

From Project to Strategy: Scalable Digital Curation at Ohio University Libraries

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Abstract: The Ohio University Libraries has traditionally taken a project-based approach to its digitization efforts, drawing on ad hoc collaborations between the Archives & Special Collections, Digital Initiatives, and Preservation units in response to funding opportunities. In order to engage in a more meaningful and strategic collaboration that would lay a foundation for a sustainable and scalable digital curation and preservation strategy, the Libraries tasked representatives from those three primary areas to research possible solutions to move this goal forward. To this end Janet Carleton, Digital Initiatives coordinator, Sara Harrington, head of Arts and Archives, and Miriam Nelson, head of Preservation, applied and were accepted into the University of Maryland iSchool, Curation and Management of Digital Assets, post-master's certificate program (<http://cmdacert.umd.edu/>), 2015-2016. Acceptance and participation in the program were predicated on the potential impact of cross departmental research and collaboration culminating in a shared capstone project. The ultimate goal of this endeavor has been and continues to be laying the foundation to ready the Libraries for an institutional investment in digital preservation in the form of newly drafted policies, procedures, and workflows. This poster will serve to illustrate the work produced by in the capstone project and collaborative outcomes that continue to develop as a result.

About the Authors:

Miriam Nelson is head of Preservation for Ohio University Libraries where she oversees the conservation of the general and special collections and the administration of the Libraries' preservation program. In addition, she manages the SEO Library Depository, a high density storage facility for the long-term storage of library collections. Miriam holds an MLS from Indiana University; an MA in Cultural Memory from the University of London, School of Advanced Study; a Post-Master's Certificate in the Curation and Management of Digital Assets from the University of Maryland; and a BA in Art History from the University of New Mexico.

Janet Carleton is Digital Initiatives coordinator for Ohio University Libraries where she is responsible for the digitization and digital preservation of the Libraries unique resources, and promoting their use through social media. She is active in SAA, regional, and state archives organizations, and is the convener for the Ohio Digitization Interest Group. She holds a MLIS from the University of Texas at Austin, archives specialization; a post-master's certificate in the curation and management of digital assets from the University of Maryland; and bachelors in history and art history from Ohio University.