

DIGITAL LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT IN MARYLAND

*Establishing the foundations for consortial
approaches to digital preservation at Maryland
universities and affiliated institutions*

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Abstract - The Digital Lifecycle Management Interest Group (DLMIG) of the University System of Maryland and Associated Institutions (USMAI) formed in 2020 and provides a space for multi-institutional

collaboration. The group is working toward a USMAI-wide digital lifecycle management strategy that will provide sustainable and scalable digital preservation and practices at consortium institutions of all sizes.

This poster will share the group's experiences and challenges thus far as a model for other consortia and collaborations.

Keywords - Digital preservation, consortium, collaboration

Conference Topics - Enhancing Collaboration; Building Capacity & Capability

In July 2019, three institutions in the University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI) Consortium met after they recognized the mutual need for digital preservation resources and support. Each institution had a considerable backlog of materials needing format conversion, migration, or digitization; growing needs for developing policies and workflows that follow best practice; and an awareness that the resources and in-house technical expertise available at their institution were not sufficient.

Representatives of these three institutions created and sent a Digital Preservation Survey across USMAI in order to gain insight into the needs and concerns of each of the 17 consortium institutions regarding digital preservation activities. The data showed a clear need for resources and leadership in this area across the majority of respondents.

The resulting white paper and presentation to the Committee of Library Directors (CLD) — a governing committee consisting of library directors and deans from USMAI member institutions — provided an opportunity to gain support and resources for digital preservation and management of the entire digital lifecycle.

The Digital Lifecycle Management Interest Group (DLMIG) formed in 2020 and includes ten members across four institutions and the Consortial Library Applications Support (CLAS) team. The group includes a diverse membership exemplified through the variety of our skill sets, backgrounds, and perspectives regarding digital lifecycle management. Our members include archivists and librarians specializing in reference and instruction, metadata, and systems, who all interact with digital collections in different ways.

DLMIG provides a space for information sharing and collaboration across USMAI institutions of all

sizes in pursuit of sustainable and scalable digital preservation and lifecycle management practices. The larger goal of this interest group is to advocate for digital lifecycle management support, resources, and tools that would benefit institutions in the consortium. Additionally, the group is drafting a digital lifecycle management strategy to guide consortium actions and workflows.

The group aims to apply the existing centralized infrastructure of the USMAI Consortium to the need for digital lifecycle management concerns for each individual campus, which largely lack individual resources.

This poster will compare where each DLMIG institution stands individually versus the collective strengths of the consortial group relating to resources, infrastructure, and expertise. It will also share what our group has accomplished so far, what challenges we have faced, and our goals for the next few years.

This collaboration is significant because there are many institutions that are facing similar challenges with a lack of resources and expertise regarding digital preservation and digital lifecycle management. Our group provides a blueprint for other consortia to harness existing shared resources and expertise to advocate for and build a collaborative approach to digital lifecycle management.