Digital Preservation and the Arts

Web Archiving and Preserving the Performing Arts

Performing artists are by necessity a traveling people. They journey far and wide in the pursuit of their respective crafts. In the digital age, the role and nature of a professional performing artist has been transformed by advances in recording and distribution technologies. In recent years the internet has increasingly become the space where performers and enthusiasts go to build communities and present their work or ideas. Yet for the massive amount of original content being produced, very little of it is being preserved. Like so much other material on the web, performing arts sites are at risk of vanishing.

Read about how the Library of Congress’ Web Archiving Team and Music Division are currently engaged in a project to preserve performing arts web sites.

Preserving Digital and Software-Based Artworks

The NDSA Standards and Practices Working Group recently hosted a discussion about preserving digital and software-based artworks.

Complex materials like digital art works and other new media are increasingly part of collections outside of traditional museum environments and cultural heritage institutions, including libraries and archives, will see more and more of this type of content in their collections.

The Working Group invited experts from four collecting institutions - Rose Goldsen Archive of New Media Art, the Smithsonian Institution, Museum of Modern Art, and SFMOMA - to share their experiences both preserving and providing access to these unique and challenging digital objects.

Visit us at: digitalpreservation.gov/
Talk to us on our blog: The Signal
Sign up for our: Newsletter
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Upcoming Events

Digital Preservation 2014
July 22-23, Washington, DC

Curate Camp
July 24, 2014
Washington, DC

Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting
August 10-16, 2014
Washington, DC

NDSA News

Recent Reports
The latest publications from members and working groups.

More on Museums

An Interview with Marla Misunas (and friends) of SFMOMA, pt. 2
Marla is joined by Layna White and Mark Hellar, talking about digital collections at SFMOMA.


Nam June Paik’s Megatron/Matrix at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Photo by Erica Titkemeyer.
Community Approaches to Digital Stewardship

As part of the Insights Interview series, The Signal presents a joint interview with Bradley Daigle and Aaron Rubinstein, both of whom are involved in extensive partnership projects. Daigle, director of Digital Curation Services and digital strategist for Special Collections at the University of Virginia, talks about the Academic Preservation Trust.

Aaron Rubinstein, digital archivist in Special Collections at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, discusses the Five College Consortium and their Digital Preservation Task Force.

Daigle and Rubinstein will be part of a panel titled “Community Approaches to Digital Stewardship” at this year’s Digital Preservation 2014 meeting in Washington, DC.

Daigle and Rubenstein

Exhibiting GIFs, with Jason Eppink

Who would have thought when CompuServe introduced the Graphics Interchange Format in 1987 that the world was witnessing the birth of a new medium of expression? At Digital Preservation 2012, keynote speaker Anil Dash suggested that the humble animated GIF was likely “the most watched form of video?” Animated GIFs are increasingly being appreciated as a medium for art and as an important mode of cultural expression.

As part of the NDSA Insights Interview series, we present an interview with Jason Eppink, Associate Curator of Digital Media at the Museum of the Moving Image in New York City. Jason recently curated, The Reaction GIF: Moving Image as Gesture, which exhibits a set of GIFs he identified in consultation with redditors.

So, what are animated, or “reaction”, GIFs, and what are they doing in a museum? Read Jason’s answer to this and other questions – and see some GIFs, too!

Jason Eppink, Associate Curator of Digital Media at the Museum of the Moving Image in New York City.

Digital Preservation Outreach and Education

Calendar of Events: Access training and educational offerings in the practice of digital preservation.

Residency Program

DC Program Concludes with Capstone Event
Inaugural year concludes with event at Library of Congress

NDSR Selects Next Class of Residents
The next round will take place in two cities: Boston and New York.

Conversation Corner

Recommended Format Specifications from Library of Congress
Interview with Ted Westervelt of LC (U.S. Serials Arts and Sciences)

PDF’s Place in History of Paper Knowledge
Interview with Lisa Gitelman, Professor of English at NYU

Preservation Aesthetics
Interview with Shannon Mattern, Associate Professor at the New School

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.

digitalpreservation.gov