Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Personal Archiving Day

If you have a Facebook page, digital camera or other means to create digital items you are also building a rich collection of personal information. At least some of these items should be passed on to your family and perhaps others along with—even in place of—letters, photographic prints and other traditional sources.

Library experts answering questions about preserving and archiving recordings. Credit: Richard Herbert

On May 10, 2010, the Library of Congress held its first Personal Archiving Day to help people keep their personal information, whether in analog or digital form. About 200 people visited with Library staff to get expert suggestions for preserving photographs, documents, recorded sound and other material. Advice came in the form of group lectures and one-on-one conversations at information tables.

Library experts provided tips about safeguarding analog and digital photos. Credit: Abby Brack

The Library was pleased to hold the event in celebration of the first national Preservation Week, sponsored by the American Library Association and partner organizations.

Read more about the event at digitalpreservation. gov. •

Geospatial Data Preservation Clearinghouse

The Library of Congress and Columbia University have agreed to create a web-based clearinghouse of information about best practices for preserving significant geospatial data. The National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program will fund development of the clearinghouse at the Center for International Earth Science Information Network at Columbia's Earth Institute. CIESIN will launch a beta version of the clearinghouse later this year.

Panoramic view of New York City and vicinity. At head of map, Jacob Ruppert's Knickerbocker Beer. Geography and Maps Division, LC g3804n ct002193

For more information about the project, see the Library's press release. •

Data-PASS Project Gets IMLS Support for Tools

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has generously supported members of the Data-PASS Alliance through an award to develop a policy-based archival replication system for libraries, archives and museums.

The support provides one-to-one matching funds for the $1.6 million dollar project. It is awarded under the National Leadership Grants program, which aims to advance the ability of museums and libraries to preserve culture, heritage and knowledge while enhancing learning.

Read more about the project at digitalpreservation.gov. •

On the Leading Edge:
Saving Our Digital Lives

According to a report from the recent Digital Lives research project, preservation of personal digital objects is under-researched and deserves more attention. Digital Lives is led by the British Library, in partnership with University College London and the University of Bristol, with funding provided by the Arts and Humanities Research Council of Great Britain.

The project's companion report, "*Digital Lives: Personal Digital Archives for the 21st Century. An Initial Synthesis*," quoted a prediction from the International Data Corporation that makes a good case for the launching of such a project: by 2010, 70% of the world's digital content will be created by individuals rather than organizations.

A major conclusion of the report is that that libraries and archives must assume responsibility for informing the public about digital preservation and personal curation, and for exploring ways of mediating new approaches to access

Read more about the project at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Digital Genome Deposited in Swiss Fort Knox

What would be the digital-age equivalent of the Rosetta Stone? The partners of the Planets project (Preservation and Long-term Access through Networked Services) have just taken their best guess.

On May 18, 2010, Planets deposited a time capsule deep in a data vault in southwestern Switzerland containing a digital "genome" from which they hope future generations will be able to reconstruct some types of digital file formats in use today, should the formats become obsolete in a number of years.

Read more about the time capsule project at digitalpreservation.gov.

In related news, the Planets newsletter, Planetarium #10, is now available. •

CDL Repository Development Project

The University of California Curation Center at the California Digital Library is developing a new digital preservation repository. Known as the Merritt Project, after a lake near the CDL offices, the new repository development effort is based on a set of "curation micro-services" created at the center.

Lake Merritt. Credit: http://www.flickr.com/photos/kid_pro_quo/197237791/ CC BY 2.0

These micro-services are a breakdown of the different stages involved in digital curation and preservation. Stephen Abrams, manager of digital preservation technology at CDL, reviewed the new approach in a webcast on May 20, 2010.

Read more about the project at digitalpreservation.gov. •

June Reading Materials

- The National Conference of State Legislatures published a report, "*Preserving Digital Legislative Records*." NCSL is a partner in the Minnesota Historical Society-led project.

- The Geospatial Multistate Archive and Preservation Partnership released an interim report (PDF) which documents their work from 2007-2009.

The Library of Congress at ALA 2010

- The Library of Congress at ALA. June 25-29, 2010, Washington, DC. Visit the Library's exhibit booth. On June 26, NDIIPP staff will present on "How to Provide Personal Digital Archiving Guidance" and "The Twitter Archives."

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