Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Sharing Tools, Content and Lessons Learned: The 2008 NDIIPP Partner Meeting

More than 150 digital preservation partners gathered in Washington, DC for a meeting of NDIIPP partners. Laura Campbell, Associate Librarian for Strategic Initiatives, and Martha Anderson, Director of NDIIPP Program Management, both of the Library of Congress, welcomed participants to the largest partner meeting to date.

Campbell urged all partners to continuing sharing their lessons learned for the benefit of the larger digital stewardship community. Anderson stated that this "national network of partners committed to selecting, collecting and preserving at-risk digital information has truly proven that 'learning by doing' is a highly successful approach to the challenge of digital preservation."

Topics Addressed

The meeting highlighted key accomplishments of the network, including the collection of at-risk digital content and the development of technical tools to facilitate long term access to digital content.

Fran Berman, discussed the work of the NSF Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access and Andrea Goethlals updated the group on the Global Digital Format Registry. Recommendations to update copyright laws to enable digital preservation were presented by Mary Rasenberger and Richard Rudick from the Section 108 Study Group, and Bill LeFurgy announced the release of the International Study on Impact of Copyright Law on Digital Preservation report.

In plenary panels, partners shared experiences building LOCKSS networks and developing digital collection policies and strategies. Representatives from two new NDIIPP initiatives, Preserving State Government and Preserving Creative America, presented details about their activities and stimulated discussions about collaboration with other NDIIPP projects.

The meeting also featured breakout sessions on institutional system interoperability, digital content transfer, and geospatial metadata management. Other sessions dealt with strategies for archiving Web sites, development of tools and services to support digital preservation requirements, implementation of collaborative agreements to support shared goals, and policies for preserving private or copyrighted materials. In addition, a number of partners offered posters and demonstrations showcasing recent project milestones.

For More Information

The full agenda, presentations, and notes from the meeting are available at http://www.digitalpreservation.gov. ▪

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International Copyright Report and Workshop

The Library of Congress, through the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, and three international partners cooperated with the World Intellectual Property Organization in presenting an International Workshop on Digital Preservation and Copyright in Geneva, Switzerland on July 15, 2008.

In preparation for the workshop, the Library and partners from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Australia prepared a report, International Study on The Impact of Copyright Law on Digital Preservation. The report provides guidelines for legislative reform and other solutions to ensure that libraries, archives and other preservation institutions can manage copyrighted digital information in a manner consistent with the law.

The workshop was attended by representatives from many countries around the world, and featured a broad survey of recent developments and trends at the intersection of digital preservation and copyright. WIPO aimed for the event to contribute to the debate among stakeholders on how to improve policies and practices that support digital preservation of copyrighted content.

Clifford Lynch, Executive Director of the Coalition for Networked Information, provided the keynote. "The legal and economic challenges may exceed the technical challenge," said Lynch. He stated that since there are no models for potential legal costs in connection with managing copyrighted material, libraries and other custodians may be forced to weigh risks in considering making stewardship commitments for digital material with copyright restrictions. Lynch noted further that the primary issue with such materials is access rather than preservation; this point arose frequently during the sessions that followed.

The workshop featured a panel on current legal and contractual approaches to accommodating digital preservation and copyright in specific jurisdictions. Separate panels with representatives from both preserving institutions as well as right holders also discussed copyright issues specific to the preservation of eJournals, newspapers and images, and online content. A final session assessed the possible future use of legislative and voluntary measures to strengthen the links between digital preservation and copyright law.

Archiving 2008 Meeting

Laura Campbell, Associate Librarian for Strategic Initiatives, gave a keynote address for the Archiving 2008 meeting in Bern, Switzerland on June 27, 2008. Speaking on the topic of "Doing More with Less: The Future of Digital Preservation in a Constrained Environment," Campbell discussed how the NDIIPP network is working with multiple partners to do more than a single institutional could on its own.

Campbell also provided details about the work of new NDIIPP partners, including those working to preserve state government information and commercial multimedia content. "We welcome our new associates, who will collaborate with us in extending the web of preservation partners," Campbell said. "Like the Ethiopian proverb says, 'When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.'"

Bill LeFurgy, Digital Initiative Project Manager with the Library, also participated in the meeting, serving as a chair for the Creating and Managing Digital Collections, Formats and Metadata session.

NDIIPP partners Christopher (Cal) Lee and Carolyn Hank, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, presented "Challenges, Curricula, and Competencies: Researcher and Practitioner Perspectives for Informing the Development of a Digital Curation Curriculum" during the interactive session. Lee also presented "Capturing the Moment: Strategies for Selection and Collection of Web-based Resources to Document Important Social Phenomena," during the Economics, Strategies, and Projects session.

The Archiving 2009 conference will be held next May in Arlington, VA, and will feature current information about the work of NDIIPP and its partners. ▪

Tools Inventory Released

The NDIIPP technical architecture working group has compiled an inventory of tools and services developed or used by partners to support long-term digital access to digital materials. The inventory will be added to and maintained at digitalpreservation.gov. ▪

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