

Metadata and Digital Objects Roundtable

2012 Summary of Annual Meeting Activities

Number of attendees: 170

A. Introduction provided by Polina Ilieva, Co-Chair of MDOR

B. Announcements made by:

- John W. Chapman, OCLC projects
- Kathleen M. Williams, National Historical Publications & Records Commission
- Dennis Meissner, SAA Council Liaison

Included the following:

- SAA has endorsed ISO Trustworthy Digital Repository Audit Standard (TRAC)
- OCLC Research is conducting a “rough and ready” finding aids project to digitize handwritten finding aids
- Linked open data is now available at the end of individual OCLC records as well as VIAF and FAST records
- SAA approved and endorsed standards as well as community recommended and vetted standards are available in the Standards Portal: <http://www2.archivists.org/standards>
 - o New standards should be submitted through a section or roundtable
 - o Anybody can contribute related resources under any standard
- @mdor_tweets is the new Twitter address for MDOR

C. Election Results: 343 voters (online election)

Polina Ilieva reelected as Co-Chair for third term (250 votes)

Jody DeRidder elected as Co-Chair for first term (308 votes)

Chela Weber (write-in candidate) not elected (1 vote)

D. Presentations:

1) Nancy McGovern, MIT Libraries for **Jefferson Bailey**, Library of Congress

“Trends & Challenges in Digital Object Storage Infrastructure: Notes from the NDSA Infrastructure Working Group”

Abstract:

The National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) is a network of partners dedicated to ensuring enduring access to digital information. The Alliance’s mission is to establish, maintain, and advance the capacity to preserve our nation’s digital resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The NDSA Infrastructure Survey, conducted between August 2011 and November 2011, solicited information on digital object storage practices within the NDSA community. The survey

results, along with continuing research and discussion, reveal a number of insights into current infrastructure practices and emerging challenges. This presentation will summarize and explicate these findings across a variety of infrastructure topics.

Notes:

- National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA) has five component groups: content, standards, infrastructure, innovation, outreach
- For additional information follow The Signal (LC digital preservation blog):
<http://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/>

2) **Chatham Ewing**, Assistant Professor and Curator of Special Collections, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and
Katherine Wisser, Assistant Professor and Co-Director, Archives/History Dual Degree Program, Simmons College
"Archives & Social Networks"

Abstract:

How might social network analysis and digital tools for network diagramming motivate archivists to begin rethinking how they construe relationships between collections, collecting, and metadata? This session will tease out implications of using network analyses as they apply to practical use and reuse of network data in varied archival contexts. Kathy Wisser will present on the first round of results of her IMLS-funded project which uses network analysis to examine the impact of relationships on archival description. Chatham Ewing will present his recent research on network analysis under the broad rubric of manuscripts and special collections, with particular interest in collection development.

Notes:

Chatham Ewing:

- Mapping connections between correspondents (incoming, outgoing, recommended) involved in founding of a journal
 - o Way to demonstrate people most heavily involved in particular activities
 - o Used social analysis of cohorts

Kathy Wisser/Simmons:

- IMLS grant-funded project focused on social network analysis of literary collections
- Manually analyzed finding aids of four literary archives to determine identities and biographical sources
- Used NODEXL and Pajek software to perform social network analysis
- Finding: 19th c. relationships were much more local than 20th c.
- Granularity and intensity of relationships not explored
- Also tracking where data came from in order to analyze past archival description practice
- <http://gslis.simmons.edu/smallworld>

3. **Corey A. Harper**, New York University Libraries

“Context and Prosopography: Putting the 'Archives' Into LOD-LAM”

Abstract:

Rich descriptions of history and context, and of people, places, and events, are scattered throughout the prose of archival descriptive metadata. Initiatives like EAC-CPF and SNAC are first steps at turning those descriptions into reusable, recombinant *data*. Learn about how the Linked Open Data - Libraries Archives and Museums movement, as well as emerging Linked Open Data efforts in other scholarly domains, wish to make use of archival description. This presentation will discuss standards and best practices for Linked Data and the Semantic Web coming from Dublin Core, the World Wide Web Consortium, and the library and museum communities, and how these standards could be applied to archival metadata.

Notes:

- Tim Berners Lee TED talks about raw data
- Most LAMs have closed silos of data
- Prosopography: enables you to discern information about individuals based on relationships when you might not have much biographical information
- For more information, follow @chrpr (Corey Harper’s Twitter account)

4. **Laura Williams**, Stanford University

“In a Flash: Streamlining Digital Image Description Through Batch Metadata Application”

- Needs for digital image collection:
 - o add metadata in bulk
 - o view images together with metadata
 - o add flat and hierarchical metadata
 - o customize metadata fields
 - o export in widely used format
- Used Photo Mechanic (by Camera Bits) to add bulk metadata
- Metadata resides in image layer
- Exported images and metadata into DAM
- Metadata resides in image header and exported in XML, then transformed into MODS so that the images and metadata could be contributed to shared DAM

E. Small Group Discussions:

- Archives & social networks (facilitators: Chatham Ewing, Katherine Wissner)
- Digital objects description and storage (facilitators: Laura Williams, Nancy McGovern)
- Linked open data (facilitator: Corey A. Harper)

Notes: These discussion groups were so popular, we have determined that perhaps they should precede the presentations at our next annual meeting. Feedback from the membership was very positive.

Name of Section/Roundtable: Metadata and Digital Objects Roundtable
Date: November 15, 2012

Officers:

- Polina Ilieva (Co-Chair), 2010-2013
- Jody DeRidder (Co-Chair), 2012-2013
- Dennis Meissner (Council Liaison), 2010-2013
- Mikki Macdonald (Web Liaison), 2012-2013

Report from annual meeting:

(Please see attached)

Completed projects/activities:

- Appointed a social media coordinator
- Created a social media presence for MDOR to facilitate access to information
- Worked with the SAA standards committee to collect and provide information about metadata and digital standards for the Standards Portal
- Established an internship program to provide an opportunity for current graduate student(s) or archivist(s) with less than one year experience in the profession to be actively involved in roundtable activities
- Updated the Roundtable manual
- Updated the website to incorporate social media
- Solicited volunteers for steering committee membership and selected new members

Ongoing projects/activities:

- Review session proposals and make endorsements
- Organize Roundtable meeting for SAA conference
- Consider alternative formats for annual meeting and solicit ideas from membership
- Update the MDOR website
- Research & solicit metadata samples from member institutions
- Identify and define the scope of MDOR's web content in relation to the Standards Portal
- Continue developing the internship program

New projects/activities:

- Appoint a new social media coordinator
- Create directory of metadata user groups
- Develop a calendar on the MDOR website of upcoming webinars/seminars/workshops of interest to membership
- Compile spreadsheet and solicit involvement of MDOR volunteers
- Develop bylaws

- Create a LinkedIn group
- Perform a survey of membership to assess whether to become a section, and our focus
- Decide whether to convert MDOR RT to a section, and document the decision
- Establish liaisons with other key sections and roundtables, to better coordinate our efforts

Strategic Priority - Technology initiatives:

Create directory of metadata user groups
Expand usage of social media for outreach and engagement

Strategic Priority - Diversity initiatives:

Solicit involvement of MDOR volunteers in current projects

Strategic Priority - Advocacy/Public Awareness initiatives:

Social media postings on at least a weekly basis
Develop and maintain calendar of upcoming events of interest
Establish liaisons with other key sections and roundtables

Questions/concerns for Council attention:

As the pressure increases to provide online access to special collections and archive materials, the focus and interests of several round tables and sections begin to overlap and converge. In particular, Electronic Records, Description, Preservation, and the Reference, Access and Outreach sections (as well as the EAD Roundtable) overlap with the concerns of the Metadata and Digital Objects Roundtable. Yet MDOR clearly has wide appeal and a huge membership. Strategic use of resources and personnel suggests establishment of liaisons between these (and other) groups, and recommends the clarification of boundaries between sections or merging of sections as appropriate. It might benefit leadership to also identify areas not currently being served by existing sections, and consider establishment of sections to cover those areas, or assignment of agenda items to existing or emerging sections to ensure that membership needs are being met.