



Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Tradition Meets Web 2.0 – The Library's Flickr Project

The Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division collections are known for their great photographic treasures – with over 1 million digitized items currently available online. Beginning in January 2008, the Library joined forces with the popular photo sharing site Flickr to provide a new avenue to the Library's photos and build new levels of interaction with the public.

Why were photo collections chosen for this project? The [Prints and Photographs Division](#) is interested in new ways to make its resources known and has long relied on volunteers to help describe pictures that lack full captions. The desire to put pictures where millions of people gather virtually in social networks combined with a strong tradition of volunteer assistance made a good match for the web 2.0 world of user-generated content.

In addition, the Library was looking for a way to be more involved in web 2.0 activities. Flickr was selected as an established and well-respected public forum for photos that offered the functionality to easily collect community descriptions and comments. After coordinating with Flickr to provide the proper rights statement, the [Library of Congress Flickr pilot project](#) was launched.



Credit: Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division

The initial project included about 3,000 of the Library's photos from two different collections: the Farm Security Administration/Office of War Information collection (color photos from the 1930s and 1940s) and the George Grantham Bain News Service collection (black-and-white photos from the early 1900s). These photo collections were chosen for

the pilot because they represent a wide range of subjects in both black and white as well as color. No new scanning was involved for this project; only photos already digitized and available through the Library's website were used.



Credit: Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division

The statistics tell the story of immediate as well as long-term success. In the first 24 hours after launch Flickr reported 1.1 million views on the Library's account, with 3.6 million total views a week later.

Read [more](#) about the project at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).

NDIIPP Results Reviewed

The [Winter 2009 issue](#) of "Library Trends" provides a broad overview of results from the Library of Congress National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program.

The issue presents the most in-depth study of the program to date. Individual NDIIPP projects are studied as are activities that span the work of many individual participants.

Describing NDIIPP as "the foundation of digital culture preservation in the United States" and also as the advent of "a new partnership focused on shared stewardship," issue editors Patricia Cruse and Beth Sandore offer 16 articles. Detailed are accomplishments in preserving valuable digital content, building tools and services, developing new policies and practices, and spurring an unprecedented degree of collaboration among a rich diversity of partners.

Read [more](#) about the other projects described in the issue at [digitalpreservation.gov](#).



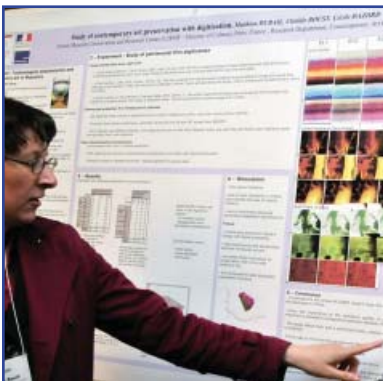
Archiving 2009 Conference

The [Archiving 2009 Conference](#), held in Arlington, VA, from May 4-7, 2009, had something for everyone with an interest in digital preservation.

The conference program was evenly balanced between digital collection stewardship on the one hand and imaging and preservation on the other. This permitted a unique opportunity for cross-domain interaction and sharing.

Sessions relating to digital collection stewardship considered subjects such as “Economically Sustainable Digital Preservation;” “Preservation, Cooperation, and the Making of the Hathi Trust Digital Library;” and “Meeting the Preservation Demand Responsibly = Lowering the Ingest Bar.” Geospatial data stewardship was a special focus of the conference, with four papers looking into areas such as collaborative agreements, metadata, appraisal, and preservation infrastructure.

Imaging and preservation sessions treated topics such as “Digitizing the Dead Sea Scrolls;” “The Lifecycle of Embedded Image Metadata within Digital Photographs;” and “Federal Digitization—Moving to Common Guidelines.”



Clotilde Boust discussing the interactive presentation, “Study of Contemporary Art Preservation with Digitization.”

The Archiving 2009 conference also had a rich array of interactive presentations offered in two sessions. Topics included “Search and Access Strategies for Web Archives;” “Defining Digital Archeology;” and “Advanced Digital Image Preservation Data Management Architecture.”

Attendees voted for “Digital Archive Program of the Songjiang Battle Array” as the best of the interactive presentations.

The Library of Congress National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program had a strong presence. Over 20 NDIIPP staff and partners attended and a dozen gave presentations.

Read [more](#) about the conference at [digitalpreservation.gov](#). •

Recent Meetings

In late April, Chief Information Officers and policy leaders from a dozen states received an update about Library of Congress digital preservation efforts. The [National Association of State Chief Information Officers](#) arranged the briefing in connection with its annual “Fly-In” to meet with federal officials in Washington, DC.



Credit: Library of Congress Prints & Photographs Division

Also in late April, NDIIPP hosted a meeting of the [National Conference of State Legislators](#), bringing state legislators and their information technology representatives to the Library to hear about recent projects that are leveraging existing investments and technology solutions to both preserve and provide access to valuable state legislative information.

Read more about the [State CIO “Fly-in”](#) and the [NCSL meeting](#) at [digitalpreservation.gov](#). •

Announcements

- The Call for Abstracts for [iPRES 2009](#) is extended to June 12, 2009. The 6th international conference, sponsored by the California Digital Library, will be held October 5-6, 2009 in San Francisco.
- The San Diego Supercomputer Center at the University of California, San Diego recently [announced](#) that Director Fran Berman will be leaving to accept the position of Vice President of Research with the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, effective August 1, 2009.

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