

Minutes of the
Cultural Heritage Content Team
Content Working Group
NDSA

Teleconference 31 August 2012, 3:00 PM EDT

Attending: Deborah Rossum, Rachel Howard, Jennie Levine Knies & Erik Rau

All discussed the oral history digitization projects that Rachel, Jennie, and Erik had researched and typed into the Google Doc that Jon created at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CwNNqmOOP90dWeztnL-9rCedAgOwb_MeEozqakaX8E0/edit

One aspect that became apparent was the range of the provisions these projects made for preservation. Rachel noted that in the case of the Endangered Languages Project, Google plans to transition oversight over to British Columbia-based First Peoples' Cultural Council and Eastern Michigan's Institute for Language Information and Technology, but that no assignment of preservation duties had been planned.

In the case of the Visual Accent and Dialog Archive, Jennie reported that the content is contributed via YouTube, and contributions are to be indexed by a special tag. This leaves preservation in YouTube's hands.

By contrast, the American Philosophical Society has preservation standards, and the main issues have been less on the technical aspect of preservation and more on the more culturally sensitive topics of ownership and access. The APS is self-consciously trying to develop the project as a complete model, including IP issues, while the Endangered Languages Project simply refers participants to the Code of Ethics of the American Anthropological Association and to the Google terms of service of its various products

Deborah stressed that in the SCOLA.org project, the main questions have been: who gets access, who owns the final result, where will it be housed, who has responsibility for preservation?

Next steps were discussed. Erik identified four areas that should be addressed in the case study: content, preservation, access, and intellectual property (the last overlapping with the first three). Rachel was of the opinion that the basic components of a case study are now before us, and cautioned that the final document should be less detailed but raise the important issues and considerations involved with maintaining digital collections.

It was agreed that the question of whether we should aim at specific recommendations should be an issue to raise with Abbie, Cathy, and everyone else at the Content Working Group conference call on Wednesday, 11 AM, EDT.

What the tasks of the working teams will be after the completion of the case study, due by the end of the year, is another issue to raise in Wednesday's call.

No time frame was determined for the next working team conference call. [Note: I'll develop a doodle poll for that, pending on the outcome of Wednesday's conversation. -er]

The meeting adjourned about 3:30 PM EDT.