Enabling Collaboration for Digital Preservation

Martha Anderson, The Library of Congress, September 2010
NDIIPP MISSION

To ensure access over time to a rich body of digital content through the establishment of a national network of partners committed to selecting, collecting and preserving at-risk digital information.
A Network of People
An Architecture for Preservation

Ensures the long-term access to a rich body of digital content through the establishment of a national network of committed partners.

Two key components of infrastructure:
- Preservation Network: partners collaborating to preserve and provide long-term access to digital content
- Preservation Architecture: technical components that enable digital preservation

Values:
- Support the needs of multiple communities over long periods of time
- Respond to rapidly changing technologies and innovative behaviors
- Be transparent and trustworthy
....trust and reciprocity
“lengthen the shadow of the future”....

Phases of Digital Preservation Network Formation

- 2000: Seed
- 2002: Strengthen and Expand
- 2006: Sustain
- 2008: Formalize
- 2011:
2002-2005
Seed the Network

- Catalyze partnerships
  - Cooperative agreements with 8 consortia to identify, select and collect at-risk digital content

- Identify affinities
  - Content
  - Technical Architecture
  - Rights
  - Sustainability
Strengthen and Expand the Network

• Catalyze a network
• Add States and Commercial Content communities
• Identify roles within network
• Focus on tools & services for the network
2008-2010

Sustain the Network

- Develop and formalize network roles
- Focus on
  - Sustainability
  - Interoperability
  - Access
Roles in the Stewardship Network

Committed Content Custodians

Communities of Practice and Information Exchange

Services

Capacity Building

Lessons from the network

“Learn by doing”

• Ownership of digital preservation challenge must be distributed

• Benefits of shared expertise and resources can be gained through collaboration

• NDIIPP network has been emergent, not designed

• Organizational models depend upon strength of leadership and commitment of members

• The Library is regarded as a trusted broker and convener

• Trust is built by working toward a common goal
2010-2013

Formalize the network

- Charter a digital stewardship alliance
- Commit to formalized roles and structure within alliance
- Focus on a national digital preservation agenda
National Digital Stewardship Alliance

- **Summer 2010**: Founding memberships
- **Fall 2010**: Organizing sessions
- **Winter 2010**: Working Groups
- **Spring 2011**: Outreach and expansion
- **Summer 2011**: Annual Meeting
For more information

http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/

Also see:

Collaborative networks

- Open
- Closed
- Flat
- Hierarchical
- Centralized
- Distributed
- Strong leadership
- Shared responsibility
What motivates members?
How can action be sustained?
What are benefits?
When are networks ineffective?
Is there an ideal number of members for a network to be effective?
What are some organizational models?
How much structure is necessary?