July 2010 Partners Meeting Breakout Session

Modeling Interactions Between Repositories for the NDSA: Towards a Distributed and Collaborative Framework for Preservation, Breakout Session #8

NDIIPP Annual Meeting Wednesday, July 21, 2010 4:15pm – 5:30pm

Presenters: Martin Halbert, University of North Texas

David Minor, UCSD, San Diego Supercomputer Center

Tyler Walters, Georgia Institute of Technology

Attendees: 13

MetaArchive & Chronopolis

- MetaArchive: fostering more knowledge and understanding of digital preservation

- Chronopolis: philosophically share purpose with MetaArchive, but operationally achieve them very differently
- we are tool-agnostic: we go for what's best, not only what's available to us now [currently use BagIT format]

Lessons learned from MetaArchive

- Cultural memory organizations must continue to evolve to maintain their historical role as cultural stewards
 - preservation of digital assets as corollary to preserving physical ones
 - importance of building in house expertise and knowledge
 - value contributed by curators, librarians, and archivists to the digital preservation field
- Importance of catalyzing and capitalizing on cultural memory organizations' proven preservation methodologies
 - replication of content
 - distribution of content
 - partnering to keep costing affordable

Strengths of Distributed Digital Preservation

- Replicated copies stored in geographically diverse locations have a better chance of survival
- Can embed preservation infrastructure and knowledge in cultural memory organizations
- Can enable multiple instances to be monitored separately (lessens human error and malicious behavior possibilities)
- Emphasizes collaboration and trust

Many descriptive/proscriptive charts/representations offered [*see slides]

Important questions for DDP initiatives [like NDSA] to face

- With whom are agreements made?
- What happens if a replication site drops out?
- Tracking who has curatorial responsibility (is it transferred? To the network or to individual repositories)?

- What data management is handled by the Producer and what is handled by the Repository?
- When needed, which copy becomes the most appropriate Dissemination Information Package (DIP)?

Gap analysis of what the DDP field is lacking now

- analysis / abstracted model for distributed digital preservation:
 - Peer-to-peer roles
 - Hub-and-spoke styled preservation relationships
 - Centrally orchestrated
- ingestion pathways
- contingent elements

DISCUSSION PERIOD

- the more we analyze case studies, the more informed we are as we move into the NDSA
- leveraging expertise across geography and across industries: numerous partners, distributed geographically, collaborating toward common goals, having that collaboration happen over phone, webexes, conference calls, bringing together institutional goals to work together toward a larger effort

Action Items.

- develop and agree on definitions
- define and abide by different custodial types, in different situations and with different content
- examine different infrastructures across bodies involved in NDSA, as they vary greatly
- looking for an OAIS2 that will be relevant to NDSA, that would more fulsomely elaborate the problems and challenges we face in digital preservation [this would benefit the whole DP community, and those interested in joining it in the future]

What needs to be done in/with DDP initiatives

- We need models that build on the OAIS, but focus on inter-organizational Distributed Digital Preservation alliances, systems, and strategies
- Such models should abstract the functions and logical potential relationships between entities seeking to work together to further digital preservation aims
- These models should inform collaborative efforts between different groups seeking to preserve digital information
- They should also provide a common vocabulary for interoperable systems development

Upcoming DDP Use Cases and Planning Meeting [undetermined date]

- a cluster of DDP organizations including MetaArchive, Chronopolis, and others are considering a collaborative project to develop OAIS-based DDP models and use cases
- are in conversations with LC and other agencies about hosting an initial planning meeting to study this issue
- if you are interested, please contact us:
 - Martin Halbert martin.halbert@unt.edu
 - Katherine Skinner katherine.skinner@metaarchive.org
 - David Minor minor@sdsc.edu