



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

We Talked and Talked About Personal Digital Archiving

By Erin Engle – A man wanted to migrate his dissertation from punch cards. A young girl held a floppy disk for the first time and expressed wonder that it had anything to do with digital information. A woman—the family archivist—wanted to pass her digital collection to the next generation.



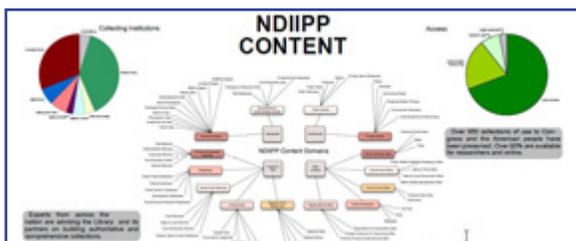
Visitors at the 2011 National Book Festival. Credit: Bill Lefurgy

These are some of personal stories I heard at the [National Book Festival](#) on the National Mall in Washington, DC, Sept. 24-25.

We enjoyed talking with hundreds of people who stopped by. Over the two day festival, we passed out handouts providing high-level [personal digital archiving tips](#) (based on information from our website), answered questions about how to save digital photos and other forms of digital information, and talked to people about how technology has changed over time. Read [more](#) about Engle’s NBF recap. •

The ABCs Series: B and C

Martha Anderson continues a series that explores 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 useful resource for understanding specific aspects of the practice of digital preservation. [B is for Bit Preservation](#) and [C is for Collections](#) are her latest musings. •



Digital Preservation Grants

Barrie Howard continues a series on “[The Signal](#)” about U.S. government grant programs that have funded digital preservation since 2000, profiling [IMLS](#) and the [NHPRC](#) in recent posts. •

The Library: One Place for Publications and Data

By Bill LeFurgy – Scientific data management has some buzz going. As a longtime data archivist/advocate this is a dream come true for me. I’ve pinched myself a couple of times to make sure it’s really happening.

There has been a steady stream of big, serious reports from big, serious organizations about the importance of data to drive economic and technological innovation. The White House National Science and Technology Council, for example, issued [Harnessing the Power of Digital Data for Science and Society](#) in 2009. The report presented a vision for preserving federally funded research data and making it broadly accessible.



“Citation needed” by futureatlas.com, on Flickr

Perhaps most significantly, the National Science Foundation recently declared that [all funding proposals must include a data management plan](#) to encourage dissemination and sharing of data sets that underlie formal research results. Given the vast scientific work that NSF supports, this edict will have far-reaching impact.

[More](#) from LeFurgy about scientific data management on “[The Signal](#).” •

Web Archiving News

“[The Signal](#)” recently featured a few blog posts from members of the Library of Congress Web Archiving Team. Here’s a quick summary of their latest news.

- [Those 1’s and 0’s are Heavier than You Think!](#) Laura Graham describes bit preservation activities for web archives.
- [Ask the Recommending Officer: The September 11, 2001 Web Archive.](#) Abbie Grotke’s next post in a series focusing on the curators of web archives.
- [Election Websites Reveal Technology Adoption Trends.](#) Summer intern Victoria Priester analyzed trends in web technology on sites featured in the Library’s Web Archives.



Ninety Four Organizations and Counting....

By Sue Manus – The [National Digital Stewardship Alliance](#), our partnership initiative that was launched a little over a year ago, is growing. The members of the NDSA all share a common purpose, contributing to a collaborative effort to preserve access to our national digital heritage.



To date, there are a total of 94 organizational members, and 35 of these are the newest members, having joined since the beginning of 2011. And since there are new members joining on a regular basis, these numbers will only grow over time.

Read [more](#) about the NDSA's current activities, including our latest in the Insights series of interviews. "[The Signal](#)" features a [conversation](#) with Vasanth Bala (pictured on the right), of IBM T.J. Watson Research Center, and Mahadev Satyanarayanan (pictured on the left), from the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. They offer insights about their work on the Olive library, a project which intends to create a library of virtual machines.



Personal Digital Archiving

"[The Signal](#)" featured some interesting perspectives on personal digital archiving.

- [Family History and Digital Preservation: Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#). Mike Ashenfelder explores genealogical research and digital preservation.
- [Why Should We Save Our Email?](#) Sue Manus gives us some answers.
- [Remember When We Had Photographs?](#) Read Leslie Johnston's tips to help save digital images.



Family History for Sale. Credit: Leslie Johnston

Upcoming Events

- [Best Practices Exchange 2011](#). Oct. 20-22, Lexington, KY.
- [DLF Fall Forum](#), Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2011, Baltimore, MD.

Recap of Recent Meetings

Leslie Johnston talked about the recently held [Designing Storage Architectures for Preservation Collections](#) meeting on "[The Signal](#)." This was just one recent meeting/conference that NDIIPP staff reported on.

- [Voices from the World of Video Archiving](#). Carl Fleischhauer reported from the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives in Frankfurt, Germany.
- [Archivists: What's on Your Mind?](#) Butch Lazorchak reflected on SAA2011.
- [Simple, Weak, Scalable and Open](#). Bill LeFurgy highlighted the 2011 Annual Summer Meeting of DataCite.

Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Training

By Ellen O'Donnell - Sponsored by the [Digital Preservation Outreach and Education program](#), the first Library of Congress train the trainer workshop in digital preservation was held September 20-23 in Washington, DC.



Participants in the DPOE Train the Trainer Workshop. Credit: Abby Brack

The DPOE Baseline Workshop was the test run of a workshop model designed to produce a national corps of trainers equipped to teach others basic principles and practices of preserving digital materials. Read [more](#) about the workshop's outcomes.

More From "The Signal"

- [Historical Recordings, From the Past into the Future](#). Sue Manus looks at the the Library's new National Jukebox.
- [Welcome to the Library: Now Transfer!](#) Kate Zwaard joins the Library's Repository Development group.
- [Lessons Learned for Sustainable Open Source Software for Libraries, Archives and Museums](#). A guest post from MacKenzie Smith, Research Director at the MIT Libraries.

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