

ChoreoSave: Determining Metadata for Digital Dance Preservation

EUGENIA KIM

Abstract: Dance and digital media are both difficult to preserve over time due to their ephemeral natures. While large institutions such as the New York Public Library and Merce Cunningham Foundation have the funding and infrastructure to preserve selected choreographies, the majority of dance companies and choreographers do not have access to proper digital repositories in which to store and preserve dance works. Both formal and informal repositories, such as social media services, have positive qualities that can be combined to form a more accessible yet standardized hybrid repository. However, to the present day, no social media service or formalized repository has provided preservation options for the general public

ChoreoSave is a prototype repository system developed by the author as a Master's thesis project. The author used open source software to create a short-term community-based digital repository as informed by examination of several fields of inquiry. By using metadata as a base for holistically capturing dance choreography and deemphasizing the reliability of performance footage, this approach challenges traditional notions of capturing movement by treating each piece of choreography as a multi-faceted record.

This presentation includes survey results of major dance institutions, a case study of an organization-based dance repository, and a proposed set of metadata elements for *ChoreoSave*. The author also identifies considerations for future development and release of the prototype as well as the potential application of data curation practices to increase the system's effectiveness.

About the author:

Eugenia Kim is a Data Services Specialist and Visiting Professor at the Purdue University Libraries. She received her MS in Information Science from University at Albany, State University of New York, in December 2010 with a concentration in Archives and Records Management. Kim was a 2010 ARL Career Enhancement Program Fellow and a 2011 REACH21 scholarship recipient for the Spectrum Leadership Institute. Her current research interests include the application of data curation to the arts and the relationship between archives and e-science.