Diving Into the Unknown:
Perspectives on Overcoming Digital Preservation Barriers

Session 5A - TCDL 2019 - May 23, 2019
Ashley Adair, Digital Archivist, University of Texas Libraries

Sean Buckner, Coordinator of Digital Preservation and Digitization, Texas A&M University

Courtney C. Mumma, MAS/MLIS, Deputy Director, Texas Digital Library

Joseph Pruett, Digital Repository Librarian, Angelo State University (in absentia)

Kristen Weischedel, Digital Archivist, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Overview

• Intro to TDL DPS & DPS UG
• Panelist answers to:
  ○ Local DP needs
  ○ Barriers & challenges
  ○ Programs and workflows
• Open discussion & Q&A
TDL Digital Preservation Services (DPS)

- Consultation support for local workflow integration and content prioritization
- Resource sharing
- Education and training (tools, methods, emerging theory)
- Storage infrastructure
TDL DPS Activities

TDL DPS User Group
- Shared representation on NDSA, etc.
- Strengthen & formalize monthly meetups

Web Archiving Texas #WATX19
- November 6, 2019, at Baylor

Digital Preservation Services Collaborative
- [https://github.com/dpscollaborative](https://github.com/dpscollaborative)

Chronopolis
- Expand & strengthen partnership
- Preservation store for TDR - Dataverse

Private & sensitive data advancement
- (HIPAA/FERPA; TACC, UCSD, IMLS)

Scaling Emulation and Software Preservation Infrastructure (EaaSI)
- Advisory Board
- [https://www.softwarepreservationnetwork.org/eaasi/](https://www.softwarepreservationnetwork.org/eaasi/)
Q1 What digital things do you need to preserve?
ASU

Worthy to post in repository? Worthy of DP.

- IR (ASU’s scholarship; University Archives)
- West Texas Collection
- Common, open, and stable file formats
- Simple digital objects and datasets
- About 1 TB, 9K items on deck
UTRGV

Both Special Collections and University Archives

24,000 digital assets, ~450 oral histories

~200 Collections

Focusing on already digitized and born digital materials for now

Can’t back up every single thing - working on making it a part of new digital items, then tackling the backlog.
Defining the scope
  ○ Organizational history
  ○ Stewarding vs preserving

Mostly special collection materials
  ○ digitized and born digital
TAMU

● Publications/Serials
  ○ Student newspapers, dissertations, yearbooks, journals, System pubs, etc.
    ● Digitized, image-based, item-level, 15-20 TBs

● Collections/Archives
  ○ Special Collections: rare books, manuscripts, “legacy”, include born-digital, A/V
  ○ IR, gov docs, University dept/org, web, 3D

● Data
  ○ Datasets in TDR, perpetual access copies, purchased e-resources (Portico)

● Future (?)
  ○ Online exhibits, University Press, George R.R. Martin, System-wide

Not exhaustive list / not all collections equal / tiered approach
Q2 What are barriers to preserving your digital things?
ASU

Is it a trusted digital repository? Not yet.

- Other IR management priorities
- Lack of background in DP
- Stepping into DP darkness among peers
- DPN failure
UTRGV

Lack of staff time and expertise

Split campuses

Communications with IT

Necessary paperwork for long term digital preservation

- UTPA and UTB combined - each have their own collections/paperwork
- Not all paperwork was properly documented/transferred to UTRGV
● Scale of data
● Diversity of data
● Size of organization
● Legacy workflows
Preservation as a component within a digital ecosystem:

- **Scope** - collection sizes, legacy content, University size and breadth
- **Staff** - hours, expertise and knowledge, communication, time management
- **Workflows** - documentation, coordination, variation, human error
- **Technical** - change, failures, delays, misunderstanding

Resources don’t provide immunity

Sustainability not merely a funding issue
Q3 What are you doing to preserve your digital things?
ASU

Plugging forward ... get real, get skills, then be positive

- Recontract for Chronopolis
- Work with expert (C. Mumma)
- Organize items for pre-ingest
- Set up work for graduate intern
- Connect with DP folks and lit
UTRGV

Born digital collections go through Chronopolis as part of their ingest

- All new collections are being backed up as part of the accession and access workflows

Backlog: handled collection by collection

Mandating more robust paperwork as part of accessions/acquisitions

Must have finding aid before they can be backed up (unless special circumstance)

- Ensures both preservation and access to collections
- Building on legacy practices
- Increasing automation where possible
- Moving away from mass and toward selection
- Access-focused projects’ positive effects on metadata
Establish tiered approach to digital preservation: tiers 1, 2, and 3
  ○ Higher the institutional value, higher the tier
  ○ Higher the tier, greater the preservation investment
Archivematica → Chronopolis (DPN) or Glacier via DuraCloud@TDL
Local storage - multiple copies
Create committees to oversee stewardship activities
  ○ Digital Project Management Team (DPMT)
  ○ Digital Stewardship group (DigiStew)
Leverage regional and national expertise and user communities
  ○ National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) and subgroups; Archivematica Forum
  ○ TDL: DPS, DPSUG, Archivematica Users Group (A-Tex)
  ○ Artefactual: Contract technical support
Discussion and Audience Q&A
Ashley Adair, Digital Archivist, University of Texas Libraries: a.adair@austin.utexas.edu

Sean Buckner, Coordinator of Digital Preservation and Digitization, Texas A&M University: sbuckner@library.tamu.edu; @sean_buckner

Courtney C. Mumma, MAS/MLIS, TDL Deputy Director: c.mumma@austin.utexas.edu; @lookouthishoney

Joseph Pruett, Digital Repository Librarian, Angelo State University (in absentia) joseph.pruett@angelo.edu; @jpruett15

Kristen Weischedel, Digital Archivist, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley: kristen.weischedel@utrgv.edu