Library of Congress Designing Storage Architectures

March 24, 2025

Nina Smith
Director, Digital Archive Management Operations



Designing Storage Architectures Agenda

1	Who We Are
2	It's Not Just Storage
3	Challenges and Opportunities
4	What's Next



Who We Are

The current collection of brands represents over 100 years of content.

That's a lot of assets to preserve.





It's Not Just Storage

Costs to run a Digital Preservation Vault:

People

Digital Archive Staff

Quality Assurance and Control

Engineer(s)

Coding Specialist(s)

Project Management

Technical Metadata Quality Control

Technical Support

R&D

<u>Storage</u>

Cloud (S3 tiering including Glacier Deep Archive)

File Transfer

Aspera on Cloud

Data Validation



It's Not Just Storage continued

Disaster Recovery (2 different systems)

- Second copy (minimum)
- Geographic Diversity

Vendor Management

Compute/AWS Management

- Lambda
- Kubernetes
- EC2
- S3
- GDA

Documentation

- Runbook
- Search Query Language
- Logs and Reports
- File Naming Convention
- Taxonomies and Ontologies
- Unique Individual Asset Identification

<u>Security</u>

- Information Technology
- Malware Protection



It's Not Just Storage continued

Software

Enterprise and Individual e.g.:
 Microsoft Office Suite; Zoom;
 MediaPulse; Smartsheet; Title
 Management System; Confluence;
 Slack; Text Editor with XML
 capabilities; DPX Frame(s) Viewer;
 Hash Algorithm Generator; Proxy
 Viewer

Software

- Media Asset Management System (includes development area, staging area and production area)
- FFMPEG Proxy Transcoder
- Data Aggregation Dashboards



Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges

- File size 8K and beyond
- Media Asset Management system limitations
- Lower storage cost
- Format obsolescence → Digital and Physical
- New Media (Silica Glass, DNA, Archival Millennial Disc)

Opportunities

- AI
- Time code matching from closed caption file to audio/video
- Automated processes
- Lossless Compression



What's Next

Third Copy Options

- Multi cloud
- Air-gapped system
- Secure 'bunker' data storage



Thank you

