

2014 National Agenda for Digital Stewardship

Executive Summary

Substantial work is needed 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. The 2014 National Agenda for Digital Stewardship integrates the perspective of dozens of experts and hundreds of memory institutions provides funders and other executive decision-makers with insight into emerging technological trends, gaps in digital stewardship capacity, and key areas for development. It is meant to inform, rather than replace, individual organizational efforts, planning, goals, or opinions. Its aim is to offer inspiration and guidance and suggests potential directions and areas of inquiry for research and future work in digital stewardship.

The *Agenda* outlines the challenges and opportunities related to digital preservation activities in four broad areas: Organizational Roles, Policies, and Practices; Digital Content Areas; Infrastructure Development; and Research Priorities. The sections are arranged from the most comprehensive and encompassing topics to sequentially drill down to more specific challenges and recommendations. The Organizational Roles, Policies, and Practices section discusses the overarching challenges the digital preservation community faces. The Digital Content Areas section highlights specific kinds of content that need attention. The Infrastructure Development section identifies opportunities and makes specific recommendations for how the digital preservation community can respond. The Research Priorities section provides detailed recommendations for future efforts in areas of research that are critical to the advancement of both basic understanding and the effective practice of digital preservation.

Organizational Roles, Policies, and Practices

Despite continued preservation mandates, it has become increasingly difficult to adequately preserve valuable digital content because of a complex set of interrelated societal, technological, financial and organizational pressure, including:

- Increased scope of responsibilities (data management, education of content creators, etc.)
- Growing financial pressures - increased costs and decreasing resources
- Lack of adequate staff, in numbers and expertise (refer to the staffing survey)
- Increased complexity and volume of data (see the comments in the content section)
- Rapidly accelerating technological change
- Evolving data management, security and compliance policies
- Complex and evolving landscape of rights management
- Lack of prioritization of digital preservation by higher administration and those controlling budgets

As a community, we need to dramatically increase cross-organizational cooperation to increase the impact and investments made by individual institutions. We must work together to raise the profile of digital preservation and campaign for more resources and higher priority given to digital preservation. Further, there is a need to increase outreach activities and education about the importance and real cost of digital preservation.

Digital Content Areas

Born digital and digitized content presents a multitude of challenges to stewards tasked with preservation, whether it be with the size of data to preserve, the selection of content when they can't preserve it all, and the ways in which to store and migrate content to new formats so that long-term preservation is ensured.

Areas of content of particular concern include:

- Electronic Records
- Research Data
- Web and Social Media
- Audio and Video
- Digital Content Stored on Obsolete or Deteriorating Media

Across these areas, content value, and selection represent a core challenge that organizations need to address. Furthermore research is required to develop theoretically grounded and empirically tested models of information valuation.

Infrastructure Development

Successful digital preservation requires taking a broad view of infrastructure: the report defines it generally as the set of interconnected technical elements that provide a framework for supporting an entire structure of design, development, deployment and documentation in service of applications, systems and tools for digital preservation. This definition includes hardware, software, and systems. Organizational policies, practice, and regulation inform many of the observations and recommendations for the development of digital stewardship infrastructure.

Specific priorities identified for infrastructure investment include:

- File Format Action Plan Development
- Interoperability and Portability in Storage Architectures
- Integration of Digital Forensics Tools
- Ensuring Content Integrity

Moreover, the need for integration, interoperability, portability and related standards and protocols stands out as a theme across all of these areas of infrastructure development.

Research Priorities

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Research is critical to the advancement of both basic understanding and the effective practice of digital preservation. Research in digital preservation is under-resourced. In part this is because the payoff from long-term access occurs primarily in the medium-long term, and tends to benefit broad and diverse communities

This report identified five specific areas in which research investment can be expected to yield unusually large impact:

- Applied Research for Cost Modeling and Audit Modeling
- Understanding Information Equivalence & Significance
- Policy Research on Trust Frameworks
- Preservation at Scale
- The Evidence Base for Digital Preservation

Funders may wish to explicitly consider the longer term and broader impacts of research in these areas. Furthermore, decision makers should recognize that basic research in these areas is often needs to be paired with the development, support, and evaluation of infrastructure.

Conclusion

Effective digital stewardship is vital to maintaining the nation's cultural heritage, scientific evidence base, and the public records necessary for understanding and evaluating government actions. The *2014 National Agenda for Digital Stewardship* surfaces emerging technological trends, gaps in digital stewardship capacity, and opportunities for future work for digital preservation professionals, decision makers, and others interested in investing in the long term management of digital content.

Introduction

Our culture is a digital culture. The photographs of our families; the electronic communities where we share and receive news; the maps that give us new insight on where we're going and how to get there; the films and music that shape our shared experiences -- all digital. Our digital creations represent an incalculable investment in time, energy, and resources that require responsible care to remain viable over time.

Digital stewardship is a series of managed activities, policies, strategies, and actions that ensure that digital content of vital importance to the nation is acquired, managed, organized, preserved, and accessible for as long as necessary. Digital stewardship activities protect important content in spite of changes in technology, economic sustainability, or institutional capacity.

The 2014 National Agenda for Digital Stewardship highlights emerging technological trends, identifies gaps in digital stewardship capacity, and provides funders and decision-makers with insight into the work needed 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. It is meant to inform, rather than replace, individual organizational efforts, planning, goals, or opinions. It offers inspiration and guidance and suggests potential directions and areas of inquiry for research and future work in digital stewardship.

The Agenda is sponsored by the National Digital Stewardship Alliance. The NDSA is a voluntary membership organization of leading government, academic, and private sector organizations with digital stewardship responsibilities. Members of the NDSA collaborate to establish, maintain, and advance the capacity to preserve our nation's digital resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

The NDSA secures and broadens access to the expanding digital resources of the United States of America; develops and coordinates sustainable infrastructures for the preservation of digital content; advocates standards for the stewardship of digital objects; builds a community of practice; promotes innovation; facilitates cooperation between previously unaligned sectors; and raises awareness of the enduring value of digital resources and the need for active stewardship.

With its national focus, the NDSA is in a unique position to identify and communicate the challenges, opportunities, and priorities for digital stewardship activity in the United States. The NDSA joint leadership group, digital stewardship experts elected from a cross-section of diverse sectors of the U.S. economy, including libraries and archives, academic technology and commercial concerns, authored this strategy agenda.

The *Agenda* outlines the challenges and opportunities related to digital preservation activities in four broad areas: Organizational Roles, Policies, and Practices; Digital Content Areas; Infrastructure Development; and Research Priorities. The sections are arranged to go from the most comprehensive and encompassing topics to sequentially drill down to more specific challenges and recommendations. The Organizational Roles, Policies, and Practices section discusses the overarching challenges the digital preservation community faces. The Digital Content Areas section highlights specific kinds of content that need attention. The Infrastructure Development section identifies opportunities and makes specific recommendations for how the digital preservation

community can respond. The Research Priorities section provides detailed recommendations for future efforts in areas of research that are critical to the advancement of both basic understanding and the effective practice of digital preservation.

Organizational Roles, Policies, and Practices

Despite continued preservation mandates, it has become increasingly difficult to adequately preserve digital content because of a complex set of interrelated societal, technological, financial and organizational pressures:

- Increased scope of responsibilities (data management, education of content creators, etc.)
- Growing financial pressures - increased costs and decreasing resources
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The pressures listed above are interrelated, therefore the most effective solutions will address multiple factors. The whole suite of problems must be addressed together for the most effective change.

As a community, we must work together to raise the profile of digital preservation and campaign for more resources and higher priority given to digital preservation. There is a need to increase outreach activities and education about the importance and real cost of digital preservation.

We need to dramatically increase cross-organizational cooperation and division of labor to multiply the breadth of impact and investments made within individual institutions. It remains impractical for every institution to develop expertise in every aspect of the digital preservation challenge; different institutions could specialize in different aspects and rely on each other for some functions. If each institution does not have the resources to fully fund all the digital preservation responsibilities and activities, having each institution spend on something different and sharing capabilities with each other would place investments wisely where they could make a real impact. If each institution cannot hire the required number of staff and the variety of types of expertise, collaborative hiring and sharing of staff and skills could help.

It is key to identify preservation functions that could be outsourced (the NDSA Digital Preservation Staffing Survey revealed some functions) versus the functions that each organization prefers to or must do for itself (e.g. planning, alignment with parent organization's goals and designated communities). It is also essential to establish a network of preservation service providers who can provide different specialized services so every organization does not need to provide all the services it needs for itself. This requires making visible the different services offered, areas of expertise, and standards

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activities of organizations active in the digital preservation community. The community could then use that visibility to find opportunities where multiple organizations could benefit from a division of labor and identify gaps where something necessary is not getting done. This work would allow members in the community to identify potential specializations, then publicize commitments of organizations to specialize in a particular function so others can begin to rely on it.

This high level of collaboration between many organizations requires several support elements to be in place. The work that still needs to be done is at a community level and includes developing mature certification and trust frameworks; encouraging wide adoption of interoperability standards that would allow organizations to rely on each other more easily for predictable and equivalent outcomes; and establishing a method of providing assurance that the digital preservation community is participating in all relevant standards bodies so that institutions can trust that their digital preservation interests are being represented by someone in the community when it matters. The digital preservation community needs comprehensive coverage on all critically relevant standards bodies, and coordination so that it is clear who has taken responsibility for what. Additionally, there is a need to identify more cost-efficient methods of preservation. Research needs to be conducted on cost-efficient but effective preservation, and sustainable financing/billing models.

The digital preservation community also needs to develop and share digital preservation training and staffing resources, especially for training or hiring digital preservation staff (e.g. curricula, training materials, position descriptions). Digital preservation professionals continue to be needed in the intersection between IT and content creators to ensure the longevity of content. There continues to be a need for professional, trained curatorial staff to perform the functions of digital stewardship activity. As the stewardship of digital materials becomes a responsibility for an increasing number and variety of institutions, education, training, and workforce development are seen as key elements in supporting the expertise necessary for building a qualified base of current and future of digital stewards.

Key issues in this area include exploring more practical, immersive internships and fellowship for undergraduates and graduate students, the need for greater fluency with technologies across the field, more robust and affordable professional development opportunities, the economics and efficacy of online learning, better understanding of career paths and organizational roles for digital curators and preservationists, affiliations with data management and preservation in non-humanities disciplines, and exploring collaborative opportunities between educational programs, students, and employers in the digital preservation community. Continued exploration of new curriculum models for graduate education as well as innovative training and professional development mechanisms for those currently in the field is needed. Potential ways in which training for digital preservation curatorial roles can be extended to a broader reach of professionals should be explored.

Digital Content Areas

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Born digital and digitized content presents a multitude of challenges to stewards tasked with preservation, whether it be with the size of data to preserve, the selection of content when they can't preserve it all, and the ways in which to store and migrate content to new formats so that long-term preservation is ensured.

Scalability is an immediate concern as an ever growing amount of digital content is produced; how to deal with "big data" is now a commonly heard concern in digital preservation communities. More and more people have access to tools and technologies to create digital content (increasingly with mobile devices equipped with cameras and apps developed to generate and share content broadly). The web continues to be a publishing mechanism for organizations, individuals, and governments, as publishing tools become easier to use.

Content selection policies vary widely depending on the organization and its mission. There are many issues that organizations discuss and decide upon when addressing their collections. Some are wide-ranging and apply to all digital preservation collections. For instance, determining the long-term value of content is frequently a challenge. Defining who decides the value of a collection is also an on-going challenge. Individual organizations and the digital preservation community at large all struggle with countering the expectation that everything digital can be captured and preserved. The question of the relationship between file format types and storage space and selection considerations remains unresolved. As does the role of deselection in digital archives. Selection policies in organizations are most often topically based, but some digital content categories, described here, do present particular challenges.

Electronic Records

Electronic records, and the loss of the underlying information these records contain poses a significant threat to the American memory. Whether it's an electronic diary, email correspondence, or documenting government transactions, all of these records are at risk of disappearing without thoughtful action to preserve important information. Preserving electronic records efficiently and in a cost effective manner remains a tremendous challenge that needs to be addressed on many levels. Culling through the volume of records generated and held by individuals and institutions in electronic format is requiring changes to traditional paper-based procedures. Rather than relying on files clerks to organize and store information, the information creator – each of us – will be responsible for properly managing his or her own electronic records. Education and a proper infrastructure will be a critical factor in teaching the public about the deficiencies of long-term electronic preservation and how to properly save important materials.

Research Data

Curating digital research data illustrates some of the most acute challenges with digital content. The sheer *scale* of research data represents a daunting curation task. With new scientific instrumentation being developed and the growing use of computer simulations, a research team can generate many terabytes of data per day. Data curators face managing at the petabyte scale (a petabyte equals 1,000 terabytes) and well beyond. Scientific fields such as particle physics with its collider data and astronomy with its sky

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surveys as well as research fields and methods such as bioinformatics, crystallography, and engineering design generate massive amounts of digital data. Large scale digitized content being created by initiatives like the Google Books project pose similar challenges. Digital research data are complex objects to curate. They are very heterogeneous, ranging from numeric and image-based, to text, geospatial, and other forms. There are many different information standards used (and not used) as well as many different approaches to information structure (e.g., XML-structured documents vs. fixed image and textual file formats). The research communities that produce data are equally diverse; their data management practices vary greatly within a discipline as well as between disciplines. There can also be commercial interests in the data and associated data practices. Perhaps the overriding challenges in all respects to digital research data are the affiliated costs. Domain researchers, technologists, information scientists, and policymakers are searching for sustainable economic models with the ability to accurately predict costs and to balance them across the lifecycle (e.g. costs for ingest, archival management, and dissemination), and through federated inter-institutional repository systems. There is no “one size fits all” approach when it comes to resolving the management challenges of research data. A path forward would be to galvanize digital preservation/curation community members around these four data challenges – scale, complexity, research communities’ practices, and costs -- study the issues more in-depth and begin recommending new solutions.

Web and Social Media

While cultural heritage organizations and others have been preserving web content since 1996, challenges continue in preserving born digital web content as websites become more complex and the scale of the web continues to grow. Crawlers used to collect content, as well as access tools used to render the web archives, are increasingly challenged in keeping up with the explosion of ever-complex technologies: multimedia, mashups, deep-web, databases, and the increasing prevalence of heavily scripted site navigational paradigms that do not prevent the collection of data but make replay nearly impossible without changes to the browser configuration of a visitor to the archive. More and more content published and created on the web is unable to be preserved using available tools.

The International Internet Preservation Consortium (IIPC) developed the Heritrix web crawler and is working to develop a community to stabilize, improve, and support this open source tool in the future. Broader involvement by web archivists not involved directly in IIPC is critical. Development and exploration of improvements to access tools, including data mining tools for large datasets of web archives, are also needed. Full-text indexing of web archives continues to challenge researchers and the community of web archivists, particularly as archives expand and reach multiple terabyte and petabyte size.

The increasing use of social media by organizations and individuals can also be a challenge to preserve, as services hosting this content do not have preservation as a business model and changes they make in how they serve up content can upset the preservation process. The rate of publication/site implementations and change for large social media aggregation sites is, on average, every 3-6 weeks. This makes it virtually

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impossible to keep pace with an archival quality capture of these resources without direct access to the site feeds which are not available to most cultural heritage institutions even for a fee.

Tools being developed in recent years, primarily to meet the needs of business compliance regulations, are able to capture more of this type of material on a small scale. Web archiving technologies need to be translated to open source tools that scale to the needs of cultural heritage institutions and others collecting large amounts of data.

In addition to these concerns, there are privacy issues with web and social media. Both websites and social media rely on the cycles of creation of more content, new content, and connections among content sources and users. At the same time, there is an interest in capturing and preserving the content creation and connections, including the unfolding of those cycles over the lifetime of the content and the connections. The challenges for an individual to define and sustain a desired level and type of privacy in our connected online worlds have been well-documented. A different set of challenges exist for institutions to address privacy issues in the digital files that result from the capture and preservation of websites and social media interactions. Research and analysis would be useful in applying privacy-related practices from other areas, such as university human research protection programs, and personal security practices of organizations such as banks and government agencies to digital preservation practices.

Audio, Film, and Video

One hundred years ago it was very hard to make a movie. It required skills, tools and materials that were difficult to obtain. Audio recordings were also a specialized process not available to most individuals. Now many of us carry devices in our pockets that can record, edit and disseminate our audio and moving image masterpieces. This flood of digital content poses many vexing problems for the stewards of these materials. Digital preservation and stewardship of motion picture film, audio, and video presents a multitude of challenges. There is a continuing and evolutionary need for standards, such as preservation quality reformatting and a myriad of issues that arise from creating and managing large files-- not only storage, but the long-term ability to manage and playback these files. Additionally, while there should be a persistent and collaborative synergy between the movie and recording industries to work with cultural heritage institutions, such is not always the case. It is critical that both the content creators and the stewards of these irreplaceable assets work together to develop standards and workflows that will ensure the long-term access to our recorded and moving image heritage.

Digital Content Stored on Obsolete or Deteriorating Media

As more archives and repositories come to terms with managing born digital content there will be a growing need for the management of disk images. One critical step in the long-term management of born digital content is to remove a copy of all the digital files from the physical media. This means digitally transforming hard drives, CD, DVD, floppies, zip disks, etc., often working with media that is obsolete (i.e., older, not still in use). These transformed materials can be either forensic or logical disk images of the physical media. As hard drives get larger and the storage capacity for an individual can

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easily jump to the terabytes this will pose a significant long term challenge for digital preservation, particularly at smaller organizations. Additionally, with obsolete media it may be difficult to identify and obtain working drives or drivers needed to access the data, and with older files it could be difficult to obtain software needed to open and view files as originally written.

Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure can be generally defined as the set of interconnected technical elements that provide a framework for supporting an entire structure of design, development, deployment and documentation in service of applications, systems and tools for digital preservation. This includes hardware, software, and systems. Organizational policies, practice, and regulation inform many of the observations and recommendations for the development of digital stewardship infrastructure.

File Format Action Plan Development

The sustainability of digital file formats and the risks of file format obsolescence persist as significant challenges for stewardship organizations. Now that stewardship organizations are amassing large collections of digital materials it is important to shift from more abstract considerations about file format obsolescence to develop actionable strategies for monitoring and mining information about the heterogeneous digital files they are managing. Recent analysis of image formats and HTML doctypes offers a valuable example of how organizations can analyze and share their data for analysis by third party digital preservation researchers. By collecting and sharing this kind of data, it becomes possible for stewardship organizations to shift to think about developing file format action plans based on the size of the risks that particular obsolescence threats pose to the relative size those formats play in the organizations' managed content. Implementation of tools and services for creating file format action plans is needed to make timely execution of file format plans a reality for data stewards.

There is a need to itemize and assess the digital content that organizations are actively managing. Stewardship organizations should prioritize the kinds of the development of file format action plans based on the kinds of content they are actually managing. Common development of processes for executing format action plans would benefit all organizations within the digital preservation community. The digital preservation community would further benefit from organizations sharing their assessments of institutional risk and their plans for mitigating that risk and addressing file format problems with specific plans.

Migration, Interoperability, and Content Integrity

In 2011, when NDSA members were asked about plans for storage systems and architectures, 64% of respondents agreed or strongly agree that their organization plans to make significant changes in technologies in their preservation storage architecture within the next three years. This underscores a fact that digital preservation practitioners already know quite well, digital preservation is made possible through a long chain of migration from layers of hardware systems and software systems to future layers. This highlights

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the need for interoperability across different layers in these systems. In addition, easy migration of digital content from one system to another between organizations such as vendor to client or partner to partner would benefit the community enormously, particularly with building coalitions around preservation.

This points to a clear need for standards and the development of model plans for ensuring end-to-end data integrity in these migrations going forward. Much of the current practices are developed on an ad hoc, one-off basis. Given that the forward cycle of migration is clearly going to be a continual part of digital preservation work it is essential to develop clear guidance on how to plan for and manage these changes. This kind of guidance development would inevitably point to issues that require further development of protocols and standards for interoperability to help ensure continuity.

There is a need for development of standards, practices and strategies that directly address migration both lateral migration and forward migration. Case studies and more evidence of activities currently underway need to be shared throughout the digital preservation community.

As stewardship organizations manage increasingly large and complex sets of data the needs for interoperability at various levels within the technical hardware and software stack that makes digital preservation becomes increasingly important. This includes interoperability of storage devices, hardware, data tape, and file systems software. This would help alleviate bottlenecks in the interrelationship between distinct functions in digital preservation workflows. For example, one NDSA member working with large moving image collections expressed a need, shared by many, to be able to send moving image materials to a vendor to digitize, lay on a LTO tape which could then be directly plugged into their tape library without having to re-ingest everything.

There is a significant need for establishing and promoting technical means by which lower levels of the technology stack can directly integrate without requiring extensive computation and processing at higher levels. It would be valuable if there were standards and protocols for interoperability. The digital preservation community can encourage this level of interoperability by identifying and promoting standards, elements, metadata, and other topics that would increase the possibility for technical interoperability of tape storage.

Fixity checking is of particular concern in ensuring content integrity. Abstract requirements for fixity checking are useful as principals, but when applied universally can actually have a detrimental effect on some digital preservation system architectures. The digital preservation community needs to establish best practices for fixity strategies for different system configurations. For example, if an organization is keeping multiple copies of material on magnetic tape and wanted to check fixity of content on a monthly basis they may end up continuously reading their tape and very rapidly push their tape systems to the limit of reads for the lifetime of the medium.

There is a clear need for use-case driven examples of best practices for fixity in particular system designs and configurations established to meet particular preservation requirements. This would likely include description of fixity strategies for all spinning disk systems, largely tape based systems, as well as hierarchical storage management systems. A chart documenting the benefits of fixity checks for certain kinds of digital

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preservation activities would bring clarity and offer guidance to the entire community. Something modeled after the NDSA Levels of Digital Preservation would be a particularly useful way to provide guidance and information about fixity checks based on storage systems in use as well as other preservation choices.

Integration of Digital Forensics Tools

As more and more born digital materials are selected for long term digital preservation, the need to integrate digital forensics tools into production workflows for collections becomes paramount. This will require identifying the boundaries between technical infrastructure development and organizational policies, and where there is tension that creates issues for providing access or pursuing work that reduces tension whether it be new or refined policies or services and tools development. Integration of these tools can build on exploratory work using digital forensics. Tools currently under development can be leveraged and workflows can be implemented. Aside from the need for tools and workflow developments there are also important opportunities for organizations to share resources to tackle these issues. In this respect, pioneering new organizational models for centers of stewardship, such as SWAT sites can help to support the development of centers of excellence that help to scale up this kind of activity.

There is a clear need to scale up the basic research in digital forensics tools from the research phase to implementation in production workflows for organizations. This would require investment in scaling up tools and creating collaborative models for sharing resources to make this work possible. The digital preservation community would also benefit from a shared space for exchanging knowledge around how forensics tools are being integrated into production preservation activities.

Research Priorities

This section focuses on areas of research that are critical to the advancement of both basic understanding and the effective practice of digital preservation. Research in digital preservation is under-resourced -- in part because the payoff from long-term access occurs primarily in the medium-long term, and tends to benefit broad and diverse communities. Funding is needed in this area to develop basic theoretical models, extend the evidence base, and to translate research findings into digital preservation practices and tools. Furthermore, digital preservation research is often closely tied to the development and evaluation of infrastructure, which makes it challenging to fund through basic research funding mechanisms. Decision makers should recognize that basic research in these areas is often needs to be paired with the development, support, and evaluation of infrastructure.

Applied Research for Cost Modeling and Audit Modeling

In the near term, there are specific areas of applied research around digital preservation lifecycle issues that need attention. Currently there are limited models for cost estimation for ongoing storage of digital content. Cost estimation models need to be robust and flexible. Different approaches to cost estimation should be explored and

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comparisons of existing models made with emphasis on reproducibility of results. The development of a cost calculator would be of benefit to organizations in making estimates of the long-term storage costs for their digital content. Auditing models also need to be strengthened and further developed. The SafeArchive system and other bit-level auditing practices could be connected to the NDSA Levels of Preservation work to help organizations determine and validate the costs of scaling different auditing schemes.

Research needs to address multiple storage models: locally stored data, distributed preservation networks, data cooperatives, cloud storage, brokered cloud storage systems and hybrid systems need to be addressed in cost models and auditing practices so that organizations can make informed cost-effective digital preservation decisions.

Understanding Information Equivalence & Significance

The multiplicity of instantiations of the same or similar digital objects illustrates the need for basic research and the application of basic research to explore the many ways multiple digital objects could contain equitant informational content given different contexts of significance. For instance, a single photograph may be represented by any number of derivative files of varying sizes, in varying formats, and with different sets of embedded metadata inside it. Similarly, an organization may have 15 PDFs of the same article each with a different cover page, but all of which are substantively identical. Preservation research needs to map out the networks of similarity and equivalence across different instantiations of objects so that they can make better decisions on how to manage content in keeping with notions of what properties of a given set of digital objects are significant to their particular community of use. Research is also required in order to characterize quality and fidelity dimensions, and create methods for computing format-independent fingerprints of content, so that the fidelity of digital objects can be effectively managed over time. In this space, there is potential value in fuzzy hashing algorithms that can map out the similarity of bitstreams, applications to analyze and compare rendered content in different formats (image comparison, extracting and comparing sound frequencies across audio and video files, etc.), and other innovative potential modes for asserting that some aspect of a given set of objects is similar in a particular way to another set of objects. Beyond basic research to develop methods for identifying information equivalence, there is a need for research in different usage contexts to understand when particular modes or levels of information equivalence are relevant to particular stakeholders in particular contexts.

Policy Research on Trust Frameworks

There is a well-recognized identified a taxonomy of potential single-points-of-failure (highly correlated risks), that at minimum, a trustworthy preservation system should mitigate against: These risks include media failure, hardware failure, software failure, communication errors, network failure, media and hardware obsolescence, software obsolescence, operator error, natural disaster, external attack, internal attack, economic failure, and organizational failure.

Geographic risk, curatorial error, internal malfeasance, economic failure, and organizational failure require that replications be diversified across distributed, and often, collaborative organizations.

Use of collaborative institutional mechanisms to mitigate preservation risk is growing. This is reflected in the growth of organizations such as the Global LOCKSS Network, SafeArchive, MetArchive, the Digital Preservation Federation, and the Digital Preservation Network. These organizations and the multi-institutional stewardship approach they represent have increased both in use and in recognition.

Nonetheless, the design and behavior of distributed preservation networks is just beginning to be understood. Developing robust trust frameworks is a critical challenge to addressing these risks – as institutions need to be able measuring and evaluating the reliability and trustworthiness of collaborating organizations and third-party services (such as cloud computing). Measuring and evaluating the trustworthiness of organizations and services is substantial challenge for policy research.

The preservation community has made progress in this direction: Many of the processes identified with trustworthy stewardship of content have been recognized, standardized and documented is the Trustworthy Repositories Audit & Certification (TRAC) criteria and in the newly released ISO standard that has succeeded it. Furthermore a number of organizations are moving forward with formal certification under this ISO 16363 standard.

Notwithstanding, much remains to be done. Few stewardship organizations have obtained trustworthy certification, and a relatively small percentage of stewardship organizations are seeking it. Furthermore, third-party services will not seek it at all. Other lighter-weight approaches to assessment are emerging, such as the Data Seal of Approval, which relies on peer-review of self-assessments.

Furthermore, the current trusted repository approach relies upon a very small subset of mechanisms employed in trust engineering. The role of many other approaches are both under-employed and poorly understood. Moreover, reliability and effectiveness of current trust frameworks has yet to be quantified: How reliable are certification procedures, self-evaluations and the like at identifying good practices? How much do good practices reduce risk of loss? The evidence base is not yet rich enough to answer these questions.

For example, transparency is another key mechanism for mitigation of the risks above that is currently underutilized, and poorly understood within this domain. Implementation transparency implies use of open protocols, and often implies use of open source (or protocols and algorithms with independent, open implementations). Operational transparency involves demonstrating both the process, and the evidence that enables others to independently verify that services are being met. The NDSA principles are an example of a generally stated organizational transparency goal -- although these fall short of being enforceable. More generally, research is needed in the design, implementation and evaluation of use of trustworthy digital stewardship mechanisms, including: rewards and penalties; peer-review; statistical quality control and reliability estimation; incentive compatible mechanisms; threat-modeling and vulnerability

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assessment; portfolio diversification models; transparency – and the release of information permitting direct evaluation of compliance; cryptographic approaches, including cryptographic signatures over semantic content; and generating and managing social evidence of compliance.

Preservation at Scale

Digital collections are growing exponentially. Keeping track of everything and being able to work with and manage content is increasingly difficult. Growing volumes of digital materials will test the financial and operational capabilities of organizations to accomplish preservation activities. Of particular concern are issues around the stewardship of big data and the search and indexing of digital collections at scale.

Institutional responsibilities to serve and preserve big data will also be influenced by user and content creator expectations regarding its maintenance and accessibility. Storage, intellectual and administrative control, and access will all be redefined by the demands of big data. Currently, many organizations lack the expertise or economies-of-scale to store and process petabytes of data. Lack of infrastructure and expertise will require collaborative solutions involving greater automation, scalable processes, and modular, adaptive frameworks. Community-driven scalable solutions to a wide-range of unique and independent preservation activities must be developed. As well, shared infrastructure and open-source solutions will enable greater efficiency and economic feasibility towards the growing volume of digital content that must be preserved. Additionally, research is needed into how the stewardship of "big data" impacts privacy, confidentiality, and personally-identifiable information.

There are persistent issues in terms of indexing and searching across large amounts of content, especially while ensuring moderate reads on content stored on magnetic tape. We can simply no longer hedge our bets on increasingly expensive and fast drives and systems. At this point, there are opportunities to exploit efficiencies in the design of smarter systems and architectures. For example, rebuild parts of indexes when an error occurs to avoid having to stage everything again. There is a need for collaborations with other groups and initiatives in fields addressing issues of scale in digital data, to work on common use cases and to optimize opportunities for building or acquiring cost-effective common solutions.

Strengthening the Evidence Base for Digital Preservation

A common challenge running through this report is the limited amount of empirical evidence available. For example, this report makes clear how effective digital preservation often requires answering questions such as: What is the expected future value of a specified collection of digital content? What content is already being effectively stewarded by other organizations? How much is the expected future cost of preserving that content? How often do different threats to information manifest: For example, what is the likelihood that storage hardware or media fails; software errors cause information loss; stored information becomes inaccessible because of obsolete formats, or loss of other contextual knowledge; of that human error or maliciousness causes loss content in an information system? What is the reliability of current digital

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preservation networks and services? And how successful are other proposed strategies for replication, monitoring, certification, and auditing at preventing loss due to these threats?

The digital preservation community is beginning to develop a shared evidence base that can be used to answer these and similar questions. Recent medium-scale observational studies and field experiments have provided useful insights into the failure rates of spinning disk storage; the proportion of files formats in use at a number of selected major digital repositories; the long-term costs of preserving journal articles in pdf format; and the extent and types of content being stewarded in institutional repositories.

However, these studies need to be broadened and repeated over time to establish a robust evidence base from which generalizable guidance can be drawn. Furthermore, for most questions in digital preservation of the current evidence base is constituted almost entirely of case studies. Case studies are useful for existence proofs, raising awareness of problems, process tracing, hypothesis generation, and other formative analysis, but are generally insufficient to advance our scientific knowledge, create robust predictive models, test causal hypotheses, or to strongly guide decision making.

For example the NDIIPP program's excellent case-study/field experiment in the controlled transfer of complex collections of content demonstrated the challenges of content transfer and the likelihood of failures even in well-controlled cases. However, to make systemically guide decisions in this area, such case studies need to be repeated longitudinally, repeated in different environments, and transformed, eventually into testbeds and conformance tests that can be used to rigorously compare approaches and systems.

Similarly, bit level preservation, which is often characterized as one of the simpler, better understood areas of preservation, lacks systematic metrics and measurements for even simple failure scenarios. Furthermore there is very little information on failures in complex systems using various redundancy, fixity, file transformation (compression, deduplication, encryption), auditing, and repair strategies. Moreover, a search of the disciplines key reference works, bibliographies, and literature databases reveal very few wide-scale empirical studies, probability-based surveys or field experiments, replicable simulation experiments, public test corpuses, or recognized conformance tests.

Broadly, across the field of digital preservation, there is an urgent need to extend the evidence base on which preservation research and policy is founded.

Evidence is needed both to support either general selection of digital preservation practices and methods, or applications of selected digital preservation methods in a specific operational context. And while preservation research should be better informed by cognate disciplines, research in information science and computer science generally target the functioning and use of information systems, and are not focused on the questions of long-term information access, understanding, and value that are central to preservation.

What is needed is to apply the research methodologies already used in other fields that rely heavily on observation of human and system behavior. This includes methodologies such as probability-based surveys of information management practice and outcomes; replicable simulation experiments tied to theoretically grounded models of information management and risk; testbeds and test-corpus which can be used to systematically compare new practices, tools, and methods; and field experiments, in which randomized interventions are applied and evaluated in real operational environments.

Conclusion

Effective digital stewardship is vital to maintaining the nation's cultural heritage, scientific evidence base, and the public records necessary for understanding and evaluating government actions. The aim of the *2014 National Agenda for Digital Stewardship* is to engage a broad set of expertise and perspectives across the digital preservation community in order to identify productive directions for the advancement of practice and research in digital stewardship.

The *2014 National Agenda for Digital Stewardship* surfaces emerging technological trends, gaps in digital stewardship capacity, and opportunities for future work for digital preservation professionals, decision makers, and others interested in investing in the long term management of digital content. The insights provided here into emerging technological trends, gaps in digital stewardship capacity, and opportunities for funders and decision-makers will help shape the how digital content is curated and stewarded.

About the NDSA

Founded in 2010, the [National Digital Stewardship Alliance](http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsaa) (NDSA) is a consortium of institutions 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.

Founded in 2010, the NDSA over 145 members. These members come from 45 states and include universities, consortia, professional societies, commercial businesses, professional associations, and government agencies at the federal, state, and local level. Together, these institutions have contributed over 10,000 hours of expertise to NDSA projects.

NDSA organizations have proven themselves committed to long term preservation of digital information. Our members include universities, consortia, professional societies, commercial businesses, professional associations, and government agencies at the federal, state, and local level.

About the Authors

The Joint Leadership group of the NDSA jointly authored the report and engaged in discussions to identify significant trends and challenges. The membership of the NDSA contributed markedly to these discussions. This dialog was enriched by an extensive range of resources and current research. The joint leadership group is made up of the Coordinating Committee members, the Working Group co-chairs, and the NDSA facilitator:

Micah Altman

Director of Research, MIT Libraries, MIT; Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution.

Dr Micah Altman is Director of Research and Head/Scientist, Program on Information Science for the MIT Libraries, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Altman is also a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at The Brookings Institution. Prior to arriving at MIT, Dr. Altman served at Harvard University for fifteen years as the Associate Director of the Harvard-MIT Data Center, Archival Director of the Henry A. Murray Archive, and Senior Research Scientist in the Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences. Dr. Altman conducts research in social science, information science and research methods -- focusing on the intersections of information, technology, privacy, and politics; and on the dissemination, preservation, reliability and governance of scientific knowledge. Altman serves on the NSDA Coordinating Committee.

Jefferson Bailey

Strategic Initiatives Manager, Metropolitan New York Library Council

<http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsaa/>

Bailey manages programs offering services, funding, and training on digital technologies for the the library, archive, and museum communities. He was formerly a Fellow in Digital Preservation at the Library of Congress, where he worked in the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program and the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education project. Prior to working at LC, he was a manager of digital projects at Brooklyn Public Library and Frick Art Reference Library and has done archival work at NARA, NASA, and The New York Times. He is on the Curriculum Committee of the National Digital Stewardship Residency program and a visiting lecturer in University of Pittsburgh's Library & Information Science graduate program, where he teaches coursework on Introduction to Archives and on Digital Preservation. Bailey is the co-chair of the NDSA Innovation Working Group.

Karen Cariani

Director of Media Library and Archives, WGBH

Since the founding of the department in 1990, the Media Library has provided access to the WGBH Archives by providing research services, rights clearances, and licensing services. In 2003, the Media Library and WGBH Archives merged to form the Media Library and Archives (MLA) which encompasses circulation, accessioning, and preservation activities. Cariani has worked at WGBH since 1984 in television production and archival-related roles. She has 20 plus years of production and project management experience, having worked on numerous award-winning historical documentaries including *MacArthur*, *Rock and Roll*, *The Kennedys*, *Nixon*, and *War and Peace in the Nuclear Age*. She has been project director for WGBH's *Teachers' Domain*, an online collection of multimedia resources for K-12 classrooms; WGBH Open Vault, a digital library for the WGBH Archives; WGBH Mellon Digital Library prototype project, IMLS funded WGBH Vietnam digital library, and for development and implementation of the WGBH DAM system. She also worked with the WNET, PBS, NYU and WGBH Preserving Public Television partnership as part of the Library of Congress National Digital Information Infrastructure Preservation Project. She served two terms (2001-2005) on the Board of Directors of Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA). She was co-chair of the AMIA Local Television Task Force, and Project Director of the guidebook "Local Television: A Guide To Saving Our Heritage," funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. AMIA Copyright Committee and AMIA Open Source Committee. She also serves on Digital Commonwealth executive committee. Recent projects include managing the American Archive Inventory project for CPB, and project director of PBCore development and Boston Local TV News Digital Library project. Cariani is the co-chair of the NDSA Infrastructure Working Group.

Jim Corridan

State Archivist and Director of the Indiana Commission on Public Records

Corridan served as Deputy Director of the Indiana State Library for Outreach and Statewide Services from 2006 through 2012. In these capacities he established Indiana's electronic records program with the archives, Indiana Memory at the State Library, serves as the sponsor of Indiana's National Digital Newspaper Project and has coordinated statewide efforts to provide workshops on digital preservation and electronic records. In 2009, Corridan was elected to the Board of Directors of the Council of State Archivists (CoSA). He helped establish and chaired CoSA's State Electronic Records Initiative (SERI) in 2011 and currently serves as President of CoSA. SERI is focused on governance, best practices, awareness and education to strengthen all the state and territorial archives in the United States. Working with the staff from the Library of Congress, Corridan and the Indiana State Archives hosted the first regional Digital Preservation Outreach and Education (DPOE) project, the Midwest train-the-trainer program in partnership with the Library of Congress in August of 2012 and has been an advocate for digital preservation. He was also a founder and serves as a board member of the International Governance Committee of Evergreen, the open source integrated library system. Corridan serves on the NSDA Coordinating Committee.

Jonathan Crabtree

Director for Archives and Information Technology at the Odum Institute for Research in Social Science at UNC Chapel Hill

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As assistant director, Crabtree completely revamped the institute's technology infrastructure and has positioned the institute to assume a leading national role in information archiving. His current efforts include working with the University of Michigan, the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University and preservation partners across the country to create a national preservation strategy for social science data and shaping the institute's geospatial analysis program to introduce geospatial methods into social science research at UNC Chapel Hill. Crabtree's twenty-two years of experience in information technology and networking as well as his engineering background bring a different perspective to his current role. Crabtree serves on the NSDA Coordinating Committee.

Blaine Dessy

Director, Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC).

Dessy's career has included appointments as a public library director, state library consultant, state librarian, Federal program officer for library grants, Director of the ERIC program, founding director of the National Library of Education, and library director at the Department of Justice. He has been involved in several professional associations including ALA, SLA, AALL, IFLA, GreyNet, the American Society for Public Administration, and the American Political Science Association. Currently, he is an adjunct instructor at the Catholic University of American School of Library Science. Mr. Dessy has lectured on librarianship in Turkey and Brazil and has represented the United States at education conferences in Italy and the Netherlands. Dessy serves on the NSDA Coordinating Committee.

Michelle Gallinger

Digital Programs Coordinator, National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, Library of Congress

Gallinger works to develop digital preservation community including the planning and execution of various international Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation activities. Gallinger develops policies and guidelines for digital preservation practices, life cycle management of digital materials, and stakeholder engagement at the Library of Congress. She also provides strategic planning for the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, a collaborative project that supports a network of partners exploring the capture, preservation and provision of access to a rich variety of digital information. Gallinger developed the initial strategy for and supported the creation, definition, and launch of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance in 2010. Before joining the Library of Congress, Gallinger developed the Colonial Williamsburg Rockefeller Library digitization and digital stewardship practices and worked at the University of Virginia E-Text Center. She is the facilitator for the NDSA.

Andrea Goethals

Digital Preservation and Repository Services Manager, Harvard Library

Andrea Goethals is responsible for providing leadership in the development and operation of Harvard's digital preservation program and for the management and oversight of the Digital Repository Service (DRS), the university's large scale digital preservation repository. She is currently involved in the rolling out of the next-generation DRS ("DRS"), several pilot projects (email archiving, exposing public APIs to access DRS content and metadata), and planning for new digital preservation services at the university. She is on the Curriculum Committee of the National Digital Stewardship Residency program and participates in the International Internet Preservation Consortium's Preservation Working Group. She is the co-chair of the NDSA Standards and Practices Working Group.

Abbie Grotke

Lead Information Technology Specialist, National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, Library of Congress

Grotke is the Web Archiving Team Lead at the Library of Congress and a member of the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program team. She came to the Library in 1997 to work on American Memory digitization projects. Since 2002 she has been involved in web archiving and the digital

preservation program at the Library of Congress. Grotke currently serves on the Steering Committee of the International Internet Preservation Consortium and is the co-chair of the NDSA Content Working Group.

Cathy Hartman

Associate Dean of Libraries, University of North Texas

Hartman has been involved in leadership roles in state and national professional organizations and councils including an appointed to the Texas Records Management Interagency Coordinating Council, an advisory body for managing state electronic records, and to the Federal Depository Library Council, an advisory council on issues related to U.S. government information policy. Her preservation efforts for electronic government information include establishing the CyberCemetery in 1997 to preserve the Web sites of dead U.S. government agencies and commissions and creating partnerships at the State level in 2000 to archive electronic issues of the Texas Register and Texas Laws and Resolutions. She is the founder of the Portal to Texas History program that has helped more than 200 libraries and museums in Texas digitize their unique collections and make them available on the Web now including more than one million pages of Texas historical newspapers. The Portal now experiences more than ½ million uses per month. She has served as the principal investigator on several externally funded research projects related to digital libraries, and currently is a member and chair of the International Internet Preservation Consortium Steering Committee. Hartman is the co-chair of the NDSA Content Working Group.

Butch Lazorchak

Digital Archivist, National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, Library of Congress

Lazorchak is a digital archivist in the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, a collaborative project that supports a network of partners exploring the capture, preservation and provision of access to a rich variety of digital information. He sits on the NDIIPP Communications Team, working to expand awareness of digital preservation issues and opportunities across government, academia and the private sector. This includes regular postings on digital stewardship topics for The Signal, NDIIPP's blog (<http://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/>), in addition to participating in NDIIPP's social media outreach. He is the co-chair of the NDSA Outreach Working Group.

Jane Mandelbaum

Manager of Special Projects, Office of the Director for Information Technology Services, Library of Congress

Mandelbaum is currently leading and guiding enterprise-wide projects and architecture initiatives for large-scale high-performance digital storage and archiving. She previously served as IT implementation and operations manager for a number of large IT systems at LC, and led a team to establish and operate the Library's end-user computing environment. Mandelbaum is the co-chair of the NDSA Innovation Working Group.

Carol Minton Morris

Director of Marketing and Communications, DuraSpace

Minton Morris (Terrizzi) joined the National Science Digital Library (NSDL) team at Cornell University as a research assistant in 2000 and served as Communications Director for (NSDL) initiatives from 2000-2009. In this role she worked with organizations, universities and companies to establish partnerships and increase awareness of NSDL as a national educational resource. More than 200 contributing digital library partners nationwide were brought together by the National Science Foundation NSDL Program to provide organized access to high quality science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teaching and learning resources. She was the founding editor of the *NSDL Whiteboard Report* featuring news and information from NSDL projects nationwide. She was the Communications Director for the Fedora (flexible extensible digital object repository architecture) Commons organization from 2007-2009. She has been Director of Marketing and Communications for the DuraSpace organization since 2009 where she leads strategic editorial content and materials planning, development and distribution focused on sustaining open source

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projects (DSpace, Fedora) and marketing services (DuraCloud, DSpaceDirect). She helps connect open access and open source technologies communities, projects and institutions to relevant news and information. She serves as deputy co-chair of the annual International Open Repositories Conference. She reports on digital library and repository-related meetings and conferences in *Dlib Magazine*. Minton Morris is the co-chair of the NDSA Outreach Working Group.

Trevor Owens

Digital Archivist, National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, Library of Congress

At the Library of Congress, he works on the open source Viewshare cultural heritage collection visualization tool, as a member of the communications team, and on convening relevant stakeholders about preservation issues. Before joining the Library of Congress he worked for the Center for History and New Media and before that managed outreach for the Games, Learning, and Society Conference.. Owens is the co-chair of the NDSA Infrastructure Working Group.

Meg Philips

Electronic Records Lifecycle Coordinator, National Archives and Records Administration

Phillips has assisted senior management with Electronic Records Archives (ERA) planning and the coordination of many electronic records units and projects. In addition, Phillips is responsible for gathering and helping NARA prioritize the business requirements for the development and evolution of ERA. She provides staff support to ERA's external advisory committee (ACERA). Throughout her career Phillips has sought opportunities to get more and more involved in electronic records and digital preservation, and working with ERA at the National Archives has been fascinating and challenging. She was previously the electronic records project manager and ERA coordinator for NARA's Office of Regional Records Services. She began her NARA career in 2002 on the records management staff of the Mid-Atlantic Region, where she advised Federal agencies on electronic records issues and appraised records. Before joining NARA Phillips managed the archives and records management program of a large non-profit. Phillips serves on the NSDA Coordinating Committee.

John Spencer

President and co-founder, BMS/Chace.

Spencer has widespread experience and visibility both in the music industry and in the fields of archival preservation and enterprise class information technology. Since 1978, he has been involved in many facets of high-technology professional audio and video, and was previously Vice-President of Sales and Marketing for Otari Corp. Spencer is CEO and ambassador at large for BMS/Chace, preaching the gospel of structured metadata collection to media companies and institutions worldwide. His efforts led to a 3-year partnership with the Library of Congress, strategically focused on metadata best practices for the commercial recording industry. He is a member of the following professional associations: The Recording Academy Producers & Engineers Wing National Advisory Council and Nashville chapter Advisory Council; Audio Engineering Society (AES) Studio Practices and Production Technical Committee and the Technical Committee on Archiving, Restoration and Digital Libraries; Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) Digital Issues Committee; Association of Recorded Sound Collections (ARSC) Technical Committee; National Recording Preservation Board (NRPB) Digital Audio Preservation and Standards Task Force. Spencer serves on the NSDA Coordinating Committee.

Hellen Tibbo

Alumni Distinguished Professor, School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH),

Professor Tibbo teaches in the areas of archives and records management, digital curation, electronic retrieval, and reference. She is an SAA fellow and has served on SAA committees and boards for over 20 years and was the co-founder of the SAA Research Forum. She is currently the PI for the IMLS-funded DigCCurr I that is developing an International Digital Curation Curriculum for master's level students

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(www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr) (2006-2009). In April of 2007 the DigCurr Conference attracted close to 300 participants with 100 speakers from 10 countries (www.ils.unc.edu/digcurr2007). DigCCurr2009 will be held April 1-3, 2009 in Chapel Hill, NC. She is also the PI for DigCCurr II (2008-2012) that extends the Digital Curation Curriculum to the doctoral level and will provide week-long summer workshops for digital curation practitioners. Tibbo serves on the NSDA Coordinating Committee.

Tyler Walters

Dean of University Libraries, Virginia Tech.

Walters was a 2008-2010 Fellow in the Association of Research Libraries' Research Libraries Leadership Fellows program. Walters is a founding Board member of the Educopia Institute and Steering Committee member of the MetaArchive Cooperative. He serves on many professional bodies such as an elected member of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance (Library of Congress), Steering Committee for the International Conference on Open Repositories, Interim Governing Board for the Unified Digital Formats Registry, Editorial Board of the International Journal of Digital Curation, and the Advisory Board for the Digital Information Management program, University of Arizona. He teaches graduate LIS courses for Arizona and for San Jose State University. Walters has presented at numerous conferences, has published over twenty-five journal articles, and is a recipient of the Society of American Archivists' Ernst Posner Award for best article in the American Archivist. Walters serves on the NSDA Coordinating Committee.

Kate Wittenberg

Managing Director, Portico

Before taking on this position in September 2011, Wittenberg was Project Director, Client and Partnership Development in the Strategy and Research group at Ithaka, where she focused on building partnerships among scholars, publishers, libraries, technology providers, and foundations with an interest in promoting the development and sustainability of digital scholarship and learning. Before joining Ithaka, she directed the Electronic Publishing Initiative at Columbia (EPIC), a collaboration of the libraries, academic computing division, and university press, where she developed digital publications in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. At EPIC, Wittenberg's projects included Columbia International Affairs Online, Digital Anthropology Resources for Teaching, and the National Science Digital Library Core Integration program. Wittenberg serves on the NSDA Coordinating Committee.

Kate Zwaard

Acting Chief of Repository Development, Library of Congress

Zwaard manages the Repository Development Center, which creates applications to support the digital content lifecycle. Prior to joining LC, she was the Lead Program Planner for digital preservation at the United States Government Printing Office, where she helped conceptualize and develop the Federal Digital System. She has served on the PREMIS editorial committee. Zwaard co-chairs the NDSA Standards and Practices Working Group.