



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Meeting the Challenge: Students Archiving the Web



Students at Miramonte High School select Web sites to archive.

What does the younger generation learn from the Web today? Which Web sites do they view as an important part of their cultural heritage and their world? The Library of Congress is helping answer these questions by empowering middle and high school students – the first generation to live their entire lives in a digital world – as “Web archivists.”

During the spring of 2008, students from three schools in Louisiana, California and Illinois participated in a [K-12 Web Archiving](#) pilot to select and capture Web content. The National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program is working with the Library’s [Teaching with Primary Sources](#) program to support the pilot. Two NDIIPP partners, the [Internet Archive](#) and the [California Digital Library](#), are providing the tools and services for the project.

At each of the three schools, students created time capsules of Web content from their personal perspectives. They identified primary source Web sites, provided a brief description of the site and why the site was reflective of their interests and lives. Teachers facilitated the work. Students discovered that sites grow and change in unexpected ways, and learned to show how the Web inspires their daily lives. At the end of the project students reviewed and reflected on their choices.

“The program has helped students understand that primary sources are not just things of the past. Primary sources are created every day and can exist

in a variety of formats,” said Elizabeth Ridgway, Director of Educational Outreach for the Library. “The student descriptions give us valuable insight into how young people use the Internet and why they make the choices they do.”

Journalism students at [Miramonte High School](#) in Orinda, California focused their collection on three areas: consumption, or “shopping online” sites; education-information sites; and recreation, or “entertainment on the Web.” Miramonte’s teacher set up a [blog](#) to document their project.

Miramonte students chose, for example, the [Contra Costa Times](#) site as “the best source of information for local news,” and “helpful for current event projects and for finding up to date political news.” [The New Yorker](#) was selected for its “broad overview of our culture,” and “its reliability and intellectual creativity.” [Urban Outfitters](#) was picked because “it carries brand names and unique styles that are very popular among teenagers.”

The project indicated that students can select, describe, and capture Web content in a manner that represents current social and behavioral trends. Kristine Hanna, Director of Web Archiving Services at Internet Archive, felt the pilot project was very successful, noting the subject matter of the Web sites selected. “The students archived Web sites we would have probably never known about,” she said. “The uniqueness of the K-12 Web collections adds value to the historical Web record of the 21st century.”

With the success of the pilot, the partners launched an expanded K-12 Web Archiving project for the 2008-09 academic school year. Ten schools from California, Illinois, Connecticut, South Carolina, Iowa, New Jersey, West Virginia, New York, and Virginia will archive primary source Web sites that reflect student lives and interests. Students will later revisit the archived collections to see how the sites have changed over time. This will help students gain a personal understanding about the tremendous challenges presented by archiving and preserving historical records in the ever-changing world of digital content. •



Federal Agencies Collaborate on Digitization Guidelines

The Library of Congress, with a dozen federal agencies, has launched an initiative to establish guidelines for digitizing historical materials, including books, manuscripts, maps, photographic prints and negatives, and sound and video recordings. The guidelines are based on collaborative research and combined experience and will address issues related to the complex activities involved in the digitization of cultural heritage items. [A new Web site](#) provides a glossary of digitization terms and concepts, as well as pertinent news and events from the participating agencies. •

Web Archiving on WAMU Radio

NDIIPP Director of Program Management Martha Anderson appeared on the Kojo Nnamdi Show on WAMU radio in Washington, DC, to discuss the [End-of-Term Web site preservation project](#).

Nnamdi's live, two-hour program highlights news, political issues and social trends. The "Tech Tuesday" edition of the show concentrates on putting technology in a personal context.

Anderson was joined by Kris Carpenter, the Director of the Web Group at the Internet Archive. The Internet Archive is a partner in the project, along with the California Digital Library, the University of North Texas Libraries, and the U.S. Government Printing Office. The project is intended to preserve public U.S. Government Web sites at the end of the current presidential administration and to enhance the existing collections of the five partner institutions.

A complete [audio stream](#) of the program is available on the WAMU website. •

DICE Group Joins UNC

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, School of Information and Library Science, an NDIIPP partner, [announced](#) it is now the home of the Data Intensive Cyber Environments group. The DICE group has long been closely associated with another NDIIPP partner, the University of California, San Diego, San Diego Supercomputer Center.

DICE will collaborate with the UNC [VidArch](#) project. •

NDIIPP at iPRES 2008

Held at the British Library in London, UK, the [conference](#) attracted 250 participants from 33 nations. NDIIPP staff and partners played an active role in the meeting.

NDIIPP Director of Program Management Martha Anderson presented a paper entitled *Weaving a National Network of Partnerships* as part of a panel discussion of national initiatives. Bill LeFurgy from NDIIPP, along with project partner Adrienne Muir from Loughborough University, presented a paper on the recently issued [International Study on the Impact of Copyright Law on Digital Preservation](#).

Among the NDIIPP partners participating in the conference were Stephen Abrams from the [California Digital Library](#), who presented on [JHOVE2](#); David Minor from the [University of California, San Diego, San Diego Supercomputer Center](#), on *Encouraging Cyber-infrastructure Collaboration for Digital Preservation*; and Tyler Walters from the [Georgia Institute of Technology](#), on *Creating Trust Relationships for Digital Preservation*. Another NDIIPP partner from CDL, Patricia Cruse, informed the conference about iPRES 2009, which will be hosted by CDL in San Francisco. •

Digital Storage Workshop

Representatives from the Library of Congress met with prominent academics and private sector participants on September 22, 2008 in Baltimore for the [Digital Archive Preservation and Sustainability 2008 Workshop](#).

Information Technology Specialist Jane Mandelbaum and NDIIPP Director of Program Management Martha Anderson participated in the workshop on behalf of the Library of Congress. Their presentation and paper, "[Planning for the 'Long Term'....in Library Time](#)," focused on the challenges facing the Library as it looks to preserve digital cultural heritage into the future, overcoming an array of technical and logistical challenges in the process. •

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