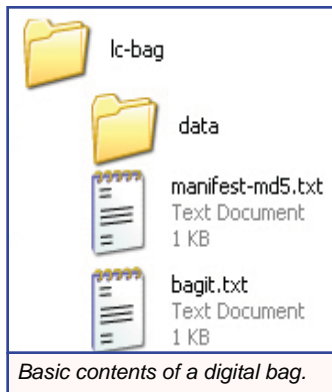# Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter

Digital Content Transfer Tools

The Library of Congress has developed new tools to transfer large quantities of digital content. During 2008, the Library used these tools to add approximately 80 terabytes to its digital collections.

As described in the Library of Congress's video, Bagit: Transferring Content for Digital Preservation, the sender of a digital collection prepares for the transfer by packaging the collection and making it accessible for the Library to download. The Library prefers data packaged into standardized "bags," a means of organizing and containing data for transfer as described in the BagIt specification.

Bags are based on the concept of "bag it and tag it," where a digital collection is packed into a directory (the bag) along with a machine-readable manifest file (the tag) that lists the contents.

Basic contents of a digital bag.

Read more about the BagIt specification and the Library's other bag-related data transfer tools at digitalpreservation.gov.

In related news, D-Lib Magazine published an essay titled, *21st Century Shipping: Network Data Transfer to the Library of Congress,* in its July/August 2009 issue.•

CDL Public Web Archive Service Collections Launched

The California Digital Library has opened its Web Archiving Service collections. Topics in the collection range from California government agencies to middle-eastern politics to natural disasters. The institutions that harvested and curated the websites include New York University, the University of North Texas, Stanford University and several University of California campuses.

Users can browse the public archives by URL or search by keyword. Users can also view changes over time for a given web site if that website was har-

vested more than once. This feature is especially useful when comparing something like the daily reporting on the 2007 Southern California wildfires.

CDL built the WAS to support the Web-at-Risk project, which is funded by the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program and the University of California. Read more about the WAS at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Screenshot of the U.S. Department of the Interior website, from the 2007 Southern California Wildfires Web Archive.

High School Students Explore Digital Preservation

What does "digital preservation" mean? It's not a simple question, as 22 Arlington, VA, high school students discovered during a visit to the Library of Congress as part of a week-long Arlington Public Schools Summer Seminar on "How Has Technology Influenced the Human Condition?" Library of Congress staff from the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program in close collaboration with staff from the Educational Outreach Division spoke to the students about why digital preservation is imporant.

NDIIPP has long been interested in gauging digital preservation awareness in the wider community, and the visit was an opportunity to both engage with the next generation of digital technology users while also educating. Discussion with students brought out examples of how digital archiving concepts have not fully penetrated the high school student consciousness.

Arlington high school students discuss what digital items should be preserved. Credit: Barry Wheeler

Read more about what the students thought about their visit at digitalpreservation.gov. •

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Recent Meetings

At the 2009 annual meeting of the American Association of Law Librarians, in Washington, DC., law librarians heard about work to preserve digital records of state legislatures. NDIIPP's Bill Lefurgy, Minnesota Historical Society's Robert Horton, and Propylon's Sean McGrath particapted in a panel discussion about "Preserving Our Legislative Heritage: New Approaches for States."

Library of Congress staff played an active role at the recent National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators annual conference, held in Seattle, WA. NDIIPP staff presented details about the Preserving State Government Information initiative. They also participated in a meeting of the Washington Multi-State Preservation Consortium, which included representatives of current as well as prospective partners.

Members of the Washington Multi-State Preservation Consortium.

Read more about the AALL meeting and the NAGARA meeting at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Preservation in the Cloud

The Library of Congress National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program has launched a pilot program to test cloud technologies for preserving digital content. The pilot will focus on using a new service, DuraCloud, developed and hosted by the DuraSpace Foundation. The test will cover both storage and access services.

Cloud technologies use remote computers to provide local services through the Internet. Duracloud will let an institution provide data storage and access without having to maintain its own dedicated technical infrastructure.

Among the NDIIPP partners participating in the pilot program are the New York Public Library and the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

Read more about the project at digitalpreservation.gov. •

Seminar on Photometadata

The Stock Artists Alliance held a getMETAsmart seminar in Washington, DC on June 25 at the Washington Post headquarters. The program included a presentation about using metadata to attract customers, a demonstration of applications for embedding metadata in photographs and testimony from industry professionals about how metadata increased their business. The goal of the workshop was to help digital photographers use metadata when creating and distributing their work. David Riecks, photographer and principal investigator for the Standardized Metadata for Stock Photography project, hosted the seminar.

David Riecks.© 2009 Greg Smith, imediasmith.com

Read more about the event and photometadata at digitalpreservation.gov. •

MetaNews

- **Federal Digitization Guidelines Update:** The Federal Agencies Digitization Guidelines Initiative is continuing work on guidance for digitizing cultural heritage materials.

- **NLM Publishes Journal Archiving and Interchange Tag Suite:** NLM submitted a proposal to NISO to create a standard based on its Journal Archiving and Interchange Tag Suite.

Announcements

- **New Position:** The National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program at the Library of Congress seeks a Technical Coordinator. Applications are due Sept. 8, 2009.

- **Moving On:** Myron Gutmann is leaving the University of Michigan to head the National Science Foundation directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, effective Nov. 2, 2009.