Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Personal Archiving Videos

Two new videos from the Library of Congress Personal Archiving Day, held May 10, 2010, are now available. The event was held in conjunction with the American Library Association's annual Preservation Week.

For the event, the Library invited members of the public to visit and learn about how to preserve their personal information in both digital and non-digital form. Library staff gave talks about how to preserve specific kinds of information.

In the first video, Abigail Grotke, web archiving team lead and Gina Jones, digital media project coordinator, both from the Office of Strategic Initiatives' Web Archiving team at the Library of Congress, offer practical advice on preserving web content, such as blogs and websites.

Gina Jones and Abigail Grotke.

In the second video, Peter Alyea, digital conservation specialist, Preservation Reformatting, in the Library of Congress Preservation Directorate, offers practical advice on archiving digital audio.

More videos from the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program are available, including the Digital Preservation Video Series and a collection of webcasts featuring speakers and presentations, at digitalpreservation.gov/videos.•

Peter Alyea.

Preservation Week 2011

ALA's second Preservation Week will be April 24-30, 2011. The Library of Congress is planning to celebrate again this year with a public event and a webinar on preserving your personal digital memories. More details about the events will be available in the near future.

National Library of New Zealand

While the saying "New Zealand is far from everywhere" may be true, distance is not an issue regarding its digital cultural collections and how efficiently the National Library of New Zealand makes them available over the Internet. For a small country (population approximately 4,367,700 as of June 2010), it has made wise choices that have resulted in an exemplary cyberinfrastructure and national digital library.

Over recent years , the NLNZ has moved towards aggregating its online collections and high-tech resources under an initiative called the National Digital Heritage Archive. On the front end, the NDHA build their own Web tools and design clean interfaces to make users' experience easy and intuitive. And on the back end they have partnered with Ex Libris and Sun (now part of Oracle) to develop an OAIS compliant repository.

The NDHA also has a great deal of support from their government. To begin with, the government has mandated legal deposit. As part of the 2003 National Library of New Zealand Act, the NLNZ is permitted to collect digital content, which enables them to avoid the mire of rights wrangling and get right to the job of gathering and archiving their country's cultural heritage.

Publishers are required to submit publications to the library. "And we were given the right to request assistance from publishers in the collection of material under legal deposit if we came up with problems," said Steve Knight, program director for NLNZ's Preservation Research & Consultancy division. Similarly, NDHA is researching ways to capture newspaper content.

Steve Knight.

Read more about the NLNZ at digitalpreservation.gov. •

New Design for Digitization Guidelines Website

The Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative has now released an update and redesign of the website, available at digitizationguidelines.gov/.

Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative

In addition to improved navigation throughout, it is now easier to access the major document outlining best practices, the "Technical Guidelines for Digitizing Cultural Heritage Materials." There are currently 15 federal agencies actively involved in this initiative; the most recent to join was the National Park Service.

FADGI is divided into two working groups, "Still Image" and "Audio Visual," with documentation, presentations and publications relevant to each. In addition, there is a comprehensive glossary of over 200 digitization-related terms available on the site.

Since the site's launching in 2007, there have been several sub-groups formed to focus on key areas such as metadata issues, archival color, recorded sound and moving image. The site will be updated on a regular basis to reflect new documents and activity.

Read more about the new design and updates at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Findings from a Survey on Digital Preservation Training

What do U.S. organizations see as their needs with respect to digital preservation training? How do they handle digital preservation functions now? A new Library of Congress survey provides some answers to these questions.

The survey was conducted in summer and fall 2010 by the Library's Digital Preservation Outreach and Education initiative, which seeks to foster outreach, education and collaboration nationwide to encourage organizations to preserve their digital content, regardless of staff or budget size or location.

To read the executive summary of the survey and find out more about other DPOE activities, visit http://loc.gov/dpoe. •

Micro-Services for Digital Collections

The "Distributed Digital Preservation for Large-Scale Collections: Building Micro-services for the Replication of Content" meeting was held in conjunction with the Coalition for Networked Information Fall 2010 Membership Meeting in Washington, DC on Dec. 14, 2010.

The meeting was convened to discuss potential collaborative developments of micro-services for the replication and validation of digital content between major digital repositories, with a special focus on content collected using the Bagit specification for secure content transfer.

Read more about the meeting at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Announcements

- The International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) is holding a day-long public event May 9, 2011 at the KB, the National Library of the Netherlands, in The Hague. "Out of the Box: Building and Using Web Archive Collections." Deadline for participation is Feb. 15, 2011.

- Personal Digital Archiving 2011 Conference will be held Feb. 24 & 25, 2011 at The Internet Archive, San Francisco, Ca.

- The National Endowment for the Humanities recently announced the availability of Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions of up to $6,000. Deadline for applications is May 3, 2011.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS