

Upcoming Events

[Personal Digital Archiving Conference](#) Feb. 21 - 22, 2013, Univ. of Maryland @pda2013

[ALA's National Preservation Week 2013](#), April 21-27

Viewshare.org Highlights

[Digital Collections Amplified with Viewshare](#)

[Teaching Digital Library Creation with Viewshare](#)

[Discovering Art Collections through Viewshare](#)

Digital Preservation Bits

[Replaying Childhood: On Gifting my Video Games to the Library of Congress](#)

[Raising Digital Preservation Awareness to Combat Complacency and Fear](#)

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Why Does Digital Preservation Matter?

We rarely talk about "the why" of digital preservation. We take it as an article of faith that what we do is important, so much so that we worry that we should be doing more,

Sadness arises when we hear about loss, such as when a 1990s video game [company executive](#) says "all the source code for our games has disappeared along with all the e-mail and a lot of the design documentation." Our collective mood swings to joy when we hear about successful efforts. When the [British Library](#) captures a large batch of websites documenting the 2012 Olympics and Paralympic games, for example, happiness reigns.

Strong as our personal and professional commitment is to preservation and stewardship, we need to remember that



Why? user Myles!, on Flickr

[people outside our circle](#) can have trouble appreciating—or even understanding—our efforts. Even the snappiest of answers still has trouble conveying the sense of importance and passion that most digital stewards bring to their work.

Read [more](#) about why we need to convey the message.

Before You Were Born: We Were Digitizing Texts



We are all pretty familiar with the process of scanning texts to produce page images and converting them using optical character recognition to full-text indexing and searching. But electronic texts have a far older-pedigree.

Text digitization in the cultural heritage sector started in earnest in **1971**, when the first [Project Gutenberg](#) text — the United States Declaration of Independence — was keyed into a file on a mainframe at the University of Illinois. The [Thesaurus Linguae Graecae](#) began in **1972**. The [Oxford Text Archive](#) was founded in **1976**.

The [ARTFL Project](#) was founded at the University of Chicago in **1982**. The [Perseus](#)

[Digital Library](#) started its development in **1985**. The [Text Encoding Initiative](#) started in **1987**. The [Women Writers Project](#) started at Brown University in **1988**. The University of Michigan's UMLibText project was started in **1989**.

The Center for Electronic Texts in the Humanities was established jointly by Princeton University and Rutgers University in **1991**. Sweden's [Project Runeberg](#) went online in **1992**. The University of Virginia EText Center was also founded in **1992**. These projects focused on keyed-in text structured with markup, ASCII or SGML at the time, transitioning to HTML and later, to XML. a list of additional resources, including some format-specific advice. Mosaic, the first web browser, was released in **November 1993**. The web was the "killer app" for digitized cultural heritage materials.

And the [list](#) goes on....

Call to Action to Preserve Science Discourse

Fifty years from now, what currently accessible web content will be invaluable for understanding science in our era? What kinds of uses do you imagine this science content serving? Where are the natural curatorial homes for this online content and how can we work together to collect, preserve, and provide access to science on the web? These were the three principal questions up for discussion at a recent NDIIPP digital content summit.

The publication of a report, [Science at Risk: Toward a National Strategy for Preserving Online Science \(PDF\)](#) is the output of that summit.

This report summarizes the discussions and findings from the meeting, suggests a number of calls to action for stewardship organizations, and includes two perspective papers and a brief case study from different participants to represent the view of creators and future users of online science. The first perspective essay comes from [Fred Gibbs](#), Assistant Professor of History at George Mason University and Director of Digital Scholarship at the [Center for History and New Media](#). Gibbs provides a perspective on the diversity of web content that historians of science are likely to be interested in and why. The second essay—from [Bora Zivkovic](#), Blogs Editor at [Scientific American](#), visiting Scholar at NYU School of Journalism, and organizer of the [ScienceOnline](#) conference—provides the



perspective of a content creator on the development of science blogging. This is followed by a case study of the [U.S. National Library of Medicine History of Medicine Division's Health and Medicine Blogs collection pilot](#). This collection exemplifies how cultural heritage organizations' existing collecting goals can translate into a targeted web archive collection development strategy. The report closes with an appendix briefly listing examples of similar ideas for web archive collections that cultural heritage organizations could create based on the priorities identified by meeting participants.

For a detailed look at the discussions in the report, read this [blog post](#) on *The Signal*.

What Resolution Should I Use? Part 1

What is resolution? What resolution should I look for when I buy a scanner? What resolution should I use when using my scanner?

These are questions we hear frequently when speaking to people about their digital conversion projects. Unfortunately, the questions are hard to answer. The material can get very technical and can be difficult to apply.

Here's a sample scenario: You're in a store

looking at a scanner and the box contains perhaps the cheapest legal sized desktop scanner available. In big print the manufacturer claims, "2400 x 4800 dpi." So, you have a very inexpensive scanner with very high resolution. This is just what everyone wants. But is this the only consideration?

If you're interested in understanding more about resolution and what other measures are important to consider when scanning, you can read about it [here](#).

Digital Preservation Outreach and Education

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

Conversation Corner

[Imagine What We'll Know This Time Next Week](#): An Interview with Bailey Smith and Anne Wootton of Pop Up Archive

The Foundations of Emulation as a Service: An Interview with Dirk von Suchodoletz -- [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)

Digital Technology Expands the Scope and Reach of the [Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections](#)

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.
