



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Strategy Meeting for Preserving Geospatial Data

Historians, government officials and data stewards convened for a meeting at the Library of Congress earlier this month to discuss framing a National Preservation and Access Strategy for Geospatial Data.

The Library's National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program is drawing upon a different perspectives to develop the strategy. A key objective is to help stakeholders collaborate in managing geospatial data, which identifies, depicts or describes geographic locations, boundaries or characteristics of Earth's inhabitants or natural or human-constructed features.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Credit: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/belvoirphotos/>

NDIIPP is undertaking this activity as part of its work to catalyze development of a national network of preservation partners. The meeting followed earlier sessions that studied [public policy on the web](#) and [digital news](#).

Read [more](#) about the meeting at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

Access Through Metadata

Perfect metadata is NOT required - good metadata IS useful.

So say the resident metadata experts at the Library of Congress, who made this point very clearly at the recent National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program [partners meeting](#). Consistent and rich metadata are needed in order to improve search of the Library's collections and provide web services that users have come to expect.

To address the challenges in this area, the "[Metadata for Digital Content](#)" group was formed at the Library in March 2009. This internal, cross-Library group is working towards new solutions, aligning with a goal in the Library's overall strategic plan to provide better access to digital materials. The group is co-chaired by Rebecca Guenther and Ann Della

Porta from the Technology Policy Directorate of the Library.

The MDC group members include catalogers, programmers and digital project managers, and represent different service units of the Library concerned with digital content. All are united by the common need for more effective descriptive metadata, which is of increasing importance for the burgeoning amounts of new digital material added to the Library's website every day. In studying the question of "what are users looking for, and can they find it?" the group determined that the overall quality of the online bibliographic records plays a big part in success or failure. So, how can the records be structured to help users discover relevant resources when they search?



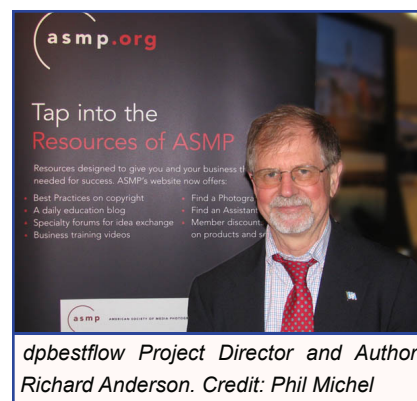
Members of the MDC group. Credit: Barry Wheeler

[Read](#) about out how the group is addressing this question and others at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

dpBestflow.org Launched During FotoWeek DC

The [American Society of Media Photographers](#), a National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program partner, launched [dpBestflow.org](#) during FotoWeek DC.

dpBestflow is shorthand for "Digital Photography Best Practices and Workflow" and offers definitive new guidelines for digital photography best practices to streamline and improve the process, production and preservation of digital photography.



dpbestflow Project Director and Author Richard Anderson. Credit: Phil Michel

Read [more](#) about dpBestflow at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

