



# Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

## A Blog About Saving Bits

By Bill LeFurgy – We are excited and happy that the Library of Congress digital preservation program is now part of the blogosphere.

“[The Signal](#),” which debuted on May 31, discusses digital stewardship in a way that is informative and appealing.

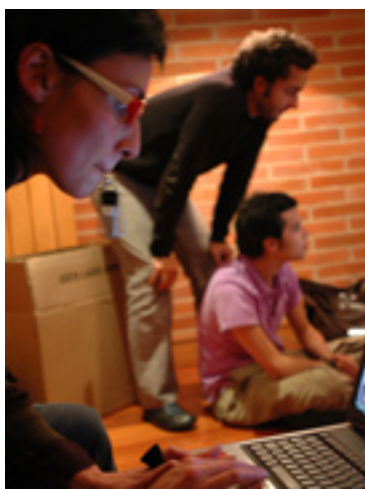


*Laser Hello World, by scanlime, on Flickr.*

When Congress directed the Library to undertake a national digital preservation program in 2000, the intent was to address the challenge of digital preservation on a broad scale. It was then obvious that our society was generating huge amounts of digital content that had no print equivalent.

Equally clear was that some percentage of this digital content had enduring value for documenting a record of our time. But creation of digital information has far outpaced our national ability to keep content accessible over time.

It is often said that technology is the easy part of digital preservation; social is the hard part. We have always done our best to remember this, and have put a lot of effort into outreach and engagement.



*miss p, by sicoactiva, on Flickr.*

But we want to do even better - this is why we are launching this blog. We're drawing on the amazing talent and energy of the [NDIIPP staff](#) to talk about

current issues and solutions relating to digital stewardship.

Check out our blog at <http://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/>. Let us know what you think and what you'd like us to explore.

## What Do Teenagers Know About Digital Preservation?

By Butch Lazorchak – It's many adults' worst nightmare: how to entertain and (try to) educate thirty 8th graders for an hour? Especially when the subject matter is as potentially complex as how to preserve digital information.



*Imagine Schools South Lake Middle School students with an optical storage disk.*

Well, the first thing to do is to try and think like the teenagers who visited the Library and NDIIPP on May 13, 2011 from the [Imagine Schools South Lake Middle School](#) in Clermont, FL, as part of a class trip to Washington, D.C.

We tailored our presentation to help the kids understand how to capture, describe and preserve their own digital photos and by asking them to look at examples of older media. We started off by querying the South Lake kids on their photo-taking and –saving activities, beginning with the devices they use to take their pictures, then investigating their storage and sharing strategies. Throughout the conversation we shared [handy tips](#) they could use at home to help make their pictures last a good, long time. We were pleasantly surprised by the students' degree of knowledge on the issues.

Want to learn [more](#) about their visit? Go to [blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/](http://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/).



Music, The Noun Project, 2010.

## Digital Preservation Jazz

By Martha Anderson – Saving digital information is a lot like jazz – it is creative, diverse and collaborative. There are a variety of styles and musical approaches to jazz. Jazz musicians contribute their unique and unscripted experience and response to the composition. Digital preservation organizations partnering with the Library are a diverse, creative and collaborative community developing tools and practices based upon their experiences with digital information.

Just as each instrument in a jazz band has a unique sound, each of these organizations bring unique skills and experiences to digital preservation practice. This metaphor of jazz is something to be explored as we work together to devise the best methods and technologies to keep digital information useful over the coming years.

Read [more](#) about how digital preservation is jazz-like and collaborative. •

## Eight Years of Web Archiving, One Week in The Hague

By Abbey Potter – The Internet is a vast utility shared across borders and cultures. It presents information from governments, news outlets, corporations, nonprofits and cultural heritage institutions with the thoughts, feelings and everyday outputs of individuals in hundreds of languages with vivid media. However, many things published on the Internet quickly vanish.



Session panel at the 2011 IIPC GA. Credit: Jos Uljee.

Beginning in the late 1990s the Internet Archive and several national libraries, the Library of Congress included, started to explore how to capture and preserve web sites for posterity. It was around this time that the International Internet Preservation Consortium began to form. Find out [more](#) about the history of the IIPC and the 2011 GA Meeting. •

## A Portal to World History

The [World Digital Library](#) sounds improbable at first – many nations providing open access to highlights of their cultural history, all in one place. But that’s exactly what it is.



The WDL mission statement provides a good overall description of the project, “The World Digital Library makes available on the Internet, free of charge and in multilingual format, significant primary materials from countries and cultures around the world.” You can view the WDL web collection at [www.wdl.org/en/](http://www.wdl.org/en/).

Read [more](#) about the WDL at [digitalpreservation.gov](http://digitalpreservation.gov). •

## Inaugural NDSA Coordinating Committee

The [National Digital Stewardship Alliance](#), an initiative of NDIIPP, has announced the election of its initial nine-member Coordinating Committee.

The NDSA Coordinating Committee is dedicated to the advancement of NDSA activities, and helps the NDSA Working Groups articulate a long-term, strategic vision for the Alliance. Committee members represent the various communities that make up the NDSA, and the initial members serve in staggered appointments of one, two or three years through Dec. 31, 2013. A complete [list](#) of the newly-elected Committee can be found at [digitalpreservation.gov/ndsas](http://digitalpreservation.gov/ndsas).

Recently, “[The Signal](#)” featured a [profile](#) of NDSA member organization [American Society of Media Photographers](#). Eugene Mopsik, ASMP executive director, was elected to the Coordinating Committee last month. •



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