

Upcoming Event

[Personal Digital Archiving Conference](#) Feb. 21 - 22, 2013, Univ. of Maryland @pda2013

New Report

[Science @Risk: Toward a National Strategy for Preserving Online Science](#) (PDF)

Digital Preservation Bits

[Update: What Skills Does a Digital Archivist or Librarian Need?](#)

[Preserving Digital Archaeological Data](#)

[Preserving.exe: A Short List of Readings on Software Preservation](#)

[Good News: Librarian Job Growth Exploding!](#)

[Glitching Files for Understanding: Avoiding Screen Essentialism in Three Easy Steps](#)

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Digital Pioneer: Martha Anderson

Martha Anderson, Director of Program Management NDIIPP, has directly influenced the development of the Library of Congress's digital programs and collections. And now she is retiring at the end of the month.

She began her professional career as a secondary school teacher and then spent twenty years as a military spouse. She returned to school in the mid-1980s and then began working at jobs ("showed up" in response to job ads) that combined history and technology: a microform publisher, a CD-ROM publisher and then finally the Library of Congress's [National Digital Library Program](#).

Of all the projects that Anderson has worked on, she is fondest of the [International Internet Preservation Consortium](#), which was formed in 2003. "It was a can-do kind of group from the very beginning," said Anderson. "The people attending the meetings would say, 'We don't want some big organizational overhead on this because we've seen how, if people put that



first, nothing ever happens. We just want to get to work.'

Read [more](#) about Anderson's career and interest.

Digital Preservation Levels: Candidate One

After some [fantastic commentary on the blog](#), and presentations at a [series of conferences](#) to solicit feedback, we are excited to share this revised version of the [NDSA Levels of Digital Preservation](#) for further commentary and discussion.

The goal of this document is to provide a basic tool for helping organizations manage and mitigate digital preservation risks. This document does not deal with broader issues related to collection development practices, critical policy framework decisions, general issues involving staffing or particular workflows or life cycle issues.

There is both very basic digital preservation information, like NDIIPP's [personal archiving materials](#), and extensive and substantial [requirements for building and managing a digital repository](#). However, the working group felt there was a lack of solid guidance

on how an organization should prioritize its resource allocation between these two ends of the spectrum.

The goal of this project has been to develop a tiered set of recommendations for prioritizing enhancements to digital preservation systems (defined broadly to include organizational and technical infrastructure). This is defining targets for at least three levels of criteria for digital preservation systems, at the bottom level providing guidance to "get the boxes off the floor" and at each escalating level offering prioritized suggestions for how organizations can get the most out of their resources.

It's our intention to get more feedback, make any final tweaks and then call this version one. You can provide your input [here](#).

All In!! Embedded Files in PDF/A

Wouldn't it be great to have a single technical solution that solves all your long-term digital archiving, stewardship and preservation needs? Perhaps a [file format](#) with millions of users, widespread adoption across different computing platforms, free viewers and open documentation?

Many people, both inside and outside of the preservation community, have come to think of the "archival" version of the widely used [Portable Document Format](#) as this single solution.

The specification *PDF/A-3* (or [ISO 19005-3:2012](#)), defines a file format based on PDF which provides a mechanism for representing electronic documents in a manner that

preserves their static visual appearance over time, independent of the tools and systems used for creating, storing or rendering the files. Read [more](#) about the latest version PDF/A-3.



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Before You Were Born...Museums had Networks

Most people are not aware that [Museum Computer Network](#) was born out of a cooperative computing project in the New York City area in 1967, under the direction of Dr. Jack Heller. Fifteen New York-area museums joined forces to explore ways that an electronic index of the Metropolitan Museum's collections could be used beyond the Met. With funding from the New York Council of the Arts and the Old Dominion Foundation, the consortium formed the Museum Computer Network to create a prototype system for a shared museum "data-bank." Dr. Heller's work resulted in a system called GRIPHOS (General Retrieval and Information Processor for Humanities Oriented Studies), which was based on a data dictionary that could

accommodate the diverse institutions participating in the project: a tagged record format that allowed for the description of individual objects with separate, linked records for artist biographical information and for reference citations.

Find out [more](#) about the history of networks in museums.



Pulp to Pixels: Artists Books in the Digital Age



Petra Cortright's HELL_TREE, displayed on an iPad

Jimi Jones, Archivist of Hampshire College, guest blogged about an exhibition called "[Pulp to Pixels: Artists Books in the Digital Age](#)."

This exhibition of artists books, curated by Andrea Dezsö, Steven Daiber and Meredith Broberg, is a celebration of both traditional, physical book construction and innovative digital books. Many of the artists featured in the show have created works that bridge the chasm between the analog and digital realms.

You can read about Jimi's impressions [here](#).

Digital Preservation Outreach and Education

[Calendar of Events](#): Access training and educational offerings in the practice of digital preservation

[DPOE Curriculum Training Video](#) now available

Conversation Corner

[Debbie Rabina](#), Assoc. Professor at Pratt, talks about her students participating in the End of Term Web Archive

[Paul Wheatley](#), of the SPRUCE Project, talks about an assortment of activities, issues and ideas relating to digital preservation

More Digital Preservation Bits

[When Data Loss is Personal](#)

[Framing the Digital Preservation Conversation](#)

[MCN 2012, It Was All a Blur](#)

[Step-by-Step Management of Born-Digital Content Received on Physical Media](#)

This is the newsletter of the National Digital Stewardship Alliance, the Digital Preservation Outreach and Education initiative and the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program.
