

Highlights of 8th WebWise conference – Barb Hutchinson
(full report located on the DLIST intranet site; handouts from the presentations are in my office)

The purposes of conference:

- Focus on real life outcomes – critical need to preserve born digital collections, especially those that are in deteriorating condition and at risk of being lost.
- Need to digitize collections throughout the states, create tools for educators and others, and build collaborative activities to share resources and intellect
- Preservation and conservation – working with NEA, NEH, President’s Council, National Archives to put spotlight on nations collections
- Connecting to Collections initiatives – critical need to have emergency plans for caring for nation’s collections

Opening Session:

- OCLC will soon have out a report on social networking
- Smithsonian American Art Museum is using podcasts of museum programs (Mystery for kids “Meet me at Midnight”); cell phone audio tour; audio and video interviews on the web; Voice of American blog about art (has won awards); “Ask Joan of Art!” award winning online reference service.
 - Four areas of emphasis: publish everything, make it findable, involve extraordinary customers, build capacity (not just converting positions but taking case to Congress and funders)

Session 1: Challenge of Preservation Today

- Heritage Health Index: Report on the State of our Physical and Digital Collections – institutions must give priority to providing safe conditions for collections they hold in trust; act locally to make a national impact
- National Archives and Records Administration: Technology is never “the answer”, just tools; digital will become a preservation reformatting option and maybe the only one
- Exit Art Digital Archive: they video tape everything and create podcasts for the public; also create digital photographs for preservation

Luncheon Table Discussion – Trusted Digital Repositories

- Assoc Director of Digital Libraries Program at Indiana University – they have both a DSpace repository for eprints and other traditional library materials (half-time programmer), and a Fedora repository for more customized materials and services (2 full-time programmers and parts of other staff). Repositories are in collaboration with the campus IT unit who host the repositories for the Libraries.
- Discussed the future of DSpace with MIT Librarian. It is becoming a non-profit and they are hiring a director in the next month. Expect the development of the next version will be by member fees, but not out for another year at least.

- OCLC/RLG representative talked about “**TRAC**” – **Trusted Repository Audit and Certification Checklist** – audit and certification of digital repositories can be requested; will look at whole system (session presented on this below)

Session #2 – Digital Preservation Readiness: Are we ready to preserve our digital assets

- Northwest Conservation Center – 2004 grant led to the NADCC methodology for digital preservation in museums and libraries (*URL*). Ideas for contributing to a national strategy:
 - Statewide systems backed up by regional centers
 - More training on digital readiness and preservation
 - Standards checklist (see next program bullet)
 - Guide for smaller institutions
 - National technical assistance program
 - Help institutions bring preservation into mission statements
- **RLG: Auditing and Certification of Digital Repositories: Best Practices and Next Steps**
 - Need to look at organizational infrastructure, digital object management, and technical infrastructure
 - Repositories will differ, but good practice and reliable technical infrastructure are universal
 - Content is KING; identify niche areas
 - *Identifying and Using Existing Metrics: best practices (Getting on TRAC: Trusted Repositories Audit and Certification: Criteria and Checklist (OCLC and CRL, Feb 2007) – soon to be available)*
- Alabama Digital Preservation Network: A Statewide Solution to Preserving Locally-Created Digital Collections
 - Uses LOCKSS for low cost and long term storage needs
 - Helped smaller local repositories by hosting their archives

Washington Update Session: Update on Federal Research and Development Digital Preservation Programs (Clifford Lynch, moderator)

Lynch: there is no technological silver bullet for preservation (design organizations, incentives, share responsibilities in order to carry out preservation and stewardship).

- LC National Digital Infrastructure and Information Program – involves 40 organizations now preserving content from GIS to images; dealing with interoperability and preservation issues
- National Archives and Research Administration - Challenges: obsolescence, variety, complexity, volume, scope, time frame, authenticity, accessibility
- NSF Office of Cyberinfrastructure - *cutting edge dataverse is driving us forward now; we have ability to access widely divergent datasets at one time; visual, interactive, intuitive will be next*

- New strategic vision for cyberinfrastructure will be published next month: Three programs: software development for cyberinfrastructure; community-based ontology/vocabulary/semantics development building on NSF community; digital preservation, and access organizations.
- Issues:
 - Intellectual property: persistent open access, sound recordings, etc.
 - Orphan works: keep ambiguous so can fall back to fair use
 - Digital rights management: some want self-destruct mechanism
 - Access should be independent of software
 - NSF: metadata content format, issues of copyright, confidentiality, provisions for continued access

Session # 3 - Documenting Cultural Heritage: Case Studies in Cultural Heritage Preservation (IMLS funded projects at the National Museum of the American Indian, University of Washington Library Olympic Peninsula Community Museum Project, and University of Wisconsin-Madison Cultural Heritage through Language Preservation project)

2nd Day Keynote: *Digitization for Access AND Preservation: Strategies of the Library of Congress – Deanna B. Marcum, Library of Congress*

Digital Preservation Issues

- digital media lacks durability
- dependent on computers for readability
- encompasses multiple formats
- some items are born digital (web archiving, ejournals)

Five strategic methods developed for preservation

- develop better digital storage
- Refresh digital data
- Migrate to newer formats
- Technical emulation
- Digital archeology

- *Digital preservation requires ongoing management of data from the point of creation
- *Continue to digitize as much material as possible (make available worldwide)
- *Use digitization to help meet preservation needs
- * Need to expose high quality metadata on the web (not just OPACs)

Session # 4 - Cyberinfrastructure for the Humanities and Social Sciences

Our Cultural Commonwealth: Report of the ACLS Commission

www.acls.org/cyberinfrastructure - site where report is available; why another report?

- NSF report of 2003 (Atkins report on cyberinfrastructure for sciences)
- “New information technologies empower research on traditional objects of study”
ACLS Report, p.ii

- Also, a necessity because most human creativity in U.S. is now “born digital” so need a robust cyberinfrastructure (powerful middle layer platform for participation):
 - Discipline specific software
 - Expertise
 - Best practices
 - Tools
 - Collections
 - Policies
 - Collaborative environments

Collaboration and Cyberinfrastructure: Scholarly Collaboration with Museums and Libraries in the Digital Era – Center for History and New Media, George Mason University

- collaboration is new to humanities; in past historians are to create a single work
- used to be a close relationship with archivists in early 20th century
- Why collaborate? Libraries, archives, and museums have the collections they need

Discussion and Wrap-Up – Diane M. Zorich, Cultural Heritage Information Management Consultant

- Cross-cutting themes: everything old is new now, why is that? 2nd theme is collaboration (need to get out of our boxes). 3rd theme that there is no single solution. (SINSS) 4th theme to think holistically – preserve orchard not just peach. 5th theme – preservation is a transformative process (must change the original to preserve it).
- Roadblocks – need for more tools; train people who create digital materials how to preserve it; collecting metadata and documentation and put it in a place; need to borrow shamelessly; are there better economies of scale, i.e. institutional repositories? (Should they be regional?); formalize digital preservation training in library and museum training; how to get word out to smaller institutions?
- Where to go from here? Start incorporating these themes into the agendas of our own institutions. Need more working groups to look at issues.