

Preserving Podcasts: An Institutional Repository Pilot Project

VALERIE COLLINS AND ERIK MOORE

In response to the 2020 global pandemic, the University of Minnesota Archives sought to gather digital content documenting the public health crisis and institutional response to COVID-19. Staff identified university-produced podcasts from several departments as information-rich contemporaneous content that was also at high risk of loss. Archives staff reviewed how different institutions are using institutional repositories to preserve podcasts, and conducted a campus-wide survey to identify content and type of platforms to determine the steps to ingest podcasts into the University's institutional repository. The presentation will cover the results of this survey and the process of gathering files and metadata for upload on behalf of the podcast creators, as well as initial observations on how these materials are being used. The talk will conclude with a discussion of the current progress and ongoing maintenance of serial digital publications in a repository. Although this project started specifically with pandemic-related podcasts, it expanded as archives staff came to view podcasts as a university record, and the outcomes demonstrate the usefulness of an institutional repository to preserve podcast content.

About the authors:

Valerie Collins is the Digital Repositories and Records Archivist at the University of Minnesota. She works with the digital records programs of the University Archives, including the University's institutional repository and web archiving program.

Erik Moore is the University Archivist for the University of Minnesota Archives. Moore is also Co-Director of the University Digital Conservancy, the University of Minnesota's institutional repository of scholarly works, research data, and institutional digital records.