

Digitization for Everybody (Dig4E): Bridging the gap between standards and practice

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Abstract: This platform presentation introduces a research and training initiative designed to bridge the knowledge gap that presently exists between well-established or emergent standards for the digitization of documents, audio recordings, and video recordings, on the one hand, and practices for digital reformatting of archival resources, on the other. Standards-based digitization guidelines promulgated by the Federal Agencies Digital Guidelines Initiative (FADGI) and the International Association for Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) are technically complex and not easily interpretable by the non-specialist. There is a pressing need for research to create a synthesis of standards-based digitization knowledge that also factors archival workflows into the complexities of project management. The effective application of guidelines and standards in outsourced or in-house digitization programs is essential to the creation of digital surrogates with long-term (archival) value. The platform presentation will (1) frame the problem, (2) introduce a project that is creating learning resources to bridge the aforementioned gap, and (3) provide a quick view (demo) of the technical platform for hosting and delivering the free and open online learning resources. The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the sponsor of the two-year project.

About the Author:

Paul Conway (Ph.D., Library and Information Studies, University of Michigan, 1991) is associate professor in the University of Michigan School of Information. His research and teaching focus on archival science, the digitization and preservation of cultural heritage resources, and the ethics of new information technologies. His funded research projects at Michigan have included developing a model of expert user interaction with large collections of digitized photographs, measuring the quality of large scale digitization as represented in the HathiTrust Digital Library, and understanding the complexities of providing access to collections of original live audio recordings. His most cited work appears in *American Archivist*, *Archival Science*, and *Library Quarterly*. Prior to joining the University of Michigan faculty in 2006, he was an archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration and a senior administrator for the libraries at Yale and Duke universities. He is a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and a 2011 recipient of the Provost's Teaching Innovation Prize.