Cultivating Community: Cross-Institutional Development of Digital Preservation Learning Materials for Smaller Cultural Heritage Organizations

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Impetus for developing digital preservation webinar series

- Call for facilitators by Andrew Leith, Conservation and Collections Program Manager for the Chicago Cultural Alliance - late April 2020
  - COVID-19 pandemic - remote work / professional development
- Previous discussions or efforts among collaborators:
  - Laura and Tracy:
    - Separate notification of Andrew's call for experts
    - Prior discussion regarding lack of digital preservation training
  - Laura and Dan:
    - Digital preservation workshop submission to Midwest Archives Conference (cancelled)
- opportunity + convergence = collaboration

Can we rapidly develop an effective high-level and practical digital preservation curriculum geared toward professionals working in smaller (under-resourced) cultural heritage institutions?

Methods

Rapid lit review/environmental scan...

of adult learning styles

Characteristics of Adult Learners
- Need to know why they are learning something
- Learn through doing
- Are problem solvers
- Learn best when the subject is of immediate use
- Prefer social interaction
- Want to use their life experiences in the classroom
- Want to integrate new ideas with existing knowledge

Rassmusen, 2015.
https://www.leadingagemn.org/assets/docs/15_Workforce_103_CreatingEffectiveOrientationPrograms-CRasmussen.pdf

of existing digital preservation educational tools/resources

- Digital Preservation Outreach and Education program (Library of Congress) http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/education/call.html
- Digital POWRR - https://digitalpowrr.niu.edu/
- * Carpentries instructor training https://carpentries.github.io/instructor-training/

Workshop Design

Practical and goal-driven

- "meet learners where they are"
- High-level, actionable digital preservation
- Activities draw from participants' experiences and relate to their collections
- National Digital Stewardship Alliance - Levels of Digital Preservation used for goal setting

Topics Covered

Topics drawn from

- NDSA Levels of Digital Preservation
- MAC Workshop proposal

  - Digital Preservation Introduction
  - Storage
  - Metadata
  - Capacity Building

Themes

- DON'T PANIC!
- Start somewhere
- Flexibility
- Avoid prescriptive language
- Customize to meet institutional needs and resources (following a specific implementation not as crucial as long as it is effective and successful in terms of safeguarding digital content)
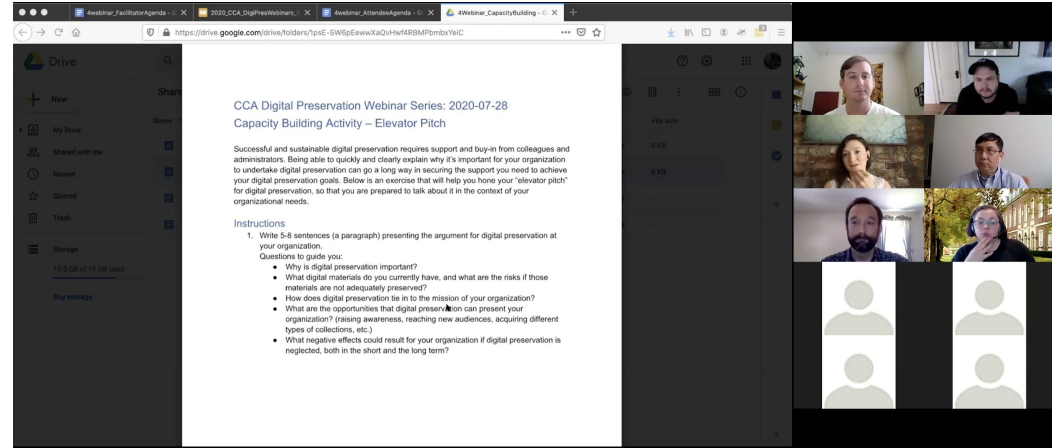- Digital preservation is not access

Welcome! Everything is fine.

Activities

- Storage
  - Digital Storage Assessment
- Metadata
  - Create an Inventory
- Capacity building
  - Goal Setting
  - Elevator Pitch

Length and Delivery

- Four, one-hour webinars delivered via Zoom every other week
  - Avoids content overload
  - Allows for contemplation
- Zoom Etiquette
  - Muting
  - Video off
- Audience Participation
  - Breakout rooms
  - Text chat in Zoom - synchronous
  - Audio questions in Zoom - synchronous
  - Document questions in session Google Doc - asynchronous
  - Contact Andrew and/or facilitators between sessions - asynchronous

Assessment – Workshop Effectiveness

- Surveys
  - Pre-workshop
  - Post-workshop
- Virtual Environments
  - Pros:
    - Allowed facilitators from several regional academic institutions to work together and present
    - In person may have been cost prohibitive without grant funds
    - Same for attendees: less travel and time away from work
    - Gave the presenters time to develop the presentations
    - Gave attendees time to digest the information
  - Cons
    - In-person allows for facilitators to gauge engagement more clearly
    - More difficult to get people to collaborate and speak up
    - Technology challenges

Future Work

- Refine
- Teacher Training Tool
- Recorded Toolkit

Thank you!

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