

The Digital POWRR Project: Enabling Collaborative Pragmatic Digital Preservation Approaches

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ABSTRACT

The Digital POWRR Project has spent several years investigating scalable and practical digital preservation solutions that might be able to be implemented at smaller and less-resourced institutions.

General Terms

Communities

1. POSTER SUMMARY

The most well-known, robust digital preservation programs and initiatives have been initiated and shepherded at very large institutions, or at places with deep financial resources, often in collaboration with one another. Many less-well-resourced institutions create and hold digital objects worthy of preservation, but lack adequate resources to maintain them long-term. Working from the premise that digital preservation should be an attainable goal for everyone - even libraries and archives with restricted resources - the Digital POWRR project was conceived. Funded by a National Leadership Grant by the Institute for Museum and Library Services, Digital POWRR has been tasked with the in-depth investigation and testing of digital preservation solutions, tool and services, as well as positing potential business models and collaborative frameworks specifically designed for under-resourced libraries. Project activities are driven by five institutions of higher learning of varying sizes and resource levels drawn from across the state of Illinois: Northern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Western Illinois University, Chicago State University, and Illinois Wesleyan University. This poster will provide an encapsulation of our final white paper results, which will be published by the IMLS in late 2014, including a summary of our testing activities and results, details of collaborative endeavors within the project, an evaluation of the lessons learned and results gained, and a discussion of potential future directions for the project.

In addition to performing in-depth testing and evaluation of six robust digital preservation solutions (Archivematica, Curator's Workbench, Preservica, DuaCloud, and MetaArchive) POWRR partners spent considerable time developing and compiling a more

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comprehensive Tool Grid, in which smaller microservice-based tools or processes could be evaluated against the digital curation lifecycle. POWRR is presently aligning these research results and processes with other international initiatives, including seamlessly integrating our Tool Grid into the COPTR (Community Owned digital Preservation Tool Registry) tool registry produced by the SPRUCE project. We are also producing a series of day-long workshops to be held at various events across the United States throughout 2014, some in partnership with the National Digital Stewardship Alliance. By partnering with the NDSA, we hope to be able to increase the number of workshops that we are able to offer, and to be better positioned to reach our targeted audience of professionals working in lesser-resourced institutions of cultural heritage. The workshops will provide participants with a window into our testing activities, as well as give them an opportunity to perform some hands-on work with some simple microservices. The workshops will also detail the necessary steps in order to begin a publicity and education program for digital preservation activities within their own institution. We are also working with the lead counsel from the Educopia Foundation to create the necessary legal and technical foundational structure for institutions who are not part of an existing consortia to be able to form collaborations that enable distributed digital preservation endeavors. Documents produced from this work will be made available to the public, to help provide the necessary legal and organizational framework that organizations may need to get started with collaborative preservation initiatives.

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