

Session 1: Making the Case for Digital Preservation

Two main assumptions were brought up to help frame the conversation:

1. DP is impossible, why try
2. Because of cheap storage, we can preserve anything

The only feasible approach is something in between.

DP benefits aren't immediate and even hard to show the value 1-2 years down the road.

Comments from attendees currently making the case

- tie DP to strategic planning
- there is disconnect between wanting to preserve and funding it
- special collections library -- not talking about born-digital so there is the option to re-digitize it at some point because the original still exists. It's important to make the case of the preparation and workflow component of digitization projects.
- another academic institution is now receiving email archives and need to start handling it, but have not.

Why keep preserving digital surrogates when you can scan it again?

- A different conversation when talking about born-digital
- File types -- how to make the case for preserving TIFFs vs JPG. But then dealing with migrating to JPG2.

Need to reach a consensus regionally -- there hasn't been a conversation locally on this but there is comparison within the community of what others are doing.

PASCAL is looking at the preservation component and asking where they are going to store the files

What about disaster planning?

- the Levels of Digital Preservation addresses geographic distribution of digital files

One participant at an academic library doesn't have IT department

- had to make the case but the IT department doesn't have the funding to deal with active records.
- storage solution is buying more hard drives,
- using Duracloud for storage and backup
- using Archive IT and its great to show value b/c access
- strategic planning process and inputting DP in it
- student groups -- mostly digital and what's online doesn't live forever -- is becoming a large challenge

Question about who does DP in institutions

- there are few people
- personalities and department structure vary
- trying to cross libraries and archives divide

Technology changes so fast -- financially it is daunting

Association of Moving Image Archivists

- active listserv -- 2 camps: film vs. digital
- smaller institutions with film are not aware of what DP is. When you look at it from that perspective, it's very different from the physical object preservation actions. Inherent misunderstanding.
- what do you do when you organizations are against the digital aspect? Seems to be an education and outreach opportunity.

What hurts conversation is saying that surrogates are facsimiles. Need to add more value to the digitized items as something that is worthy of being preserved.

IF money was no object, what's the ideal situation?

- preservation and providing access is ideal
- curation of the items
- curators need to have a bigger role in the digitization process. The end product will be presented to the public. Invest in educating the curators.
- Engage subject specialist in IR and articulate the value of saving stuff

Resources suggested

Digital POWRR project

<http://digitalpowrr.niu.edu/>

Dumpster divers

<http://dumpsterdivers.org/>