The Digital POWRR Project: Enabling Collaborative Pragmatic Digital Preservation Approaches

I. INTRODUCTION

Funded by a generous National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Digital POWRR Project has spent the last several years investigating scalable and practical digital preservation problems that many different small and medium-sized cultural heritage institutions face. These institutions have limited or no access to technical staff (metadata or preservation), little or no access to staff possessing technical skills (programmers, metadata or digital collections staff), or no access to skilled consultants. Limited personal technical skills.

The worry about "doing it right" has led to inaction and utter paralysis for many. Don’t fall into the trap of getting hung up on theory vs. practice. For some of us, it’s time to embrace “good enough” digital preservation.

There are levels of triage that can be taken on your materials - the actions you take with the materials you have to triage are important. You needn’t start with the implementation of a robust program. There are levels of triage that can be taken on your materials - the actions you take with the materials you have to triage are important. You needn’t start with the implementation of a robust program.

The project’s focus was on making best use of the free features of the Internet Archive. Team contacts were oftentimes a significant barrier to smaller organizations seeking affordable methods of distributed digital preservation. The POWRR team worked to create the business models and legal frameworks for some of these organizations.

Additionally, we give them an opportunity to understand digital preservation on a larger scale; less people to educate, or less restrictions on our preservation - you may require a suite of tools, services, workflows, etc. rather than a turnkey approach.

Bigger schools don’t necessarily have it all figured out. Issues of larger scale and scope may make the project more difficult, but do not stop the steps already taken.

Financial accessibility is one of our biggest concerns, and this would make best use of the free features of the Internet Archive. Team contacts were oftentimes a significant barrier to smaller organizations seeking affordable methods of distributed digital preservation. The POWRR team worked to create the business models and legal frameworks for some of these organizations.

V. LESSONS LEARNED

- Digital preservation is a novel field, certainly one we originally thought,
- Don’t fall into the trap of getting hung up on theory vs. practice. For some of us, it’s time to embrace “good enough” digital preservation,
- The worry about “doing it right” has led to inaction and utter paralysis for many
- Solutions are equally evolving, you likely will see different digital preservation tools and services throughout your career. There is no “right answer”.
- Additionally, you may find that you need to develop a troubleshooting approach to digital preservation - you may require a suite of tools, services, workflows, etc. rather than a turnkey approach
- Smaller institutions have unique advantages. We may have less administrative headaches to navigate, less people to educate, or less restrictions on our computing environment. Work with your advantage!
- Users may change folders. Keep your preservation workflow solid and run, but you can’t prove that your wizard [correct?] might be better served at a different price point or service level.
- There are levels of triage that can be taken on your materials - the actions you take with the materials you have to triage are important.
- Content creation; building models. Keep your preservation workflow solid and run, but you can’t prove that your wizard might be better served at a different price point or service level.
- Planning and advocacy is an onerous neglected activity, but is vital to success with digital preservation. It is vital to know your organization’s strengths and weaknesses.
- Don’t fall into the trap of getting hung up on theory vs. practice. For some of us, it’s time to embrace “good enough” digital preservation.

We can still get data out of the system. We have essentially achieved our goal!

In closing, we would like to thank and congratulate all of our team members, including the Digital Curation Centre, Digital Curation Exchange, the Digital Library Institute, the Digital Scholarship Alliance, the Collaborative Metadata Registry, and the Community Owned Preservation Tool Registry.

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While testing the Collaborative MetaArchive Membership model, the team decided to work with the legal counsel for the Educopia Institute to create the business models and legal frameworks for some of these organizations. Additionally, one of our tasks was to develop a test kit of metadata for the Digital POWRR Project's main objective has been to produce a comprehensive white paper that summarizes all testing and evaluation activities undertaken.

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