

Upcoming Events

[CNI Meeting](#) Dec 9-10, 2013
Washington, DC

[NDSA regional meeting](#), Jan
23-24, 2014, Philadelphia, PA

[ALA MidWinter](#), Jan 24-28,
2014, Philadelphia, PA

[CurateGear 2014](#): Jan 8,
Chapel Hill, NC

[8th International Digital
Curation Conference](#):
Feb 24 - 27, 2014, San
Francisco, CA

Digital Preservation Bits

[Preserving Vintage Electronic
Literature](#)

[Before You Were Born: The
Hardware Edition](#)

[A Logical Employment in Web
Archiving!](#)

[NDNP Accepting Proposals:
Apply Now!](#)

Conference Report

[The Best Practices Exchange
Conference is No Secret](#)

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[The Signal](#)

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Beyond the Scanned Image: Scholarly Uses of Digital Collections

It's easy to see that digital collections are proliferating on the web. Just look at the growing corpora from Hathi Trust, Digital Public Library of America, ArtStor and Europeana, among many others. Providing online access to scholarship and cultural artifacts in a variety of formats is increasingly driving the missions of many cultural heritage institutions. Yet, what is less apparent is to what degree these digital collections are meeting the needs of current scholars.

[A recent study](#) of humanities faculty at twelve research institutions aimed to find out more about uses of digital collections among humanities scholars. A primary goal of the study was to help inform the areas of digital collection work in which libraries have expertise, such as metadata, information retrieval and other access issues.



Read [the slides](#) for a recent talk on this topic

The survey, conducted during the 2011-2012 academic year, included a web questionnaire and 17 in-person interviews. Read the [full blog post](#) to find out more.

Ten Tips to Preserve Holiday Digital Memories

During the holiday season, you might take photos and video of friends and loved ones. You might make audio recordings of voices, conversations and music. Whatever you photograph or record, we hope you will take time to backup and preserve your digital stuff.

Tip #1 – As soon as you can, transfer the digital files off the camera, cell phone or other

device and onto backup storage. That storage could be your computer, a thumb drive, a CD, a hard drive or an online cloud service. You should also backup a second copy somewhere else, preferably on a different type of storage device than the first.

See the other nine tips in the [full blog post](#).



Thanksgiving [on Flickr](#) by [martha chapas95](#)

Anatomy of a Web Archive

We might blame the semantic flexibility of the word “archive” for the fact that someone with no previous exposure to web archives might suppose that they are: the result of saving web pages from the browser; institutions acting as repositories for web resources; a navigational feature of some websites allowing for browsing of past content; online storage platforms imagined to be more durable than the web itself; or, simply, “the Wayback Machine.” Many policies and practices guide cultural heritage institutions’ approaches to web archiving. However, the “web archives” that they create and preserve are remarkably consistent. What are web archives, exactly? Read the [full post](#) for an answer.



WARC, West African Research Center, by Robin, on [Flickr](#)

Digital Preservation Outreach and Education

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

[Residency Program: From the Classroom to the Workplace](#)

Connecting with History

[Lee Harvey Oswald's Laptop: Forensics and Conspiracy](#)

[From Analog to Digital: Changing Picture of the Kennedy Assassination](#)

Personal Digital Archiving

[PDA 2014: Building Stronger Personal Digital Archiving Communities](#)

[LC Contributes Chapter to New Personal Digital Archiving Book](#)

Conversation Corner

[Insights Interview](#): With Brian Schmidt of the Australian National University

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.

Updates on FADGI: Still Image and Audio Visual

The [Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative](#) holds regular meetings for both of its working groups: Still Image and Audio-Visual. There will be regular updates on The Signal for both of these groups. The [recent post on the still image group meeting](#) includes the list of participating institutions as well as information on some current research being conducted by the group, such as the effects of compression on digital image resolution, and targets for assessing image performance.

The [update on the audio-visual group](#) features an overview of work that members have presented at recent conferences, including the Audio Engineering Society's International Convention and the Association of Moving Image Archivists. Also included is information about ongoing research projects, as well as FADGI contribution to several formal standards projects.

Guitar, Bass, Drums, Metadata



Metadata Madness wheel by user musebrarian on [Flickr](#)

Those in the “cultural heritage” sector get used to being at the end of the line sometimes. Very often, the unique items that end up in these collections get there after all their primary value has been extracted.

It's a benefit for cultural heritage organizations that creators have strong incentives to steward and preserve their digital materials. This is especially true in the music industry, where artists and records labels are still struggling to turn their digital art into gold. The key may be in the [rich metadata](#).