

New Evidence on Storage Practices: Results from the 2023 NDSA Storage Survey

MAX PRUD'HOMME, AMY ALLEN, ALAN MUNSHOWER, KARI MAY, AND AMANDA GARFUNKEL

Abstract:

The National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) recently conducted a survey to gather new data on trends, technologies, standards, and practices that impact digital preservation storage at different types of organizations around the world. Distributed through 18 different national and international listservs, the NDSA Working Group received 138 completed responses to the 51-question survey between October and November 2023. The 2023 survey builds on the results of the three surveys carried out in 2011, 2013, and 2019 on storage infrastructure, and offers a longitudinal view of how practices have changed.

The survey gathers any information organizations use to establish and manage a preservation storage infrastructure (including systems and service providers) to meet their mission. Additionally, the survey captures insights on planning and organizational commitment. The newest feature of the survey is a section to address environmental awareness, as organizations seek to optimize digital preservation actions. This data can be used as a tool for organizations to advocate for resources, provide direction for future practices, inform work on tools, and provide an opportunity for collaboration on common challenges.

This presentation will provide a brief look at how the report is developed using responses from international universities, institutes, government agencies, and others followed by some preliminary findings on how they manage digital preservation storage. The survey report will be published on the NDSA site later in 2024.

About the authors:

Patrice-Andre (Max) Prud'homme, PhD, is an Associate Professor and Director of Digital Curation at the Oklahoma State University Library. He currently provides leadership and management in the areas of digital curation, preservation, and discovery of digital resources, incorporating the application of computational methods and resources to augment the value of digital archival materials.

Amy Allen is the University Archivist at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Allen was the first University Archivist at this institution, and developed procedures and policies for the unit. She is responsible for the life cycle of both physical and digital records, including donations, accessions, processing, preservation, and providing access. She holds an MLIS degree, a DAS

certificate, and is a Certified Archivist. She is currently the co-chair of the NDSA Storage Survey Working Group.

Alan Munshower currently serves as the Digital Collections Archivist at Virginia Tech Special Collections and University Archives. He previously was the Audio-Visual Curator at University of Mississippi Archives and Special Collections. Alan has been the Technical Coordinator for the Meetings Coordinating Committee of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) since 2021. A Certified Archivist, DAS certificate holder, and graduate of the MLS program at the University of Maryland, his research interests include music communities, copyright, digital preservation, and climate-minded approaches in digital archives.

Kari May is the University of Pittsburgh Library System's first Digital Archives & Preservation Librarian. She designed and implemented the ULS digital preservation program and continues to guide and develop strategies, workflows, documentation, and policies to safely guide digital assets from receipt to full, secure preservation. Previously, Kari led the development and operation of the Kentucky State Government Electronic Records Management Branch and launched the Kentucky State Digital Archives. She is currently a Co-Chair of the NDSA Excellence Awards Working Group and has represented the group as a judge for the Digital Preservation Coalition's 2022 Digital Preservation Awards.

Amanda Garfunkel currently serves as the Digital Archivist at the Medical Center Archives of NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine. She was the first Digital Archivist at the Medical Center Archives and has been developing a digital preservation program and creating workflows for managing digital assets. She holds an MLIS degree and a DAS certificate and currently serves on the Steering Committee for the Electronic Records Section of the Society of American Archivists (SAA).