Personal Digital Archiving and Roles for Libraries, Archives and Museums

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Texas Library Association Annual Meeting, April 11, 2014
#txla14 #pda
Outline

• What is digital preservation/digital stewardship?
• The National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program
• The National Digital Stewardship Alliance
  ▪ What is Personal Digital Archiving?
  ▪ What is NDIIPP doing to address PDA issues?
  ▪ What are roles for libraries, archives and museums in PDA?
Audience

- Librarians/Archivists/Museum Professionals (LAMs)
- Public libraries/academic libraries/archives/museums
- Those who engage with the Public
  - In person
  - Over the web
  - Strategically in designing future services

I’ll use the term “Public Services” as a proxy for these multiple audiences.
Repository of the Past?

Predictor of the future?
What is Digital Preservation/Stewardship?

- **Digital Preservation**: “The series of managed activities necessary to ensure continued access to digital materials for as long as necessary.” [Digital Preservation Coalition]

- **Digital Stewardship**: “The management of the creation, description, curation, accessibility and preservation of digital information objects over their entire lifecycle.” [hybrid definition]
MISSION: Ensure access over time to a rich body of digital content through establishment of a national network of partners committed to selecting, collecting and preserving at-risk digital information.
NDIIPP Focus Areas

- Partnerships: Government, Industry, Academia
- National Digital Collection
- Technical Infrastructure
- Sustainability
- Public Policy
National Digital Stewardship Alliance

- Launched in July 2010
- Lightweight, voluntary, collaborative
- Government agencies, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, business entities…any organization interested in digital stewardship
- Mission: Establish, maintain and advance the capacity to preserve our nation’s digital resources for the benefit of present and future generations
- The only national organization specifically focused on digital stewardship that welcomes participants from all sectors.
“The 2014 National Agenda for Digital Stewardship integrates the perspective of dozens of experts and hundreds of institutions, convened through the Library of Congress, to provide funders and other executive decision-makers with insight into **emerging technological trends, gaps in digital stewardship capacity, and key areas for development.**” –National Agenda, pg. 2
NDSA Working Structure

5 Working Groups

- Content
- Infrastructure
- Innovation
- Outreach
- Standards and Practices
NDIIPP/NDSA Relationship

Library of Congress

NDIIPP

Viewshare
Personal Digital Archiving
Web Archiving
Digital Preservation Outreach
Support content networks (geospatial, creative community, folk culture on the web, etc.)
Meetings and Events (Digital Preservation 2014)

Etc.

NDSA

“Strategic planning on digital preservation issues at the Library of Congress.”
The National Digital Stewardship Alliance is an initiative of NDIIPP.

NDIIPP provides the secretariat for the NDSA.
Digital Stewardship Roles for LAMs

- Creation
- Description
- Curation
- Access
- Preservation

Image credit: Digitalbevaring.dk, published under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Denmark license
The Role(s) of the Librarian in the Library of the Not-Too-Distant Future

Aggregator/Synthesizer  Organizer  Network Node  Facilitator

helping patrons put information in action

Modified from Source: Libraries 2020, Kristen Purcell, Ph.D, Associate Director, Research, Pew Internet Project, June 7, 2012, http://www.slideshare.net/PewInternet/suny-libraries-talk
Digital Services Build on “Analog Services”

- Reference
- Digital Content
- Training

Image credit: Digitalbevaring.dk, published under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Denmark license
The Library of the Not-Too-Distant Future

From ALA:
Confronting the Future: Strategic Visions for the 21st Century Public Library
Available at http://bit.ly/1nqgnE4

Figure 1. The visions for public libraries of the future will consist of strategic choices along four distinct dimensions, each encompassing a continuum of possibilities lying between two extremes. Illustration by Jennifer Bishop.

Modified from Source: Libraries 2020, Kristen Purcell, Ph.D, Associate Director, Research, Pew Internet Project, June 7, 2012, http://www.slideshare.net/PewInternet/suny-libraries-talk
Why Digital Preservation is Important for Everyone

Two Key Digital Preservation/Stewardship Areas

- Digital Special Collections and Local History
  - Theses
  - Faculty Researcher
  - Digital Libraries
  - Local History Images
  - Institutional Repositories

- Personal Digital Archiving
  - Individuals
  - Faculty
  - Smaller Organizations
Digital Special Collections
Digital Local History

Local History Photos

Back to Genealogy, History, and Archives

The following historic images have been selected from the photograph collection of the Fort Worth Library, which includes photographs of street scenes, people, parks, parades, military, schools, churches, and businesses.

Local history images may be obtained by contacting the Genealogy Local History & Archives Unit by mail at 600 W. 3rd Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102-7305, by email at genealogy@fortworthlibrary.org, or by calling (817) 392-7740.

The Materials Request and Permission Reproduce form may be viewed here, which covers pricing, rights to reproduce, copyright permissions, and the publication or display credit line to be used. Most of the photographs in the collection may be published, broadcast or displayed online with the permission of the department. One-time publication uses are included in the photograph order fee; additional uses and broadcast licenses may incur extra fees.

Benbrook Airfield (1917-1919)
As a large field, Benbrook Field served as a military airfield for the United States Army. It was one of three fields that were built by the War Department in Tarrant County during World War I. Benbrook Airfield was used by the Royal Flying Corps as a training field for Canadian pilots. More than 30 pilots died while training there. On February 13, 1918, famed dancer Vernon Elythe Castle died in a plane crash at Benbrook Airfield. The city of Benbrook erected a memorial and renamed a street in honor of Castle.

Houston Street
A street car line on Houston Street in the early 20th century. Mule-drawn street cars came to Fort Worth in 1876. Sometimes the cars jumped off the tracks forcing passengers to get off and lift the car back onto the tracks. In the 1930s three street car lines were operating on Houston as well as Main and Taylor Streets. Houston Street was named after General Sam Houston, who was President of the Republic of Texas, a U.S. Senator, and a co-signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence.
Personal Digital Archiving
Assumptions about Public Service PDA Engagement

1. General public (non-professionals or “prosumer”) are creating large amounts of personal digital information and they have concerns about how to steward it over time so that it's always accessible;

2. They look to libraries, archives and museums as places to get guidance on how to steward the digital information they are creating;

3. Public service organizations see themselves in the role of providing that guidance.
Who Is Practicing PDA?

- Consumers who want to know how to prepare an archive of family or personal history
- Academic researchers studying digital scholarship in the information science field
- Libraries of all types – research, public, and academic – that serve consumers and researchers
- Historians and authors who are collecting biographical materials on prominent people
- Public officials and local historical societies compiling histories of their towns

From *Personal Digital Archiving*, pg. xvi
Personal Archiving: Three Audiences:

- Persons whose digital material could/should be preserved;
- Those who want to provide those persons with the awareness and information they need to preserve their information;
- Those who are interested in the preserved digital material of individuals.

Source: Kevin Driedger, Library of Michigan
http://librarypreservation2.blogspot.com/2014/01/reading-personal-archiving-preserving.html
Draft Definition of PDA

The approaches, practices, tools and services that support the stewardship and preservation of digital materials created by, or relating to, individuals, and providing for the material’s perpetual access.

“Personal archiving involves organizing and saving the documents, records, photographs, music, and social media information (in essence, the memories) important to you.” - Heela Naqshband

http://www.library.unlv.edu/digital/2013/03/welcome-personal-archiving-101.html
“About 5 years ago, the Library recognized that many people were accumulating digital files (primarily photos, due to the proliferation of cameras on cellphones) but were not aware of the proper way to save these files. Even worse, most people were not aware of the potential threats to digital files: getting stuck on obsolete media, getting lost, or accidentally being deleted. To correct the situation, the Library developed information resources to help raise a general awareness about preserving personal digital material.” – Mike Ashenfelder, *Personal Archiving*, pg. 32
This post is based on remarks I presented during a Digital Dialog at the University of Maryland, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, on 9/25/2012.

I believe that libraries, archives and museums share a common need to aggressively promote their social mission. While there are fundamental variances among these organizations, current trends are driving them closer together, including a demand to justify relevance in an era of profound change in how people seek and use information.

Libraries, archives and museums also have a pressing imperative to deal with digital content. Each manages different kinds of content for different reasons, but they share the same challenge in keeping it accessible over time. All institutions face a common need to raise public awareness about what is at stake for our culture in terms of preserving significant digital material. The danger of digital loss is growing along with the volume of digital information, and
“The heart of the matter is that individuals and families are building large collections of personal digital content, and they need advice and help to keep this content accessible into the future. Cultural heritage institutions, as preserving entities with a public service orientation, are well-positioned to help people deal with their growing—and fragile—personal digital archives. This is a way for institutions to connect with their communities in a new way, and to thrive.”

- Bill Lefurgy, http://agogified.com/1075
**Personal Archiving**

Preserving Your Digital Memories

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**Overview**

- "The Library of Congress and Personal Digital Archiving" (PDF, 751 Kb)
- How to Scan Your Personal Collections (PDF, 78 kb)
- How Long Will Digital Storage Media Last? (PDF, 83 Kb)
- "Why Digital Preservation is Important for You"
- Personal Archiving Brochure (PDF, 1.7MB)

**How to Preserve Your Own Digital Materials**

- Digital Photographs
- Digital Audio
- Digital Video
- Electronic Mail
- Personal Digital Records
- Websites

**NDIIPP publication: "Perspectives on Personal Digital Archiving" (2013)**

This publication contains a series of blog posts, compiled from The Signal, on the subject of personal digital archiving. Specifically, the topics include guidance for such things as choosing file formats and adding descriptions to digital photos; first-hand accounts of working with and preserving personal collections; descriptions of outreach activities and interviews with library professionals on the subject of personal digital archiving, and many others.

[Link to the full publication](#)(PDF).

**Personal Digital Archiving Day Kit**

The Library of Congress has held Personal Digital Archiving Day events to provide this basic guidance to individuals about preserving personal and family memories in digital form. You can read about those events here, here, and here.
Examples of NDIIPP PDA Activities

- http://digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving/
- Personal Archiving Guidance
- Personal Digital Archiving Day Kit
- Participation in Preservation Week (http://www.ala.org/alcts/confevents/preswk)
- Videos
- Blog posts
- E-books
Examples of Other PDA tools

• Genealogy Tools
• Social Media Archive Tools
• Email backup
• General Backup
• “Storytelling” tools
• Etc.

Caveat: Examples only! Not necessarily endorsed by the Library of Congress!
**Downloading Your Info**

- **How can I download my information from Facebook?**

  You can download your information from the **Settings** page.

  1. Click **Settings** at the top right of any Facebook page and select **Settings**.
  2. Click on "Download a copy of your Facebook data".
  3. Click **Start My Archive**.

  Because this download contains your Timeline information, you should keep it secure and be careful when storing, sending or uploading it to any other services.

  Learn more about what **info is included in your download**. If you don't have a Facebook account, you can make a data access request.

  Last edited 2 hours ago

  **Was this answer helpful?**  Yes ✖  No

  Download more about what's included in your download.
Preserving Family History, One Memory at a Time

By CLAIRE MARTIN  MARCH 15, 2014

Until recently, Jessie Leiken, 27, a union organizer in Brooklyn, was confident that she knew about the major adventures of her mother’s life: a hot-air balloon ride in Egypt, a snowshoeing excursion in Montana, a camel-meal meal in Morocco. But two weeks ago, an email appeared in Ms. Leiken’s inbox from her mother, Nancy Mills, 64, that told an entirely new tale:

I do want to share one particular adventure that you may not know about: the one Antioch College demanded of all students who were planning to go abroad for part of their education. As I recall it, they gave us each $10 (or thereabouts) and drove us to a small, very small town in rural Ohio and dropped us off on the side of the road and told us they would pick us up at the same place 48 hours later.

Ms. Mills’s family has been receiving messages like this one, containing nuggets of her past, as well as memories of her own parents’ and grandparents’ lives, a few times a month since last April. That was when Ms. Leiken signed her up for a service called StoryWorth.

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/16/business/preserving-family-history-one-memory-at-a-time.html?_r=1
How To Download Your Official Twitter Archive (And See Your Very First Tweet)

By Shea Bennett on February 20, 2013 6:00 AM

Back in December Twitter began rolling out its long-awaited Twitter archive feature, which allows users to download a complete index of every tweet they’ve ever sent from their profile (including retweets), going all the way back to the day that they joined.

It’s taken a while, but the feature has now rolled out to all users, and in this article we’ll show you how to download your Twitter archive and what you need to do to view it.

First, login to Twitter.com and go to your Settings page. Make sure that you’re in the Account part of your settings, then scroll down and you’ll see a section called Your Twitter archive and a button that allows you to request the archive.

Your Twitter archive

You can request a file containing your information, starting with your first Tweet. A link will be emailed to you when the file is ready to be downloaded.

Warning: Before you go any further it’s important that you check that the email address that is connected to your Twitter account is in use and accessible by you. You will need this to retrieve your archive, as Twitter sends this via an emailed link. Your Twitter Profile email address is also stored in the Account section of your Settings. If this is incorrect, change your email now before requesting the archive download.

Now, click on the Request your archive button. Twitter will notify you that they’ve received your request, and that a link will be emailed to you when your download is ready.

http://www mediabistro com/alltwitter/twitter-archive_b36533
Download a copy of your data

Your account, your data.
Download a copy.

Customize an archive with your data from Google products.

Create an archive

Supporting 16 products and counting...

- Bookmarks
- Contacts
- Profile
- Google+ Stream
- Blogger
- Google Photos
- Mail
- Drive
- Hangouts
- +1s
- Messenger
- Calendar
- Voice
- Google+ Circles
- Google+ Pages
- YouTube

https://www.google.com/settings/takeout
Assumptions about Public Service PDA Engagement

1. General public (non-professionals or “prosumer”) are creating large amounts of personal digital information and they have concerns about how to steward it over time so that it's always accessible;

2. They look to libraries, archives and museums as places to get guidance on how to steward the digital information they are creating;

3. Public service organizations see themselves in the role of providing that guidance.
The National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program in conjunction with the National Digital Stewardship Alliance is conducting this survey to garner information on Personal Digital Archiving practices in public service organizations.

We need more data that tests our assumptions and helps us get a richer understanding on how public service organizations see themselves in regards to the information and support they provide on digital preservation and stewardship for personal digital materials.

1. Are you familiar with the concept of Personal Digital Archiving (PDA)?
   - Yes
   - No

2. How would you define personal digital archiving?

3. Are you receiving questions and reference requests from patrons regarding PDA issues?
   - Often
   - Regularly
   - Occasionally
   - Infrequently
   - Never
   - Other (please specify)

4. If you are not receiving questions and reference requests from patrons regarding PDA issues why do you think that is the case?

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SGHVFV86
PDA Research Agenda (Jeff Ubois)

- Do libraries, museums, and archives have a new responsibility to collect digital personal materials?
- What new social norms around preservation, access, and disclosure are emerging?
- What are the special needs in academia?
- What tools and services are needed to better enable self-archiving?
- What are viable existing economic models that can support personal archives? What new economic models should we evaluate?

https://blogs.cites.illinois.edu/datasteward/2012/03/26/personal-digital-archiving-conference-founder-ubois-to-speak-on-april-12/
More PDA Links

- Richard Cox, Digital Curation and the Citizen Archivist: [http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/2692/](http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/2692/)
- ALCTS Personal Digital Archiving Webinar: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=636oczg6k2U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=636oczg6k2U)
Thanks!

Butch Lazorchak
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http://imagecache2.allposters.com/images/pic/Matted_Prints/mp_814104_b-Man-on-Phone-Thanks-Posters.jpg