To the members of the George Cunha and Susan Swartzburg Award Committee,

It is with pleasure that I submit this nomination for the *National Digital Stewardship Alliance* (NDSA) to be considered for the George Cunha and Susan Swartzburg Award.

(Additionally, to provide full disclosure, I should note that although this is not formally a "self-nomination" I do currently serve as volunteer chair of the NDSA Coordination Committee. Many of my colleagues would be willing to submit this nomination, but most of the organizations, and organization with which I am affiliated and work closely are also organizational members of NDSA. So please let me know if a nomination by an affiliate from a non-member organization is required.)

Sincerely,

Micah Altman
Director of Research, MIT Libraries
Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

Nomination Statement for the National Digital Stewardship Alliance

Founded in 2010, the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) is a consortium of more than 160 organizations that are committed to the long-term preservation of digital information. NDSA's mission is to establish, maintain, and advance the capacity to preserve our nation's digital resources for the benefit of present and future generations. NDSA member institutions come from all sectors, and include universities, consortia, professional societies, commercial business, professional associations, and government agencies at the federal, state, and local level.

The NDSA is characterized by organizational innovation; collaboration across traditional professional institutional boundaries; a commitment to the advancement and dissemination of best practices, standards, and disciplinary knowledge through collaboration, transparency, and outreach; and a focus on translating community effort and knowledge into high-impact practical solutions.

Organizational innovation. The NDSA exemplifies organizational innovation. The aim of the NDSA is to accomplish high-impact work in a collaborative manner. NDSA accomplishes this work without membership fees—by attracting and coordinating the efforts of a wide spectrum of institutions. NDSA has catalyzed a group of organizations that are aligned in their interest to preserve digital content for long-term access, by focusing on participants needs to share knowledge of good practice, and to broadly promote stewardship.

Collaboration across traditional boundaries. In the ever-changing landscape of digital preservation, the NDSA offers librarians, museum curators, digital archivists, commercial content stewards, and others interested in the preservation of digital materials an opportunity to connect with others outside their field of business who share similar goals and challenges. The members of the NDSA represent a wide variety of disciplines, many domains, and multiple sectors, all coming together to tackle the shared challenges of archiving and providing access to critical digital information.

Commitment to the advancement of disciplinary knowledge. By bringing together leading content stewards from multiple sectors through the efforts of working groups, and actively soliciting consultation from experts in the field, the NDSA has advanced knowledge of the digital preservation and electronic archives professions. Further, the NDSA commitment to transparency and public engagement has been demonstrated through the extraordinarily active dissemination of reports, interviews, and activities through a variety of mechanisms (posters, articles, media engagement, social media, Wikipedia, Q&A sites, etc.).

Translating community knowledge into high-impact, practical solutions. The multi-discipline, multi-domain composition of the NDSA encourages the exchange of new solutions and practical work—many focused on identifying and advancing good practice. The NDSA has produced surveys and case studies that have aided the community in identifying and advancing archival

practice, and has produced tools for curators—including recommended levels of preservation, and other resources. These are described in more detail in the following section. .

Over the last two years, NDSA projects have yielded an impressive range of accomplishments promoting preservation of digital materials. These projects have extended the state of disciplinary knowledge, advanced the state of digital preservation practice, and disseminated information about needs for and approaches to long-term access to a wide audience.

Extending Knowledge
- Storage Survey: A description of current long-term archival storage for digital materials and projected storage needs for the future. The information from this survey was shared though a series of blog posts and an article which will be published in *D-Lib*.

- Staffing Survey: Exposed the current state of staffing in libraries and archives around digital preservation. A poster describing this survey won second place at iPRES, and a report describing the full results will be produced this spring.

- Web Harvesting Survey: Exposed the landscape of web archiving activities in the United States—including what organizations or individuals are archiving, what types of web content are being preserved, the tools and services being used, and what type of access is being provided for researchers.

- Content Case Studies: Specific case studies developed around a variety of types of content to share compelling stories that demonstrate the value of digital preservation in our communities.

- NDSA Interview Series: Bringing individuals outside of the organizations and specialties currently participating in the NDSA, but whose work may be relevant to digital preservation, into conversation with the field of digital preservation to inspire new approaches to current challenges. Interviews are published to *The Signal*, the Library of Congress digital preservation blog.

Tools for Advancing Practice
- The Levels of Preservation: A tiered set of recommendations on how organizations should begin to build or enhance their digital preservation systems. A presentation on the Levels was given at Archiving 2013.

- Digital Preservation in a Box: A list of resources that can be used to provide introductory-level education to those who may have little to no knowledge of digital preservation and digital curation issues, and to help them steward their own digital information, which might include photographs, audio, video, electronic mail, personal documents, and web archives.

- Digital Preservation on Wikipedia: Improved the accuracy and breadth of information on the Digital Preservation page on Wikipedia and recast it as an appropriate launch page to more detailed information about standards and best practices. Started a community of wikipedians to maintain and improve the information about digital preservation on Wikipedia.

Dissemination

- The National Agenda for Digital Stewardship annually integrates the perspective of dozens of experts and hundreds of institutions, convened through the Library of Congress, to provide funders and executive decision-makers insight into emerging technological trends, gaps in digital stewardship capacity, and key areas for funding, research and development to ensure that today's valuable digital content remains accessible and comprehensible in the future, supporting a thriving economy, a robust democracy, and a rich cultural heritage.

- NDSA Innovation Awards: the Annual Innovation Awards were established by the National Digital Stewardship Alliance to recognize and encourage innovation in the field of digital preservation stewardship.

- Social media. The NDSA has actively engaged in raising awareness of digital preservation needs, practices, and activities through social media. The NDSA has an active and well-read blog—over 460 posts have generated over **2,200** comments, and averages **35,000** page-views per month. The work of the NDSA is broadly disseminated through other social media properties, including the @NDIIPP Twitter account with 12,000 followers, the monthly Library of Congress Digital Preservation Newsletter with 19,000 subscribers, and the Digital Preservation facebook page with over 4,000 fans.

Supporting Documentation.

The NDSA is committed to transparency and participation. Thus all supporting documents are openly available. These documents and their URLs are listed below:

- Principles, Charter, Membership:

    - www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa

- Tools for advancing practice

    - The Levels of Preservation: blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2012/11/ndsa-levels-of-digital-preservation-release-candidate-one/

    - Digital Preservation in a Box: dpoutreach.net/

    - Digital Preservation Stack Exchange: digitalpreservation.stackexchange.com

- Extending Knowledge through Research and Publication

    - Staffing Survey: digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/documents/NDSA-staff-survey-poster-ipres2012.pdf

- NDSA Web Harvesting Survey:
  digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/working_groups/documents/ndsa_web_archiving_survey_report_2012.pdf

- NDSA Storage Survey. Early analysis of the survey is available here:
  www.dlib.org/dlib/may13/altman/05altman.html

- NDSA Interview Series. An example of the series is:
  blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2011/06/insights-interview-with-david-rosenthal

- NDSA Case Studies Series:

  - Community News:
    digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/working_groups/documents/NDSA_CaseStudy_CommunityNews.pdf

  - Citizen Journalism:
    digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/working_groups/documents/NDSA_CaseStudy_CitizenJournalism.pdf

  - Newspaper ePrints:
    digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/working_groups/documents/NDSA_CaseStudy_NewspaperEPrints.pdf

- Dissemination

  - The National Agenda for Digital Stewardship
    digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/nationalagenda/

  - NDSA bog entries on The Signal:
    blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/

  - Digital Preservation on Wikipedia:
    en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_Digital_Preservation