

The “M” word: What works and what doesn’t in file format migration

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Abstract: The State Library of North Carolina's Digital Information Management Program is attempting to build a preservation system using a variety of third-party tools. These tools include Archive-It for Web harvesting, CONTENTdm for access, and local storage combined with OCLC's Digital Archive for redundant, distributed storage. Now that we have short-term storage and access under control, we are looking into ways to incorporate file format migration functionality to help move us into the realm of long-term access. We are currently evaluating several existing open source tools and conducting some test migrations on various file formats in our repository. During this presentation we will share details about the migration testing itself, what we have learned about the various transformations, and what changes we will make to our workflow based on this testing. It's our hope that our efforts will serve as food for thought for other repositories and promote sharing about other institutions' file format migration experiences.

About the author:

Jennifer Ricker joined the State Library of North Carolina in 2006 and is currently the Digital Collections Manager. She is responsible for investigating and implementing systems and technologies to collect and ensure that digital state publications are openly accessible to the public, now and in the future. While at the State Library Jennifer participated in the NDIIPP grant to develop the Web Archives Workbench tool set, was a member of the team that pilot tested the Archive-It subscription service, implemented OCLC's CONTENTdm and Digital Archive solutions, and is currently participating in the NHPRC-funded Distributed Custodial Archival Preservation Environments initiative as well as the NDIIPP-funded Washington State Digital Archive Multi-State initiative.