Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Personal Archiving Day 2011: A Big Hit

Who are you going to ask for advice on preserving your personal photographs?

If you were able to come to the Library of Congress on Sat., April 30, you knew exactly who to talk with: staff experts in physical and digital preservation. They were meeting with the public as part of Personal Archiving Day, held in celebration of national Preservation Week.

A Library staff member answers questions about personal digital archiving. Credit: Bill LeFurgy

About 150 people seized the chance to ask questions about keeping everything from 50-year old film negatives to today's digital pictures. One person wanted some advice about moving digital images from 3 ½" floppy disks, while another confessed to keeping a family slide collection in a disused hot tub.

Library staff from the NDIIPP and the Preservation Directorate. Credit: Bill LeFurgy

"I am so glad you are doing this," said a visitor. "I never really thought about preserving my digital photographs and other files, but now I see that it is really important. I've got some work to do!"

Staff from the Preservation Directorate provided guidance about care and handling of photographic prints and negatives, including the proper kinds of folders, containers and other storage supplies. Representatives from the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program answered questions about all things digital.

For information from the Library on keeping your hard copy family treasures, see http://www.loc.gov/preservation/family/. Details about personal digital archiving can be found at http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/you/. •

Newspaper Archive Summit

On April 10-12, scholars, journalists, newspaper publishers, librarians, digital archivists and digital newspaper vendors gathered at the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute in Columbia, Missouri, for "The Newspaper Archive Summit: Rescuing orphaned and digital content," a program which set out to discuss the state of newspaper archives, including issues related to digitization of newspaper archives and preservation of born digital newspapers.

The Library of Congress co-sponsored the event with the University of Missouri Mizzou Advantage. Martha Anderson, director of program management for NDIIPP, provided a keynote address. Abbie Grotke, web archiving team lead, was on a panel speaking about the Library's efforts to archive newspaper websites. All presentations from the first

Participants brainstorm during the working session. Credit: Abbie Grotke.

day were recorded and are available on the conference website.

Plans are already in the works to hold a second summit.

Read more about the summit at digitalpreservation.gov. •
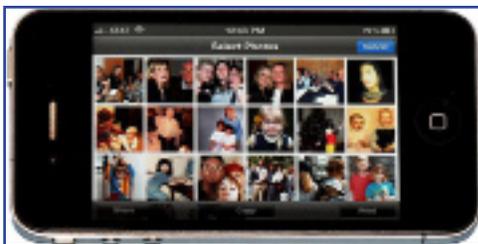
New CRL Report: Digital Newspaper Production

A new report produced for NDIIPP by a team from the Center for Research Libraries provides a vivid glimpse inside the workplaces that produce what--in the analog age--we would have called newspapers. Today, these workplaces also produce news websites and electronic facsimiles. Four news organizations provide many of the examples in the 74-page report: *The Arizona Republic, Seattle Post-Intelligencer* (since 2008, seattlepi.com), *Wisconsin State Journal,* and *The Chicago Tribune.*

Why should we librarians and archivists care? The answer lies in our responsibility to collect and preserve news for posterity, a motive echoed in the report's title, Preserving News in the Digital Environment: Mapping the Newspaper Industry in Transition (PDF). This report helps us understand this category of content.

Read more about the report at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Preserving Your Personal Digital Memories

Many people want to keep their digital photographs, videos and other files as long term personal and family memories. This is a fairly new challenge, as until recently most personal documentation was in a hard copy or other analog format.
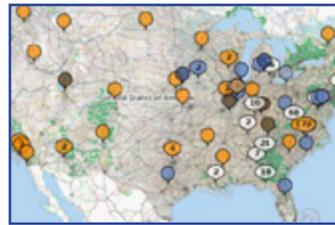
To address this need, NDIIPP partnered with the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services to present a webinar, Preserving Your Personal Digital Memories.

NDIIPP staff member Bill LeFurgy drew from the program's personal digital archiving guidance in providing practical tips for identifying, selecting, organizing and storing personal digital collections. Over 500 individuals participated in the webinar, which was held as part of national Preservation Week.

Slides and video from the webinar are available.

Recollection Webinar Recap

On April 19, 40 digital preservation partners representing government agencies, public libraries, regional public libraries and historical societies participated in a free online workshop that demonstrated a new Library of Congress-sponsored software for creating interfaces for digital collections, Recollection. The platform allow scholars, librarians and curators to explore digital collections in novel and intuitive ways.

A recording of the workshop is available. •

New Reports on Preserving Legislative Data

The Model Technological and Social Architecture for the Preservation of State Government Digital Information Project, led by the Minnesota Historical Society and supported by NDIIPP, is a multi-year project working with legislatures in multiple states to explore methods to preserve and provide enhanced online access to legislative materials in digital form.

The project is exploring the issue from a variety of angles, and has regularly issued white papers on topics of importance. A recent batch of papers includes a comparison of legislative metadata across different governments; a document that describes best practices for opening up government information; an evaluation of web archiving methods; and the final report from the eXist pilot project to explore proof-of-concept applications for preservation.

Read more about the new reports at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Upcoming Conference

- IASSIST 2011: Data Science Professionals: a Global Community of Sharing, Vancouver, BC, Canada. May 30 - June 3, 2011. Registration is open.

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