

Born Digital Appraisal, Ingest, and Processing

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ABSTRACT

This workshop is designed to gather together the community of digital archivists and others working specifically with born digital collections to discuss aspects of the appraisal, processing, and ingest process.

General Terms

Preservation strategies and workflows, specialist content types, case studies and best practice, and training and education.

Keywords

Born digital, digital archivists, appraisal, ingest workflows.

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the workshop is to gather together a community of digital archivists, and others working specifically with born digital collections to discuss the appraisal, processing, and ingest process, to share tools and workflows, and to begin to discuss the articulation of best practices.

2. WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The workshop will bring together experienced digital preservation practitioners, specifically digital archivists, digital curators, and other practitioners with a responsibility for, or interest in, born digital preservation workflows and systems. A number of digital archivists will give short presentations sharing their experiences and insights around particular aspects of working with born digital collections, including initial technical appraisal, media transfer, ingest workflows, and specific tools. Discussion will focus around these workflows and tools, as well as issues or problems encountered, successes and failures, lessons learned, and future planning.

The workshop is designed to further the articulation of international current and best practices for digital archivists. The workshop will deal explicitly with the technical appraisal and ingest of born digital materials. As the field of born digital collecting and preservation has grown, the body of knowledge and experience in this area has also grown and there is a greater need than ever to share that knowledge among a wider group of practitioners.

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The workshop will bring together a number of practitioners and presenters and will include:

- Leigh Rosin, Digital Archivist, National Library of New Zealand
- Douglas Elford, Emma Jolly, and Somaya Langley, Digital Collecting, Australian National Library
- Donald Mennerich, Digital Archivist, New York University
- Cal Lee Associate Professor, School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill,
- Erin O'Meara, Gates Archive.

The workshop will combine formal presentations, contributions from participants, and group discussion. As such, the workshop would best benefit those who already have experience as practitioners in the area of digital preservation workflows and systems. It is hoped the workshop will contribute to further networking and information sharing among digital archivists, curators, and others with a responsibility or interest in born digital preservation.

3. WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

The workshop was attended by 48 participants. Participants were lead through a brainstorming session in small groups. Each group generated one key issue or problem they would like to see examined in more detail, relating to digital ingest and processing. These were:

- Difficulties relating to capability-building and skills retention in digital teams. Lack of succession-planning
- Multi-disciplinary communication and creating networks. How to effectively share resources and experiences.
- Archivists who code and how to bridge the gap between archives/libraries and computer science
- Donor relationships and training. Building effective techniques for dealing with donors of born digital collections
- Metadata interoperability. We have metadata, now how to we effectively link and use it
- We need a workflow management tool to help us track all these ingest activities performed by various staff. Do we look to ticketing systems? Project management tools? Acquisitions systems?

Workshop participants engaged in a discussion about these issues. No definitive "answers" were provided, but participants were able to explore the issues in depth and gain a better understanding of the problem space.