THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

Department of Library and Information Science
Washington, D.C. 20064
202-319-5085
Fax: 202-319-5574

Cultural Heritage Information Management Forum
Afternoon Session Schedule, Friday, June 5, 2015
1:30 - 3:00 PM

Digital Stewardship for the Future, Moderator: Jacqueline Protka

Advancing Stewardship: Strategic Uses of Digital Access and Online User Engagement

Riccardo Ferrante, Director of Digital Services & IT (Smithsonian Institution Archives)

Keeping up with the stewardship needs of our cultural heritage collections is always a challenge. Carefully managing and preserving these collections has meant providing carefully controlled and limited access. From its early days, this has meant curated exhibits showcasing a very small percentage of an institution's collections. In the 21st century, does that paradigm continue to hold true? What influence does popular use of new technology bring to bear? How do generational shifts in communication behaviors apply? This session will explore how the Smithsonian Institution Archives has leveraged digital access and nurtured online user communities to advance the stewardship of its collections, analog and born-digital holdings that document the development and activities of a unique American cultural and scientific institution.

I Want to Use Your Collections!

Sheila Brennan, Associate Director of Public Projects (Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University)

We all know there is value in digitizing cultural heritage collections, but how do we imagine those collections are used by different audiences? How much did you think about audience and use when publishing your newest digitized collections? Doing any type of public-facing digital work requires an intentional decision from the beginning of the project that identifies and addresses audiences in the design, approach, and content, even before the official project outreach. Decisions made about output formats and usage rights influence how widely collections are accessed, used, and championed. I will discuss how digital public history projects can introduce new audiences to open cultural heritage collections. Looking to art museums who are

leading in this realm, I will also argue that history institutions need better digital strategies that open up their collections for use and re-use, engendering good will and stewardship from new audiences.

What happens if I press this red button?" Strategies and Insights to Steward our Cultural Heritage

Bradley Daigle, Director of Digital Curation Services (University of Virginia)

This presentation will look at the many factors involved in the stewardship of cultural heritage materials. In particular, the curation of digital materials poses new questions of complexity, scope, and strategy that do not necessarily apply equally to analogue materials. How does an organization plan for the management of hybrid collections? What infrastructure is required to steward both emerging and legacy born digital content? What can be learned from emerging technologies and partnerships such as ArchivesSpace, BitCurator, and other tools? How can preservation consortia like the Academic Preservation Trust and the Digital Preservation Network be leveraged by institutions of all sizes? Do we have sufficient business models in place to make the right decisions? What do we need to have in order to avoid pushing the big, red panic button?

When one surveys the landscape of curatorial options in the cultural heritage field it is easy to become lost and overwhelmed. This presentation is meant to provide the opportunity for discussion based on this highly complex and evolving set of issues. Come prepared to ask questions and share insights into how we can collectively work together to solve some of the most pressing concerns we have in the management of cultural heritage information.

The National Digital Platform for Libraries and Museums

Trevor Owens, Senior Program Officer, Institute of Museum and Library Services

Picture the following scenarios: A librarian in Utah develops and shares a plugin for an open source repository system that is reused by libraries in three other states; a curator in New York City improves the documentation for open source exhibition software used by staff at museums and libraries around the country; a non-profit develops and runs a series of workshops to equip librarians to install, deploy, configure and connect open source tools to acquire, preserve and provide access to digital objects. In each situation, staff work to solve local needs for their institutions' communities while also contributing directly to regional and national efforts. The local work uses and contributes to the national digital platform for libraries and museums. This presentation will describe both the broad and specific meaning of the national digital platform. Broadly, it can be conceptualized as a way of thinking about the all the digital tools, services, infrastructure and people libraries utilize to meet the needs of their users across the United States. More specifically, it is an area of priority for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grants programs to invest in expanding the digital capability and capacity of libraries across the country.

Developing Future Information Professionals through the National Digital Stewardship Residency

Kristopher Nelson, Office of Strategic Initiatives (Library of Congress)

The Library of Congress and the Institute of Museum and Library Services have developed a postgraduate residency program in digital stewardship that aims to bridge the gap between classroom education and professional experience. The mission of the National Digital Stewardship Residency (NDSR) program is to build a dedicated community of professionals who will advance our capabilities in managing, preserving and making accessible the digital record of human achievement.

The pilot residency consisted of ten residents and was completed in Washington, DC in spring 2014. After the successful completion of the first program cohort, 100% of the resident graduates accepted jobs and fellowships in the field of digital preservation. Furthermore, 100% of the residents reported that the program increased their knowledge and skills in digital preservation.

This presentation will focus on the knowledge and skills necessary for future information management professionals to address actual on-the-job challenges and how the NDSR program serves to provide an advanced field experience to reinforce classroom preparation.

The discussion will highlight lessons learned from the first cohort, including the direction for present and future NDSR programs. Participants will learn about the program's significance for the cultural heritage community and acquire information about collaborative opportunities for the development of future information professionals.