



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

It's Been a Busy Year – Partnership Highlights

By Sue Manus – As part of her closing presentation at the recent combined [NDIIPP/NDSA partners meeting](#), Martha Anderson, Director of Program



Martha Anderson speaking at the NDIIPP/NDSA Partners meeting. Credit: Abby Brack

Management for the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, said she has noticed a change taking place for organizations and that “no one is dealing with the tried and true anymore, and that the skills to innovate are different than

the skills to sustain.”

Some of the top developments since the last meeting have been: [Recollection](#), the [release of JHOVE2](#), the launch of the [DuraCloud Service](#), the [NDSA Organizing Meeting](#), the second [Personal Archiving Day](#) and the [Citizen Journalism Workshop](#), among others. The full list is available [here](#).

Recap of NDSA Workshops

At the [NDIIPP/NDSA partners meeting](#), each of the five [NDSA Working Groups](#) hosted workshops focusing on digital stewardship. “The Signal” highlighted the activities and outcomes of each workshop:

- [Digital Preservation’s Got Talent: Awarding Innovation and Accomplishment](#)
- [I Can Haz Standardz: What Standards Should be in the Digital Preservation Toolbox?](#)
- [Digital Preservation in a Box: NDSA Outreach](#)
- [Slaying the Dragons: What is at Risk and How Do We Rescue it?](#)
- [How We Do Storage: A Saga of Bits, Disk, Tape and Systems](#)

Full OS Release: Recollection

By Trevor Owens – The full open source release of the Recollection software platform is now available on the loc-recollect project page on SourceForge. Last month, I [blogged](#) about how you can use the tool to explore cultural heritage collections. More about the release is on “[The Signal](#).”

Yes, the Library of Congress Develops Software Tools

By Leslie Johnston – When I meet new people and tell them that I work at the Library, the first question is usually “What do you do there?” When I explain that part of my job is to oversee a group that develops software, the reaction is often one of surprise: “What? Libraries develop software?” Yes. Yes they do.

I have the distinct pleasure of working with the Repository Development Center (RDC), which is responsible for the development of a number of web applications and tools that support the acquisition, management, preservation and delivery of digital collections. [Chronicling America](#) is one of those websites.



Front page of the August 8, 1911 Washington Times from Chronicling America, Library of Congress collection

More about RDC’s tools development and projects is on “[The Signal](#).”

What’s in (Some) Names?

By Butch Lazorchak – I admit it: I’ve been prone to using the terms “digital preservation,” “digital curation” and “digital stewardship” interchangeably without thinking too hard about their origins or subtle differences. Where do these different terms come from and what do they imply? Let’s briefly explore the slightly different (though often overlapping) approaches of preservationistas, curators and stewards.

[Continue](#) reading about these terms “[The Signal](#).”

Updates from FADGI

Read recent updates from the [Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative](#):

- [Update on the FADGI Still Image Group](#)
- [Meeting of the Federal Agencies Audiovisual Working Group](#)



The ABCs of Preserving Digital Information

By Martha Anderson – I am beginning a series that will explore the topic of digital preservation in an alphabetical way. Each post will use a word or phrase as a device to explore a concept and point to a what I hope is a useful resource for understanding a specific aspect of the practice of digital preservation. [A is for Archives](#) is the first in the series on “[The Signal](#).” •



Goudy's original drawing for a plate in The Alphabet. P&P Division, The Library of Congress.

Web Archiving News

“The Signal” featured some interesting perspectives on web archiving.

- [Web Archive Preservation Planning](#). Nicholas Taylor discusses the challenges of digital obsolescence and web archives.
- [Ask the Recommending Officer: The Civil War Sesquicentennial Web Archive](#). Abbie Grotke explains how Recommending Officers select web sites for archiving.
- [Helen Hockx-Yu: Web Archiving at the British Library](#). Abbey Potter learns about the British Library's web archiving practices.

Geospatial News

“The Signal” featured some geospatial preservation news.

- [Mapping the Geospatial Format Landscape](#). Butch Lazochak highlights the recent Geospatial PDF Working Group meeting.
- [You Had Me at Preservation of Geospatial Information](#). Erin Engle describes the Geospatial Data Preservation Resource Center.

Upcoming Events

- [Best Practices Exchange 2011](#). Oct. 20-22, Lexington, KY. Call for [session proposals](#) due Sept. 15.
- [Designing Storage Architectures for Preservation Collections](#), Sept. 26-27, 2011, Washington, D.C.

6 Wishes for the Human Face of Digital Preservation

By Bill LeFurgy – Technology is the easy part of digital preservation.

Actually it's only easy relative to the other challenges that libraries, archives and other memory institutions face in keeping and serving digital content. The really hard stuff comes down to people: how staff are organized, empowered and trained to do the work.



Wall of human faces, Maropeng exhibition, Cradle of Humankind, by flowcomm, on Flickr

Read [more](#) about LeFurgy's “wishes.” •

The Voyage of “The Library of Congress” Motion Picture

By Mike Ashenfelder – “[The Library of Congress](#),” a 20-minute motion picture from the 1940s, is blessed with a special mojo. It is not only a loving homage to the Library, rich with Hollywood production values, but it is also associated with a few significant nodes in history: World War II, the creation of the Library's motion picture archives and the population of cyberspace with cultural treasure.



Sonny Terry and Brownie McGhee during a Library of Congress field recording session.

Read [more](#) about the Library's motion picture collections. •

More From “The Signal”

- [Digital Pioneer: Rebecca Guenther](#). Mike Ashenfelder profiles Guenther.
- [NEH Grants Relating to Digital Preservation](#). Barrie Howard looks at NEH grants.
- [NDSA Profile: Educopia](#). Sue Manus profiles an NDSA member.
- [Behind the Video](#). Gloria Gonzalez writes about making the video “[Adding Descriptions to Digital Photos: Your Gift to the Future](#).”
- [Describing Digital Preservation: As Easy as a Walk in the Park](#). Erin Engle writes about ways to explain digital preservation.

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