

## Our Fourth Anniversary!

We started our newsletter in March 2008, and we've grown from 800 subscribers to over 18,000. With this milestone, we've refreshed our look, but our content remains focused on current happenings in the digital preservation community. Thanks for your support!

## Upcoming Event: IIPC to Meet at the Library of Congress

"The Broad Value of Web Archives: Demonstrated Use" Symposium  
April 30, 2012  
Free, [Registration](#) required

## [IIPC General Assembly](#)

May 1-May 4, 2012  
Members [registration](#) open

## NDSA Outreach Working Group Activity Update

[Box Out! Taking Digital Preservation Outreach to the Classroom](#)

## Visit us at:

[digitalpreservation.gov/](http://digitalpreservation.gov/)

## Talk to us on our blog:

[The Signal](#)

## Sign up for our:

[Newsletter](#)

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## New Viewshare Features

In February, we launched several significant improvements to [Viewshare](#), our free and open platform for cultural heritage organizations to create interfaces to digital collections. There are a ton of major and small additions to the software, but I wanted to take a moment to talk through four of them which we think make the platform significantly more useful. To illustrate these I described them in the context of this small collection of digitized postcards from [Fairfax County, VA](#).

One of the new features is Dynamic Image Galleries. Instead of displaying a list of records, many of our users want to be able to display a gallery of images. A gallery of images is not necessarily that exciting in and of itself. What is exciting about these galleries is that they function with exactly the same faceting tools

that help manipulate all the other displays.

Read about the other new features [here](#).

And if you haven't already, you can request a Viewshare account here:

<http://viewshare.org/account/request/>.



## Personal Digital Archiving Day Kit



Let's face it: most of us fall short of perfection when it comes to managing our personal digital materials. We do things like download personal photos to our computers and promise ourselves that we will come back later and give them meaningful file names, tags and other important metadata.

A big part of the problem is that there are few sources of advice for people to learn about personal digital archiving. Local libraries and archives are in the perfect position to fill this gap.

That's why over the past few weeks, we've constructed a resource kit to help local institutions provide links to information about personal digital archiving. The kit also provides resources to support a local "Personal Digital Archiving Day" to connect

directly with patrons. We are happy to say the kit is now available.

The kit is aimed at libraries, archives and other cultural intuitions staff and gives basic guidance on how to organize an event, as well as free handouts, videos and web resources that staff can use. Also provided is a list of additional resources, including some format-specific advice.

We're hoping you'll help spread the word about digital preservation and host a Personal Digital Archiving Day event during [ALA's Preservation Week](#) activities this April.

Visit the kit's [resource page](#) or download a kit [PDF reference copy](#).

## Is There A Future for Librarians? Am I In It?



Special Libraries Association Convention, 1928. Librarians look different these days! Photo credit: Library of Congress

[Butch Lazorchak](#) was invited to participate in a discussion organized by the [Federal Library and Information Network \(FEDLINK\)](#) on the future of the Federal government 1410 series. What, pray tell, is the 1410 series and why should we care about it?

The "[Position Classification Standard for](#)

[Librarian Series GS-1410](#)" (PDF), describes what it means to be a librarian in the Federal Service. (Note: There are [three different descriptions](#) that cover librarians and "library-ish" positions, as well as two for archivists.)

The forum, "The Future of the 1410 Librarian Series: A 'Multi-Generational Discussion,'" was the first of a series analyzing the future of the 1410 series, eventually leading to discussions with OPM on ways to update the classification.

Read about Lazorchak's panel discussion and share your own thoughts on the future of librarianship [here](#).

## Designing Preservable Websites, Redux

As much as we can do to preserve archived websites once we have them, the challenges we encounter are always already determined by how those websites were originally constructed. In the interest of giving [us](#) and [others](#) the best possible chance of preserving your online content, Nicholas Taylor follows on an [excellent blog post](#) by [Robin Davis](#) (previously) of the [Smithsonian Institution Archives](#) on the topic of designing preservable websites. Here are some best practices to keep in mind:

1. Follow web standards and accessibility guidelines.

2. Be careful with robots.txt exclusions.
3. Use a site map, transparent links, and contiguous navigation.
4. Maintain stable URIs and redirect when necessary.
5. Consider using a Creative Commons license.
6. Use sustainable data formats.
7. Embed metadata, especially the character encoding.
8. Use archiving-friendly platform providers and content management systems.

You can [read](#) in detail about each of these practices here.

## Life Cycle Models for Digital Stewardship

At some point in undertaking digital stewardship, it's helpful to consider the digital life cycle: the basic stages content moves through from creation to providing ongoing preservation, management and access over time. Life cycle models are useful for understanding the full scope of the responsibility involved and also in formulating specific workflows for particular kinds of content.

Models vary with institutional policies and practices, and also in accordance with desire

for detail. As a result, there are a few diagrammed models in circulation. Read about [four selected samples](#) and comments from readers.



DigitalNZ: <http://makeit.digitalnz.org/>

### Digital Preservation Outreach and Education

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

[Recent News](#): Heather Bowden joins DPOE.

### Recent Meetings

[CurateGear](#), Jan 6, 2012

[PASIG: the Preservation and Archiving Special Interest Group](#), Jan 11-13, 2012

### Conversation Corner

Insights Interview with [Beverly Emmons](#), Lighting Design Preservation Innovator

[Jeff Ubois](#) talks Personal Digital Archiving

Meet [Jason Scott](#), Rogue Archivist

An Interview with [Jordan Fields](#) of the Kansas City Public Library

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This is the newsletter of the **National Digital Stewardship Alliance**, the **Digital Preservation Outreach and Education initiative** and the **National Digital Information Infrastructure Program**.

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