

## Call for Papers

[Personal Digital Archiving Conference](#) February 21 - 22, 2013. Due Nov. 2 @pda2013

## Upcoming Events

September 20 - 21, 2012: [Designing Storage Architectures](#)

September 22 - 23, 2012: NDIIPP at [National Book Festival](#)

## Digital Preservation Bits

[Back to School: Students Archiving the Web](#)

[Learning to Live With Failures With A Little Help From Redundancy and Diversity](#)

[A Piece of Southern Heritage Preserved](#)

[A Different View of Viewshare](#)

[NDSA Primer: the Content Working Group](#)

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## Digital Preservation Day Camp

On July 26, 2012, the Library of Congress hosted [CurateCamp Processing: Processing Data/Processing Collections](#).

The idea to hold a CurateCamp had been percolating for some time. This was an “unconference,” a meeting where a theme is announced beforehand but the sessions and schedule are set collaboratively by the participants at the meeting. The Library hosted a small unconference before – one of the series of [CRIG RepoCamps in 2008](#) — but this was the first unconference that the Library has organized.

We identified a theme, set up a section on the [CurateCamp wiki](#), suggested topics, promoted the event, and asked that anyone signing up think about topics and write about them in their registration. Once we all arrived, anyone with a session idea wrote down a title and a short description on a piece of paper and

taped it to a schedule grid on the wall. More than half the sessions on the schedule have links through to notes from the session. Lunchtime was dedicated to lightning talks.

One of the session co-organizers, Meg Phillips at the National Archives and Records Administration, shared her own [reflections](#) of the day.

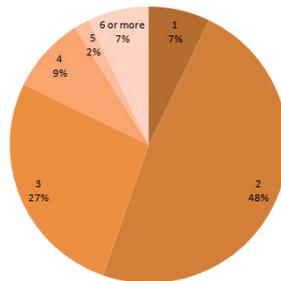
That’s what CurateCamps are about. Not necessarily all about the coding. It’s about participation and conversation. And collaboration. And developing a community.



*Collaborating on the CurateCamp schedule. Credit: Leslie Johnston*

## Results from the NDSA Storage Survey

Number of preservation copies of digital assets survey participants are keeping



Over the last few months, we have been reporting results from the storage survey conducted by the [NDSA Infrastructure Working Group](#), one of the five working groups of the [The National Digital Stewardship Alliance](#).

Previous posts have discussed [the role of access requirements](#), [cloud and distributed storage](#), and [fixity checking](#) in building and maintaining digital preservation infrastructure. Our last examination before we release a

summary report of the survey results, we look at some of the findings of the survey related to strategic planning for digital preservation storage infrastructure.

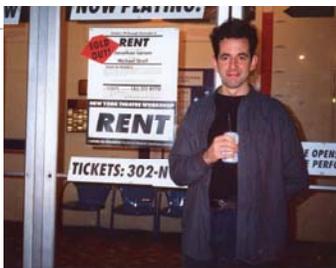
Before we examine those topics, however, there are a number of survey questions which didn’t fit thematically in early posts but will be of interest to readers – specifically storage media currently being used by survey respondents, how many preservation copies of digital assets institutions are keeping, and the number of members that have documented requirements for storage systems professionals on digital preservation practices. These include: number of copies, storage media and documented requirements; and predicting future storage needs.

For a full rundown on these results, read the full post [here](#).

## The Born-Digital Archives of Jonathan Larson

The late Jonathan Larson went through many drafts when composing what became the hit-musical RENT. The tragic end to his life is well known – he died suddenly at age 35 in 1996 shortly before the off-Broadway opening of the musical. What may not be well known is that these early drafts of RENT and other artifacts from Larson’s life and career were hidden for years, existing only on floppy disks and now-obsolete software programs.

Working to solve this digital preservation dilemma became the focus for Doug Reside, Digital Curator of the New York Public Library, along with Mark Horowitz, Senior Music Specialist in the Library of Congress Music Division and curator of the [Jonathan Larson](#)



*Jonathan Larson at the New York Theatre Workshop*

[collection](#), With Mark providing access and expertise about the collection, Doug was able to uncover previously hidden Larson materials by the use of digital forensics techniques (read an [interview](#) with Doug Reside about this collaboration).

Mark recently discussed his perspective on the Larson project. To get his take as an archivist on this brave new world of digital archival materials, read the [full interview](#).

## The Immeasurable Library of Congress

Online photo platforms increasingly support the precise positioning and browsing of user-submitted images in a three-dimensional space. Unsurprisingly, the geographic locations that are most thoroughly blanketed with photos correspond to popular tourist attractions; so many photos are taken as to construct “complete” digital facsimiles.

These digitized versions are never really complete, though, because no number of photos could perfectly capture and represent every aspect of the originals. It is for much the same reason that the data stored in the Library

of Congress won’t fit on a 10 terabyte hard drive.

Science reporters, IT industry pundits, and digital storage and network infrastructure purveyors have gone on to popularize the use of 10 terabytes as a “Library of Congress of data” as a straw-man for a large amount of data.

What this misses is both the importance of the *materiality* of information and the role of libraries generally. Read [more](#) about how the Library of Congress is more than just a mechanism for measuring storage of data.

## Want to Help Identify Election-Related Websites to be Preserved?

Is a U.S. Government website or part of a site you use or know about at risk of disappearing? Is there a website related to the 2012 U.S. Elections that you think should be preserved?

Always dreamed of contributing to a collaborative web archive? Here’s your chance to get your feet wet, whether you are a government documents expert, a passionate citizen, or a digital preservationista, we could use your help.



*“Three suffragists casting votes in New York City.” Prints and Photographs collection, Library of Congress.*

We invite you to contact us for more information about [The End of Term Archive](#) by email ([eotproject@loc.gov](mailto:eotproject@loc.gov)) or via Twitter [@eotarchive!](#)

Digital Preservation Advocacy & Outreach Talk on The Signal

[Who do you want to be today?](#)

[“Supply Side” of Digital Preservation](#)

[Digital Preservation Depicted in \(Weirdly\) Varied Images](#)

[Loading SXSW with Librarians](#)

[Making the Point About Digital Preservation](#)

### Conversation Corner

Digital Preservation Pioneer: [Anne R. Kenney](#)

Insights Interview with [Michael Edson](#), Director Web and New Media Strategy, Smithsonian Institution

[Megan Winget](#), Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Austin, shares “wicked problems”

[NDSA Award Winners:](#) [Lisa Gregory](#), Digital Collections Manager, State Library NC

[Mat Kelly](#), Developer and Programmer at NASA Langley Research Center

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.