



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

GeoMAPP Engages Industry at ESRI Conference

The Library of Congress and its partners had a strong presence at the [ESRI International User Conference](#), held from July 12-16, 2010 in San Diego, CA. ESRI is one of the world’s largest software development and services companies providing geographic information system software and management applications.



The Library is exploring ways to preserve digital geospatial information and has funded a series of projects to examine the issue, including the [Geospatial Multistate Archive and Preservation Partnership \(GeoMAPP\)](#).

One priority for GeoMAPP is to engage with private sector entities in the geospatial technology industry on the challenge of enabling digital geospatial content preservation, retention, discovery and long-term and permanent access for information with archival value. The ESRI conference provided an excellent opportunity to make these connections.

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

Capturing the Web



Abbie Grotke. Credit: Barry Wheeler

Abbie Grotke knows her history—including the correct expectations for social behavior in years gone by.

As Miss Abigail, her advice-dealing internet avatar, Grotke doles out wisdom on such important topics as personal grooming, how to clean house without creasing one’s dress and how to properly entertain a beau’s parents. Delving into the past, Grotke uncovers kitschy, fun, and often humorous bits of our cultural, etiquette-rich history and shares them via her personal website [Miss Abigail’s Time Warp Advice](#).

Unlike the advice she offers in her book on “Dating, Mating & Marriage,” Grotke herself is not stuck in the past.

Today, Abbie Grotke, is the newly appointed team leader of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program [Web Archiving](#) Team, which is working to build “a Library-wide understanding and technical infrastructure for capturing Web content.”

Recognizing that specialized knowledge is required to identify, select and archive web pages of importance, Grotke and the team work with about 80 subject specialists at the Library of Congress. “These subject specialists are vital, because they truly are the best curators for the job, something we recognize in both thought and action on the Web Archiving Team,” Grotke explains.



Read [more](#) about the Library’s web archiving projects at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

New Video: Preservation of the Waldseemüller Map

Collections at the Library of Congress consist not only of material objects but also of digital files. In some cases, material objects are scanned, which creates a digital copy.



The 1507 Waldseemüller Map, Library of Congress Geography and Map Division Washington, DC

The [latest video](#) in the Library of Congress Digital Preservation Video Series compares preservation of the Waldseemüller Map with preservation of its digital copies. More videos in the series can be viewed at [digitalpreservation.gov/videos/](#).



Mediated by Software



David Brunton. Credit: Barry Wheeler

“Every function of a contemporary library is mediated by software,” says David Brunton, Supervisory Information Technology Specialist at the Library of Congress Repository Development

Center. “Librarians are using information technology to do just about everything, most especially to manage digital content. They absolutely need really good software tools.”

The Repository Development Center has been churning out such tools for over five years now, with projects including [Chronicling America](#). Even so, Brunton is quick to point out that his group is not the only team of software developers at the Library; small teams exist in other departments as well.

“Software development isn’t a centralized function at the Library, nor do I think it should be,” Bruton said, explaining the importance of having small teams that can directly respond to the nuanced needs of different departments. “Our team is unique because we’re mandated to create software that has a broad application to the Library, as well as potentially to external partners.”

One result of this mandate to create broadly-applicable software is that the RDC team has a strong interest in making their software open-source and available for download. The software for Chronicling America, he explains, is updated on a regular monthly basis, with librarians across the country downloading the newest versions as they become available.

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



Image from *Chronicling America*. New-York tribune. (New York [N.Y.]) 1866-1924, August 03, 1919.

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On the Leading Edge: Planets

[Planets](#) – which stands for Preservation and Long-term Access through NETworked Services – began in 2006 when 16 of Europe’s major cultural and technological institutions pooled their digital-preservation expertise and resources.

Adam Farquhar, head of Digital Library Technology at the British Library, said, “From the beginning of the project, we were driven by the question, ‘How do we make sure that we can be good stewards of our digital material?’”



Adam Farquhar

The result of Planets research and development is a comprehensive framework and suite of tools for long-term digital preservation and access. “The key design principle is that we wanted to have a framework that could be extended easily and could take advantage of the best components that were available,” Farquhar said. The overall framework addresses what is to be done, planning beginning to end, and the suite of tools addresses how it is to be done.

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

Archival Storage in the News

A recent [Computerworld](#) article examined some of the issues surrounding archival storage of large quantities of digital data. Partners and staff from NDIIPP were interviewed for the article and they highlighted some current issues with external media storage and how some organizations are preparing for the future.



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

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