

AERI 2010

Metadata, Systems, Implementation, and Standardization

Where: Great Lakes North

When: Wednesday, 6/23, 3:30 - 5:00 pm

Abstracts:

Donaldson, Devan. Implementing PREMIS: A Case Study of the Florida Digital Archive.

Today, libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions are responsible for preserving information in digital form that has potential to serve as valuable cultural records. If persistent access to such material is lost, society at-large stands much to lose. One powerful way of ensuring persistent access to digital material of enduring value is by creating preservation metadata for digital objects (Conway, 1996; Hedstrom, 2003; Lavoie and Gartner, 2005). In 2006, the PREservation Metadata Implementation Strategies (PREMIS) Data Dictionary was awarded the Society of American Archivists' Preservation Publication Award for being "intellectually sophisticated, groundbreaking, truly collaborative and international in scope and of great significance for the archival preservation community" because of its response to "an emerging need shared by archives and cultural heritage institutions implementing digital archiving capacity and infrastructure" (Society of American Archivists, 2006). Despite its significance, many institutions have not adopted the PREMIS Data Dictionary (Alemneh, 2008). In order to mitigate or remove completely barriers to the adoption of PREMIS, the researcher argues that attention should now be focused on the implementation process. In this qualitative case study analysis, the researcher conducted in-person interviews, field observations, and also collected prototype examples at the Florida Center for Library Automation's (FCLA) Florida Digital Archive (FDA). Relying on Diffusion of Innovations and Management Science & Information Systems literature, coupled with analysis of the data collected, an Iterative Model for the Adaptation Stage of the PREMIS Implementation Process is proposed. In conclusion, this case study suggests that seemingly innocuous decisions by developers have real implications, not only for how a preservation model is enacted, but more importantly, for how preservation is actually constructed in digital repositories. A deeper understanding of the PREMIS implementation process will advance the goals of the digital preservation community to implement PREMIS widely in organizations that preserve digital content. Because preservation metadata is essential to ensuring preservation and access to digital material over the long term, society as a whole will benefit if PREMIS implementation can be broadly accomplished.

Evans, Joanne. Reaping Rich Harvests: Opportunities in Implementing EAC.

The Australian Women's Register is a specialist central access point to information about Australian women and their achievements, along with the multifarious resources in which aspects of their lives are documented. It provides a gateway to archival and published material relating to Australian women held in cultural institutions as well as in private hands. This presentation will provide an overview of the EAC harvesting facilities developed to enable metadata from the Register to become part of the National Library of Australia's Trove discovery service. It will focus on how EAC has been implemented and the partnership between librarians, archivists and historians that made it happen. It will discuss how this work to foster the development of complicit systems aims to increase the productivity of those associated with the creation, management and use of source material for historical research, and allow a rich multiplicity and variety of voices to contribute their knowledge into resource discovery systems.

Norris, April. Advancing Digital Preservation with Digital Forensics

Abstract: Digital forensics is the branch of forensic science that seeks to capture, analyze, explain, and preserve legal evidence found in a digital artifact or system. A fast growing trend in archival studies is the exploration of digital forensic techniques as a means of informing archival thought and improving digital preservation practices. In this presentation, I will explore the current literature, identify converging communities of practice, and consider the implications of digital forensics for archivists and digital preservation.

Youn, Eunha. ISAD(G) and the development of archival descriptive standard in Korea

This study is mainly interested in how the international standard, the ISAD(G), impacts local practice in the non-Western country and how the Western archival paradigm embedded in the ISAD(G) standard has been adopted within non-Western societies. While several studies have been conducted on the implementation of the ISAD(G) in Western countries, the Asian national and local experience of the standard remains relatively unexplored. Here, the study conducted a case study in Korea. It explored the use and understanding of the standard in Korean archival settings and analyzed some issues arising during the development of the system based on the standard.

Convener: Denise Anthony, University of Denver

Bios:

Denise Anthony

I am currently an Assistant Professor in the Library and Information Science Program in the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver and am charged with the development and oversight for the archives and records management courses and curriculum. I also teach course courses such as Organization of Information and Professional Values and Ethics for all of the students in the library program. Based on my earlier professional experience working to help integrate library, archives and museum database software and the multi-disciplinary education program at the University of Michigan School of Information (I received a PhD in 2006 and an MLIS in 1993), I believe these three disciplines intersect on a number of levels. This intersection is becoming even more apparent to me as I work closely with colleagues in the DU LIS program who have strong library-focused backgrounds as well as students and

faculty in the museum studies department. I try to bring this integrated approach to the classes I teach. Additionally, an understanding of the theory of situated knowledge significantly influences my approach to teaching. Practical experience provides an understanding that students cannot get in the classroom, so I strive to incorporate service learning in my classes through community projects I have established with institutions in the area.

My research interests at this time are focusing on methods for transferring the knowledge of experienced archivists to their successors. This interest stems from previous research I conducted that examined how reference archivists find information in archival collections in order to determine what knowledge and skills they acquire and use to be successful. The findings of that research indicate that a large part of the knowledge experienced archivists use to find information is difficult to capture and document because it involves event, spatial organization, social and tacit knowledge that are intertwined with the archivist's declarative knowledge of facts about collections many of which are not documented in finding aids.

Devan Donaldson

My name is Devan Ray Donaldson and I am a second year Ph.D. student in the School of Information at the University of Michigan. Broadly, I am interested in digital preservation. Specifically, I am interested in preservation metadata and large-scale digitization.

My current research explores how developers and system administrators make decisions regarding use of standards for preservation metadata in digital archives. Because digital objects will not preserve themselves and digital preservation management systems will not adapt themselves to models and data dictionaries for preservation, successful digital preservation devolves to the highly detailed decision making that is required to implement preservation standards. Thus, my research is both important and timely.

I want to provide my students with as practical and hands-on of an experience in the opportunities and challenges associated with maintaining a digital archive as possible. Toward this end, I plan to offer courses focusing on understanding file formats and metadata extraction file formats as well as preservation metadata courses in which students will act as system administrators and developers. Because the technical skills and knowledge of preservation metadata wherewithal are essential for being an effective digital preservationist, I hope to give my students ample opportunities to experience digital preservation work in a comfortable and supportive classroom environment before they go out into the real world.

I earned a MS in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a BA in History from the College of William and Mary in Virginia. I have been a Bill and Melinda Gates Scholar since 2002 and a Rackham Merit Fellow since 2008.

Joanne Evans

I am a researcher at the eScholarship Research Centre (ESRC) at the University of Melbourne, and am also affiliated with the Centre for Organisational and Research Informatics (COSI), Faculty of IT, Monash University. I have spent the past 15 years in gaining qualifications and practical experience in information management, recordkeeping and archiving, and systems development, culminating in completing my PhD investigating recordkeeping metadata interoperability at Monash in 2007. On the practical side of things, I have been involved in the design, development and deployment of archival information systems at the University of Melbourne since 1995. The Heritage Documentation Management System (HDMS) that we have developed is used across a number of small archives to process and manage their holdings, as well as to make their finding aids available online. I have also have been the principal developer of the ESRC's Online Heritage Resource Manager (OHRM) system, for creating and managing contextual information networks. The OHRM brings archival and scholarly principles and practices together into a database tool, aimed at building a sustainable information infrastructure that may help to meet some of the research and information management challenges for scholarly practices in the digital and networked age. Most recently I have had the chance to become involved with teaching into the archives and recordkeeping program at Monash.

After completing my PhD in 2007, I worked on a part-time basis as a Research Fellow for COSI's Smart Information Portals Project. As well as providing a post-doctoral experience, this position enabled me to continue developing my interest in system design methodologies and methods and in the sustainability and scalability of metadata creation and management frameworks. I have also been involved with recordkeeping and resource discovery metadata standards development as part of working groups within Standards Australia's IT 21/7 Committee and with the Australia Society of Archivist's Committee on Descriptive Standards. I was also part of the initial international team to develop the alpha version of EAC in 2001.

A common theme across the practical and research activities that I am involved in is a desire to work with groups who are in some way 'in the minority', with lesser access to resources, skills and/or institutional support and/or ways of knowing different to the mainstream. My desire is to work with them to build sustainable archival information system utilizing digital and networking technologies that meet their needs and respect their values. Uncovering these through collaborative research and development activities benefits all parties and I gain much from the two way learning and knowledge exchange. From my research perspective this enables the exploration of issues around individual and community construction of information systems in and through time and space, as well as the development and application of reflective design research methodologies.

April Norris

April Norris is an Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Preservation Doctoral Fellow in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin. In 2006, she earned her M.S. in Information Studies and an Endorsement of Specialization in digital preservation from the University of Texas at Austin. Digital preservation is the kernel of April's research interests, which also include knowledge management, information policy, and Library and Information Science (LIS) education. Currently, April is exploring the field of digital forensics as a means of informing archival thought and improving digital preservation practices. April believes research is an ongoing process of building and interpreting context. She values and integrates multiple perspectives into her research, and seeks to improve real-world conditions with rigorous and reasoned research.

Professionally, April has worked as an information professional in both Texas state government and higher education. Most recently, she was the Records Manager for the University of Texas System Administration following a position as an Information Analyst at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Eunha Youn

I am a PhD candidate in Information Studies at UCLA. I received an MA in history in Korea, and also an MLIS in Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Because of my background, my interests are always related to culture, society and (archival) technology, in particular, how cultural elements could influence building an archival system. For my dissertation project, Standardization of Archival description in Korea, I conducted six months of field research in two different archival institutes in Korea. I found the institutions appropriate the principles of the ISAD(G) in their own way and implement them into the system. The study shows that the attempt to standardize archival description through ISAD(G) is localized and feeds off previous practices and culture. Based on the research, I will continue my research focusing on various cultural impacts on archival technology. Also I hope to develop an archival curriculum from a more intercultural/ international perspective of archives.

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