

Learn more

For further information, go to www.mnhs.org/ndiipp or contact Robert Horton, project director, at robert.horton@mnhs.org.

Library of Congress

This project is funded by the Library of Congress, National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP), as part of its Preserving State Government Information initiative. The mission of NDIIPP is to develop a national strategy to collect, archive and preserve the burgeoning amounts of digital content, especially materials that are created only in digital formats, for current and future generations.

NDIIPP is working with a number of states to preserve a variety of state and local government information with long-term value to Congress and others. Each project will also share tools, services, standards and best practices to help every state manage its digital heritage. For more information about NDIIPP and the Preserving State Government Information initiative, see www.digitalpreservation.gov/partners/states.html.

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Preserving Legislative Records in the Digital Age

National Digital Information and
Infrastructure Preservation Program



Minnesota Historical Society

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The importance of legislative records

Virtually no government records have more value than those of the legislature. Laws are the framework in which all of society works; the legislative process is where government and citizens meet.

From paper to digital

Increasingly, bill drafting, publication and communication are done not on paper but digitally. With this transition comes the potential of greater transparency, access and accountability, as well as increased cost-effectiveness and efficiency. New issues arise, too, such as how to preserve the records of the digital legislature and make them accessible.

A digital preservation initiative

The Minnesota Historical Society is partnering with other organizations around the country to create a system for capturing, managing and providing access to state legislative records. Funded by the Library of Congress, this program will also test the capacity of other states to adopt this model, conduct evaluations with legislative and government records communities, and promote collaboration through education and outreach.

Key project objectives

The project will develop:

- A website providing access to archival digital content from the California and Minnesota legislatures;
- Evaluations of capacity and opportunity in six partner states;
- Guidelines, standards, tools and methodology for all states to use;
- Evaluations of selected preservation options, with costs and benefits analyses;
- Business cases for investment in the preservation of legislative digital content.

Return on investment

The already high value of state legislative records will increase greatly when they are maintained in a digital infrastructure, because they will be readily accessible via the web. The important information they contain can then be easily shared, researched, and used to encourage public engagement in government.

On cover: Gladys Jo Brown, House Page. Photographed filing printed legislative bills, 1943.



Minnesota House in session, 1979-1980.

Partners

Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota Revisor of Statutes
Minnesota Legislative Reference Library
National Conference of State Legislatures
California Digital Library

States of:

California
Illinois
Kansas
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