Neighborhood Watch for Repository Quality Assurance

Stephen Abrams
Patricia Cruse
John Kunze

University of California Curation Center
California Digital Library

David Minor

San Diego Supercomputer Center
University of California, San Diego

Mike Smorul

University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies

Tom Arthur, http://www.flickr.com/photos/tomarthur/5086800233

Neighborhood watch

- A new metric, and community ethic, for repository reliability and trustworthiness

  – Objective

  – Repeatable

  – Independently verifiable

  – Simple

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Michele Truex, http://www.flickr.com/photos/40348123@N02/3996348907
http://www.flickr.com/potos/striatic/2191404675

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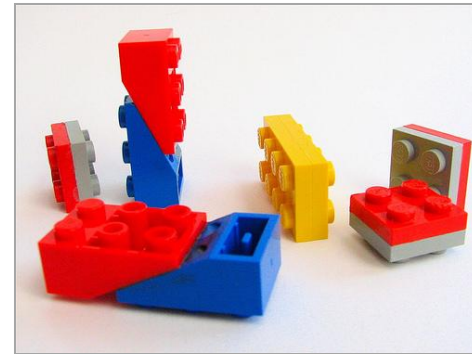
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Windell Oskay, http://www.flickr.com/photos/oskay/265899865

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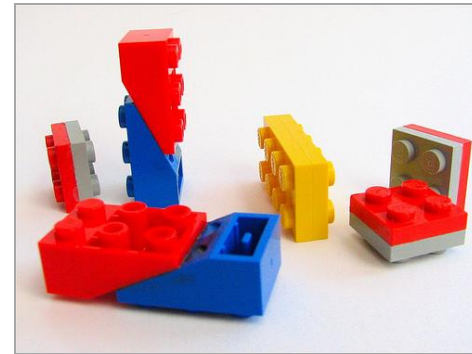 - Independently verifiable
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- What is the fundamental obligation of a repository?

  - First, do no harm [*primum non necere*]

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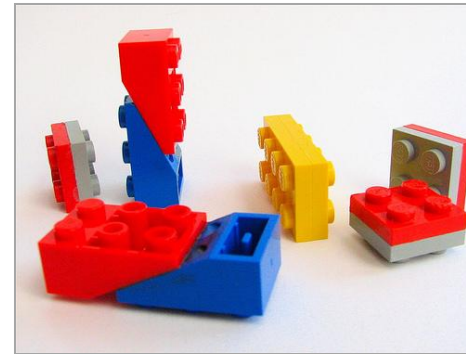 - Repeatable

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- What is the fundamental obligation of a repository?

  - First, save the bits

    … before worrying about added-value services

Digital Preservation Coalition

Neighborhood watch

- Based on information that is already readily available

  – Content retrieval via stable URLs

  – Content size and message digest

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- An external agent that periodically retrieves content, verifies its bit-level integrity, and notifies the neighborhood

- Possible implementations

    – Merritt Fixity service
    http://www.cdlib.org/uc3/curation/fixity.html

    – UMIACS ACE
    http://adapt.umiacs.umd.edu/ace

National Neighborhood Watch Institute

How to be a good neighbor

- "Have an open door policy"

  – Repositories should provide access to all content

- "Don't borrow too much sugar"

  – Verification agents should throttle requests

- "If you see something, say something"

  – Adhere to community standards for reporting and veracity
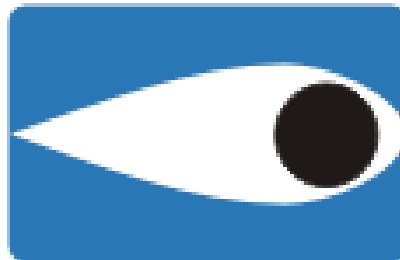
So …

- Trust, but verify

- What you say about yourself is less interesting than what others say about you

- Be neighborly

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AFP/Getty Images, http://www.britannica.com/bps/media-view/121436/1/0/0

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http://www.flickr.com/photos/48304881@N05/5240756741

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