Preserving eScholarship and Digitized Special Collections

Distributed Digital Preservation

Bill Donovan
donovawf@bc.edu
Summary

As stewards of eScholarship and digitized special collections, we are responsible for saving these and other treasures effectively and economically.

One approach for digital preservation is being spearheaded by the MetaArchive Cooperative; collections are replicated by peer institutions to guard against loss. The MetaArchive approach is one model for cultural memory organizations to consider adopting/adapting for their own use.
Rationale for this talk

- Not recruiting for MetaArchive Cooperative
- DDP = a work in progress
- Just one approach, but promising
  - Adaptable for other “CMO” consortia?
  - Cultural memory organizations (CMOs)
- Perspective of just one member
- Ulterior motive: convince management
Special Collections

Bobbie Hanvey photographic archives

About the Bobbie Hanvey Photographic Archives

Bobbie Hanvey is an award-winning photographer living and working in Northern Ireland. The John J. Burns Library acquired the first part of the Bobbie Hanvey Photographic Archives in 2001, with major additions to the collection made in 2008 and 2009, bringing the total number of negatives in the Hanvey Archives to more than 50,000.

Hanvey's photographs comprise a comprehensive documentation of people and life in the North of Ireland beginning in the 1970s through circa 2007. Some photographs feature subjects photographed in various other locations in Ireland. The collection contains portraits, candid images (including weddings and other social events) as well as journalistic images covering public, paramilitary and political activity.

Boston College Libraries, in order to create access for scholars and any interested parties, has initiated a project to digitize, describe, and host the photographs.

The collection is arranged in 13 series, four of which have been digitized thus far. Descriptions and links to each series in the Libraries' online digital repository are found under Series Listing.

Selections from the Collection

Images shown are selections from the four series (out of 13) digitized thus far and available via the web.

To view the slideshow full screen, click the expand icon ▶️

To view selections from a particular series, click the gallery icon ▶️

Browse a selection of the John J. Burns Library's photos on Flicker
“Digital Preservation” defined

“Digital preservation” combines policies, strategies and actions that ensure access to digital content over time.

http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alcts/resources/preserv/defdigpres0408.cfm
**Distributed Digital Preservation (DDP)**

ageographically dispersed sites

Participating Institutions:
- Auburn University
- Boston College
- Clemson University
- Emory University
- Florida State University
- Folger Shakespeare Library
- Georgia Tech
- Library of Congress
- Penn State University
- Pontifícia Universidade Católica
- Rice University
- University of Hull
- University of Louisville
- University of North Texas
- University of South Carolina
- Virginia Tech
“MetaArchive Cooperative”? 

- low-cost, high-impact DDP for “CMOs”  
  - e.g. libraries, research centers, and museums  
- founded in 2004; funding from:  
  - NDIIPP (Library of Congress)  
  - NHPRC (National Archives)  
- **Not** vendor-based; enable CMOs to own and control the process of digital preservation for themselves.
MetaArchives’s networks

1. **The Southern Digital Culture Network** was established in coordination with the Library of Congress in 2004. In this network, we collaborate to preserve a wide range of digital content, including music, video, images, photographs, artwork, text documents, websites, e-journals, and other digital files, all of which relate to the history and culture of the American South.

2. **The Electronic Theses and Dissertations Network**, a collaborative endeavor of the Networked Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations and the MetaArchive Cooperative, preserves the electronic theses and dissertations of its member institutions.

3. **The Transatlantic Slave Trade Network** preserves an international collection of maps, ship logs, manifests, images and other materials relating to slave trade voyages across the Atlantic Ocean.
MetaArchive’s ETD network
Policies & Strategy --- 1

- Flat, Trim, Tight-Knit organization
  - P2P: no supermember, no host institution
  - Minimal overhead, bureaucracy
  - Emphasis on communication & collaboration
    - Committees: steering, technical, content, preservation

- Self-sufficiency
  - avoid outsourcing; retain control
    - cost containment, understand & refine process
  - sustainable sources of funding
Caches (dark archives)
- 6 replications
- Access only via contributing member

Active monitoring of the integrity of stored digital content --- NOT just back-ups

For ETDs, discovery via Networked Digital Library of Theses & Dissertations, NDLTD
Local actions/responsibilities

- Skills & infrastructure
- Copyright responsibility
- Data wrangling
  - Format choices
    - Proprietary versus open formats
      - Bit preservation versus migration
  - Filenaming & directories
- Preservation information (OAIS)
OAIS = Open Archival Information System

Adapted from: “Reference Model for an Open Archival Information System” CCSDS 650.0-B-1 (2002)
OAIS preservation information

- Preservation Description Information
  - Reference Information
  - Provenance Information
  - Context Information
  - Fixity Information
OAIS preservation information

... identifies, and if necessary describes, one or more mechanisms used to provide assigned identifiers for the Content Information. It also provides identifiers that allow outside systems to refer, unambiguously, to a particular Content Information. An example of Reference Information is an ISBN.
OAIS preservation information

... documents the history of the Content Information. ... tells the origin or source of the Content Information, any changes that may have taken place since it was originated, and who has had custody of it since it was originated. Examples of Provenance Information are the principal investigator who recorded the data, and the information concerning its storage, handling, and migration.
… documents the relationships of the Content Information to its environment. This includes why the Content Information was created and how it relates to other Content Information objects.
OAIS preservation information

Preservation Description Information

Reference Information
Provenance Information
Context Information
Fixity Information

... documents the authentication mechanisms and provides authentication keys to ensure that the Content Information object has not been altered in an undocumented manner. Example: Cyclical Redundancy Check code for a file.
MetaArchive hierarchy

- Archive (6+ caches per network)
  - Genre- or Format-based
- Collections (1+ per member)
  - Collection level metadata
- Archival unit (1+ per ingest)
  - e.g., all ETDs for each year
Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe

- **LOCKSS** open-source software/support to preserve web-published materials
- decentralized digital preservation infrastructure
- **migrates content forward in time**
- bits & bytes **continually audited & repaired**
- MetaArchive members also join LOCKSS
Private LOCKSS network (PLN)

- PLN is a LOCKSS network deployed by a set of like-minded institutions in order to preserve content in a closed preservation network.

- Not maintained by the Stanford University-based LOCKSS staff
Electronic Theses and Dissertations at Boston College

LOCKSS Manifest Page

Collection Info:

- Institution: Boston College
- Contact Info: etdadmin

Links for LOCKSS to start its crawl:

- [18640905-20081231](#) AU for 09/05/1864 to 12/31/2008

LOCKSS system has permission to collect, preserve, and serve this Archival Unit.
Archival unit

Electronic Theses and Dissertations at Boston College

Manifest list for AU 09/05/1864 to 12/31/2008

- Benoit, Marie Saint Elphege 1967
- Benakis, Kristen 2004
- Koster, Katharine 2006
- Thompson, Matthew Charles Glenn 2005
- Gormley, Ann Marie 2005
- Goodhue, Laura 2005
- Aronzon, Stephanie 2005
- Kita, Caroline A. 2004
- Carr, Derek W 2004
- Voltolina, Vanessa 2006
- Caldwell, Robert 2003
- Kang, Bryan 2003
- Chapin, Daniel 2004
- Tress, Benjamin 2008
- Lawrence, Stephen Caleb 2007
- Zhao, Yu 2008
- Wieland, Laura Caroline 2008
- Sieber, Joshua Daniel 2008
- Rubio, Margarita 2008
- Rowan, Jamin Creed 2008
- Dougherty, Sara L. 2008
- Campbell, Leslie Ann 2008
- Burks, Heather Elizabeth 2008
- Fu, Shihe 2005
- Kaufman, Karen C 2008
Digital object and its metadata

Electronic Theses and Dissertations at Boston College

Manifest for Chang, Lauren Kawehionalani 2007

- Metadata and Relationships
- ETD PDF

http://dcollections.bc.edu/webclient/DeliveryManager?metadata_request=true&GET_XML=1&pid=71872

http://dcollections.bc.edu/webclient/DeliveryManager?pid=71872
Fundamental Failings: Understanding the United Nations as an Organization and the Future of UN Peacekeeping Reform

This paper is an attempt to study the United Nations through the lens of organizational theory, and in particular, the theoretical framework as outlined by Allison and Zelikow in Essence of Decision, in order to understand the implementation patterns of the UN in regards to the Brahimi Report as reported and analyzed by the Henry L. Stimson Center. The findings of this report conclude that the UN is capable of change as demonstrated by its ability to comply with certain Brahimi Report recommendations, but is resistant to change, due to the structure of the organization. This does not mean, however, that it is fundamentally unable to do so. Attempts at reform must be able to circumvent these obstacles through targeted, direct action, for the Brahimi Report recommendations which received the highest implementation ratings were those incremental organizational reforms that targeted specific aspects of peacekeeping operations. Resistance to change within the UN, be it on behalf of individuals, departments, or Member States, is a huge obstacle to change, further compounding the obstacles to reform that the UN faces simply as an organization. Future reforms must thus be framed in a way that specifically grasps the attention of the groups/members involved in the reform, making the issue as pertinent and sensitive to them as it is for the success of UN peace operations in general.

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FUNDAMENTAL FAILINGS: UNDERSTANDING THE UNITED NATIONS AS AN ORGANIZATION AND THE FUTURE OF UN PEACEKEEPING REFORM

by

Lauren K. Chang

Submitted in partial fulfillment of graduation requirements for the degree of
Plug-in

An XML file that instructs the LOCKSS software how to ingest and preserve content.

Each cache on the network writes a plug-in for its collection, enabling other caches to replicate its content.
Security

- Copies on different power grids
- All copies not accessible to one person
- Each cache secure and for DDP-only
- Security-enhanced Linux
- SSL-encrypted inter-cache communication
- IP address based Firewall exceptions
For more details...

A Guide to Distributed Digital Preservation

Edited by Katherine Skinner and Matt Schultz

http://metaarchive.org/GDDP
MA regional library systems

Massachusetts Networks:

CLAMS*  MBLN  SAILS*
NOBLE*  C/W MARS*  MVLC
Minuteman*  OCLN