

iPres 2018 Post-Conference Summary -- Organizing Co-Chairs: *Nance McGovern* and *Ann Whiteside*

MIT Libraries and Harvard Library co-hosted iPres 2018 in Boston from Monday to Thursday, September 24-27, 2018 with 424 attendees from 32 countries. There were **27 sponsored attendees** thanks to Portico's funding.

Program Components: The [iPres 2018 Organizing Team](#) identified two overall conference themes: "where art and science meet – the art in science and the science in art" and a **celebration of the 15th anniversary of iPres**; as well as themes for submitters to address that reflect core issues and trends in digital preservation research and practice. The Organizing Team included as many non-English speaking dissemination channels and sharing the [Call for Contributions](#) in three other languages (Spanish, French, and German). We shared our communications list with the iPres 2019 organizers to build upon. We selected as diverse a group of peer [reviewers](#) as possible, representing 16 countries, while balancing the group with past reviewers.

Paper Sessions (*Courtney Mumma* and *Erwin Verbruggen*): iPres 2018 offered an optional **abstract review phase** for paper submissions to expand the pool of proposals and to encourage as many participants as possible to contribute. There were 64 paper submissions from which 42 were accepted to the conference (17 long and 25 short). In addition, 3 were accepted as posters and 3 as lightning talks. The authors of accepted papers represented 18 countries of the 22 represented in submissions. The 15 paper sessions on the program organized the papers by themes that highlight trends, challenges, and opportunities in digital preservation.

Discussion Panels (*Jessica Meyerson*): The Organizing Team devoted significant time and energy to discussion panels, before and during the conference. There were ten discussion panels, eight submitted and two created curated by us: the pair of 15th anniversary panels (Session 301) and Storytelling and Digital Preservation (Session 405). The [Moderator Guidelines](#) supplemented the [Code of Conduct](#), a first for the iPres conference series, to ensure engaging and productive discussions in all of the panels.

Posters and Demonstrations (*Sibyl Schaefer* and *Jaye Weatherburn*): iPres 2018 hosted the **first digital poster session**, including display panels for 23 posters and two demonstrations. In addition to being an engaging and green option for posters, the digital format allowed poster presenters to use interactive features of the digital displays. The review committee members had early and in-person access to the posters. Attendees voted online and the results were available as soon as the poster session ended.

Workshops and Tutorials (*Bertram Lyons* and *Natalie Pang Lee San*): The Organizing Team accepted eight workshops and two tutorials as half-day sessions from the pool submitted. An additional two tutorial submissions were invited to participate as 30-minute Ad Hoc Tutorials. Most of the session rooms were the classic size for interactive workshops, holding 24-40 participants, and all were full, some with a waiting list – a price of success that might encourage repeat workshop sessions for future programs.

Ad Hoc Programming (*Nance McGovern* and *Maureen Pennock*): There were 18 lightning talks, two ad hoc tutorials, four original graphics, and four games repeated in two **digital preservation gameroom** sessions. All but lightning talks represented **new categories for conference program content**. The submission process began after the peer review submissions process ended. The Ad Hoc sessions allowed recent developments and community updates to be highlighted, and for contributions from a wide range of participants to be included. The Ad Hoc sessions rated highly on attendee surveys.

Paper and Poster Awards: The paper awards this year allowed for **two winners and two runners up** from both short and long categories, a change from years prior. The winner of the **Best Long Paper** award was: "The Rescue of the Danish Bits" by Eld Zierau ([Paper 208.2](#)) and the winner of the **Best Short Paper** award was "PREMIS 3 OWL Ontology" by Charles Blair and seven co-authors ([Paper 305.2](#)). The 2018 paper awards were sponsored by the Digital Preservation Workshops Program. The runner up awardees are called out in the proceedings. The poster awards included two categories this year, the best poster determined by a review committee and the popular poster determined by votes from attendees. The **Best Poster** award went to: "Precise and Persistent Web Archive References" ([Poster 10](#)) by Eld Zierau and and the **Popular Poster** award went to: "Significant Significant Properties" ([Poster 1](#)) by Pepijn Lucker Cassandra Sijtsma Remco van Veenendaal. The 2018 poster awards were sponsored by nestor.

Conference Documentation: The Organizing Team posted the outline for the conference in early 2018 and continued to fill in the detailed schedule and complete proceedings leading up to the conference with revised and additional content posted post-conference. For the first time in 2018, **all of the iPres conference content** that was shared by presenters (with the exception of one embargo) is included in the [conference proceedings](#) for paper sessions, discussion panels, workshops and tutorials, posters and demonstrations, and ad hoc program sessions. We used the Open Science Framework (OSF), an open source platform for scholarly documentation, to develop and populate the proceedings and have shared our approach to the proceedings including scripts with iPres 2019. The Social Media Team created Collaborative Google docs for each session and the links circulated for attendees to contribute to the note-taking. Both in-person and virtual attendees appreciated the collaborative notes. The OSF proceedings include the collaborative notes for all but the few session notes that did not include content. The iPres 2018 papers are also available in the iPres [repository](#). Website Coordinator: *Tricia Patterson*; Proceedings Developer: *Megan Potterbusch*; and Proceedings Wrangler: *Nance McGovern*.

Survey Results (Nance McGovern): More than 150 attendees responded to the [conference feedback survey](#) with an overall rating of 4.13 of 5. The survey form complemented the iPres 2016 survey questions with a couple of changes and additions to reflect 2018 content and to share with 2019. We posted the summary results on our conference website and shared anonymous open-ended responses with the 2019 organizers.

Social Media (Maureen Pennock and Michelle Lindlar): The iPres 2018 worked hard to share updates and information through all available social media channels before, during, and after the conference. The @iPRES2018 twitter account was the official account used to promote and share announcements with more than 400 followers by the end of conference and the conference hashtag was #ipres2018. There are links to the blog posts on the conference website: ipres2018.org. The Social Media Team coordinated these efforts and all members of the Organizing Team contributed.

Our Organizing Team would like to thank all of the program contributors - proposal submitters, authors, presenters, chairs, moderators – and all of the conference attendees, virtual and in-person for helping to make iPres 2018 a productive, engaging, informative, innovative, and enjoyable event. See you next year!