THE ROCKEFELLER ARCHIVE CENTER | Smithsonian Institution Archives

Collaborative Electronic Records Project

Summer 2008

What's new

As the CERP team approaches the end of its email preservation project, we are focusing on streamlining and automating processes and writing documentation of our findings, methods, and products. We are finalizing our email preservation workflow and hitting the road to share our experiences.

- The parsing tool to output preservation XML of an email account has been successfully tested at the CERP institutions. This prototype was built in Squeak Smalltalk, which is an open source development system. More than 70,000 messages from Rockefeller Archive Center and Smithsonian Institution Archives have been processed through the parser, resulting in validated XML based on the Mail-Account schema. This schema was developed by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources as part of EMCAP (another email project) with collaboration from the CERP Team.

- Other CERP work includes development of a batch process combining both JHOVE and DROID applications for format identification and validation of native email attachments. The outputs includes a listing of potential file format problems and the possible file types determined by both JHOVE and DROID in a single document.

JHOVE is the JSTOR/Harvard Object Validation Environment software. DROID from The National Archives in the United Kingdom is the Digital Record Object Identification program.

Riccardo Ferrante from the Smithsonian Institution Archives addresses participants during the Association of Canadian Archivists workshop on email archiving in June at the University of New Brunswick.

- The CERP team conducted a daylong preconference workshop on email archiving during the Association of Canadian Archivists June meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Attendees participated in hands-on exercises preparing an email Archival Information Package (AIP), and parsing messages.

- Dr. Darwin H. Stapleton, long-time Executive Director of the Rockefeller Archive Center, and the co-founder and guiding force of CERP, retired recently. CERP owes much of its success to his ability to sustain our focus and momentum as inevitable challenges arose, to garner funding, and to publicize our work. Dr. Jack Meyers, previously assistant provost at Yale University, was named President of the newly independent RAC.

Calendar

CERP team members will be speaking at the following events in 2008:

August 6-8 — Australian Society of Archivists 2008 conference, Perth, Australia.

Rockefeller Archive Center Executive Director Emeritus Dr. Darwin Stapleton will discuss "Making a Way Out of No Way: The Collaborative Electronic Records Project of the Rockefeller Archive Center and the Smithsonian Institution Archives."
www.archivists.org.au

August 26-30 — Society of American Archivists 2008 conference, San Francisco.

Two presentations:

August 26 — Nancy Adgent from the Rockefeller Archive Center and Lynda Schmitz Fuhrig from the Smithsonian Institution Archives will present project background, processes, products, and a parser demonstration at the SAA Research Forum.

August 30 — "Capturing the E-Tiger — New Tools for Email Preservation" will be the focus of this joint panel discussion. CERP Team presenters will be Riccardo Ferrante from the Smithsonian Institution Archives and Dr. Steve Burbeck, technical consultant.
www.archivists.org

November 10 — The CERP Team will host a symposium. This invitation-only event will focus on email preservation projects and future directions for collaborative research.

What is CERP?

The Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) and the Rockefeller Archive Center (RAC) are collaborating on a three-year project to develop, test, and share the technology to preserve digital documents with other non-profit organizations. There is a strong focus on e-mail messages and attachments. Working together these two archives expect to achieve much more than they could accomplish separately and to develop a model that will benefit a broad range of nonprofit and philanthropic institutions.

http://siarchives.si.edu/cerp