

## **I can haz standarz: What standards should be in the digital preservation toolbox?**

Sponsored by the NDSA Standards Working Group

NDIIPP/NDSA Partners Meeting Workshop

Wednesday, July 22, 2011

1:30 p.m.

**Presenters:** Andrea Gothals (Harvard University) and Jimi Jones (Library of Congress)

**Attendees:** 36

### **Highlights of the topics covered during the meeting.**

The NDSA Standards and Best Practices Working Group is working on a standards survey that has the following objectives:

- Identify and describe existing digital preservation standards and best practices
- Identify opportunities for collaboration with non-NDSA individuals and organizations who are currently working on digital preservation standards and best practices
- Identify gaps in digital preservation standards and best practices coverage that could be addressed by this working group in future activities

At the workshop, the attendees broke up into five separate groups to discuss the standards survey project and to create well-defined use cases for the standards survey project. The groups discussed who would use the survey, why they would use it, and what information would be needed. The groups entered their discussion notes into the NDSA Standards wiki and provided a quick verbal summary at the end of the meeting.

The following lists are a compilation of reports from all groups:

#### Potential Users

- Educational community
- Content creators
- Digital content managers
- Cultural heritage organizations
- Professional organizations (SLA, ALA, AMIA, etc.)
- Tool developers

#### Reasons for Use

- Digital preservation policy development
- Education and training
- Reformatting community
- Data migration
- New standards development
- Gap analysis
- Procurement processes
- Avoid duplicating work

### Possible Tools

The survey currently resides in a Google Docs spreadsheet. The data is not easily searchable and becomes more unwieldy as new information is added. The groups discussed various tools that might serve as model frameworks or searchable databases.

- Expression Engine
- Drupal
- LibraryThing (model database – allows for the linking of comments about an item to that item)
- XML database, using Oxygen to develop the user interface

### Useful Side Notes

The working group participants came up with a variety of ideas that were out of scope for this particular meeting, but very useful nonetheless. They are presented below:

- The information will need to stay current. Who will maintain this?
- Where will this information reside, and how will users access it?
- It would be good to have a section for comments so that users can see how various formats/applications have worked for other users.
- Set up a prototype for one strict focus (A/V file formats, for example) rather than investing in everything upfront
- Add related projects to the survey tool
- Utilize the metadata model at IU to map out preservation standards
- Allow for searching by type of institutions
- Develop a survey for NDSA members (and later a wider group) to gather information about the most relevant documents and standards. The survey could be sent out every year and used to analyze trends in standards use.

### **Action Items.**

This workshop started the conversation for gap analysis and further development of standards.

- Report back to the Standards Working Group about this workshop.
- Post workshop discussion notes on the Working Group wiki and share with the working group to move forward.

### **Slide presentations or other documents.**

- **GoogleDoc**—  
<https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0Av48siEcvSxpdDFBcXVtZEpCamJhN2dCS1FHUmhtTIE&hl=en&authkey=CPangt4L#gid=0>
- **Wiki**—  
[http://www.loc.gov/extranet/wiki/osi/ndiip/ndsa/index.php?title=Standards\\_and\\_Best\\_Practices\\_Working\\_Group&osindsawikipdb\\_session=bd1bc6c7ccab84fb626728980860beb8](http://www.loc.gov/extranet/wiki/osi/ndiip/ndsa/index.php?title=Standards_and_Best_Practices_Working_Group&osindsawikipdb_session=bd1bc6c7ccab84fb626728980860beb8)