists and thought leaders. Another was to bring together Library partners and others to share learning and best practices. Yet another was to extend collaborative ties to improve digital stewardship in the service of advancing knowledge and creativity.

The gathering opened with Anil Dash speaking on the value of the open web for digital preservation. Dash, a well-known blogger and tech entrepreneur, described himself as "a geek interested in the social impacts of technology on culture and government." He has a strong interest in public policy and stated that archivists and librarians are grappling with issues that technology community knows little about. David Weinberger, best-selling author and senior researcher at the Harvard Berkman Center for the Internet & Society, talked about the dramatic change that the web has brought to ideas about information and knowledge.



CurateCamp Processing, by wlef70, on Flickr



Anil Dash, credit: Abby Brack, Library of Congress

Until recently, he noted, knowledge was constrained and localized in the service of "managing, filtering, reducing and winnowing information to reach definitive answers." With the web, knowledge has been set free to grow and evolve in networks.

Michael Carroll, American University Law Professor and Creative Commons board director, compared digital preservation to environmentalism, in that both entail stewardship of valuable resources as well as long-term planning. Both also call for institutional incentives. Bram van der Werf, Executive Director of the Open Planets Foundation, presented on Assuring Future Access, from Infancy to Maturity. He called for more effort into "preventative maintenance for digital collections and the software needed to preserve them."

In association with the meeting, the Library sponsored a [CurateCamp](#) on July 26 to focus on two different notions of "processing": archival processing and data processing. Following an unconference model, participants organized into a series of small group discussions to consider issues such as processing digital acquisitions; defining and extracting essential characteristics for digital objects; and options for repository software.

Read the full story about the meeting [here](#).

Notes and presentations from DigitalPreservation 2012 are now available on the [NDIIPP website](#).

Rescuing the Tangible From the Intangible



The Ripstation. Photo Credit: Butch Lazorchak

They're the red-headed stepchildren of the digital age. They're neither [retro chic](#) (all things being relative, of course) like the server arrays that support "[big data](#)," nor are they as cute

as the thumb drives made to look like your favorite [Star Wars](#) character (or more oddly, chicken feet.)

Of what do I speak? The lowly compact disc, of course. It's [demise has been predicted](#) since at least 2007, but it trudges on, becoming less and less the medium of choice for digital audio distribution (though sadly, still one of your only choices for CD-quality digital audio) but hanging on as a small-scale distribution and storage container for digital data of other sorts.

Some of you may have stopped purchasing CDs, but the Library of Congress continues to collect them in huge quantities. Read the [full story here](#).

From AIP to Zettabyte: Comparing Glossaries

The OSI Junior Fellows worked on a project involving a draft digital preservation policy framework. One component of our work is revising a glossary that accompanies the framework. We spent two weeks poring through over two dozen glossaries relating to digital preservation concepts to locate and refine definitions to fit the terms used in the document.

We looked at dictionaries from well-established archival entities like the [Society of American Archivists](#), as well as more strictly technical organizations like the [Internet Engineering Task Force](#). While some glossaries take a traditional archival approach, others were more technical;

we consulted documents primarily focusing on electronic records, archives, digital storage and other relevant fields. Because of influential frameworks like the OAIS Reference Model, some terms were defined similarly across the glossaries that we looked at. But the variety in the definitions for other terms points to the range of practitioners discussing digital preservation issues, and highlights the need for a common vocabulary.

[Read on](#) for more about glossaries and authenticity.

One Family's Digital Archiving Project

In 1958, Vernon James was an adventurous young man from Colorado who landed a job teaching in Germany for the Department of Defense. During his 16-year stint there, he travelled extensively throughout Europe — including several visits behind the Iron Curtain into West Berlin — and he took lots and lots of photos.

In 2005 Mr. James scanned his European slides along with other slides and photos he had

accumulated. [Read more](#) about how this family is saving their personal history.



Vernon and Stan James

Digital Preservation Outreach and Education

[Calendar of Events](#): Access training and educational offerings in the practice of digital preservation.

Resources and Tools

[Digital Disaster Planning](#): Stewards of digital content should plan in case of catastrophe

[Digital Preservation in a Box](#): A new set of resources for educators and librarians

[NDSA Web Archiving Survey](#): Some key statistics and nifty charts

[States of Sustainability Report](#): Taking a close look at the report recommendations

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.