

Announcements

[Call for Applications: DPOE Train-the-Trainer Workshop, Midwest Region](#)

Upcoming Events

[DigitalPreservation2012](#), July 24-26, Washington, DC

[CurateCamp Processing: Processing Data/Processing Collections](#), July 26, Washington, DC

Digital Preservation Bits

[Defining the "Big" in Big Data](#)

[GeoMAPP and the Future of Digital Geospatial Preservation](#)

[National Digital Stewardship Residency Program Curriculum Panel Meets](#)

[All Digital Objects are Born Digital Objects](#)

[2012 Junior Fellows Working on Digital Preservation Policies](#)

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[The Signal](#)

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First Year of The Signal

When we launched The Signal one year ago, we [declared](#) that, "we want to do even better," in our efforts to share information and engage with people that have a stake in preserving digital information.

So—how well did we measure up to that intent in our first year? The metrics tell an encouraging story: 269,883 page views; 100,000+ references on the web; 617 approved comments; 288 posts; and, 26 guest bloggers (complementing the work of our nine staff bloggers)

We garnered mention in a variety of professional journals, trade publications and blogs focusing on digital preservation. Other references popped up on websites of museums, public libraries, government agencies as well as on a host of specialty blogs focusing on subjects such as art, law, music,



Sweet and Salty Cake, by Ralph and Jenny, on Flickr

genealogy, photography and technology.

Our top 10 posts as measured by total page views are instructive. At least half the posts appeal directly to the general public in terms of personal digital archiving. The posts also illustrate a specific interest in learning about how cultural heritage organizations are adopting to an increasingly digital world.

Find out which blog posts are in the top 10 [here](#).

@IIPC12: A Week of Web Archiving

The Library of Congress was thrilled to host the 2012 [International Internet Preservation Consortium](#) General Assembly April 30 – May 4th. Over 150 registrants packed meeting rooms to discuss all aspects of web archiving. From legal issues to technical challenges to research use, the entire lifecycle of web archiving was covered.

IIPC is little over 10 years old, and the GA is a vital meeting of professionals that are developing the tools, standards and best practices for this new but growing field. A quick overview of the week's events can be found [here](#). Presentations from the week are [posted](#) and video of the proceedings will be posted in the coming weeks. Also, check out the collection of [tweets](#) from participants.

One of the presenters, Kalev H. Leetaru, University of Illinois, discussed some thoughts about how users use web archives. He

expanded on these ideas in a three-part blog series ([part1](#), [part2](#), [part3](#)) on The Signal.

In addition to presentations, attendees participated in working group meetings and workshop sessions. [Legal Issues in Web Archiving](#) was one of these meetings.

As the publishing platforms and technologies continue to shift the tools and processes of web archivists also need to evolve. It is these kinds of challenges and the talented people who keep trying to meet them that will make future IIPC meetings just as productive.



Impermanence, Selection, & Digital Stewardship

Selection—what to keep, how to keep it, and how long to keep it—quickly comes up in connection with stewardship of digital content.



eternal impermanence, by Squant, on Flickr

Consider two prevalent concepts at opposite extremes. One holds that we are failing to save enough digital content, a position taken

in a recent article in the Economist, [History flushed: The digital age promised vast libraries, but they remain incomplete](#). The other concept, perhaps in reaction to the first, is that organizations need to save every scrap of data because it's impossible to predict what will have value down the road. David Rosenthal explores this idea in [Lets Just Keep Everything Forever In The Cloud](#).

There is yet another selection issue that comes into play: the degree to which preserved content changes through migration, or even is lost as a result of system failure. Read [more](#) about these thoughts.

Librarians Helping Their Communities with Personal Digital Archiving

During [Preservation Week 2012](#), April 22-28, librarians nationwide held events on saving personal digital possessions. These events are evidence of how librarians are stepping up and taking on the responsibility of helping their communities understand digital preservation.

Julie Mosbo, chair of the Preservation Week Working Group and preservation librarian at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, said, "Libraries and librarians, as places and keepers of knowledge and information, have a great opportunity to promote digital archiving to the public. I think (librarians) are the perfect group to teach it but I'm not sure the public is aware



that librarians/libraries can help them with that kind of service. I think to many folks we are still seen as "book" people. Our desire to help and educate are natural opportunities to provide information on preserving digital items."

Read about some of these Preservation Week events [here](#).

Apocalypse Bit: Disaster Mythologies & Digital Preservation

A number of us in the NDIPP office have fielded some interesting questions recently, both at public events and over email, regarding digital preservation's susceptibility to cataclysmic occurrences.

Electrical grid failures, mega earthquakes, solar storms, and electro-magnetic pulses have all been voiced as providing a distinct and inarguable counterpoint to our exhortations about the need for, and importance of, digital

preservation. There has been a noted uptick in the voiced suspicion of digital preservation's viability in times of, well, calamity.

There are two characteristics of digital objects that underlie these claims. These two qualities are a digital object's *dependencies* and its *opacities*.

Read [more](#) about these challenges.

Digital Preservation Outreach and Education

[Calendar of Events](#): Access training and educational offerings in the practice of digital preservation.

Conversation Corner: Insights Interviews

[Doug White](#), Project leader for the National Institute of Standards and Technology National Software Reference Library.

[Ben Fino-Radin](#), Digital Conservator for the Rhizome ArtBase

[Joe Lambert](#), Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Digital Storytelling

More Web Archiving News

[Results from NDSA Web Archiving Survey](#)

[Harvesting the Digital Formats Sustainability Site](#)

New Video and Report

[Video](#): Digital Preservation at the Library of Congress

[Report](#): Persistent Digital Archives and Library System: Final project report (PDF)

This is the newsletter of the **National Digital Stewardship Alliance, the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education initiative and the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program.**