

# **Building for Tomorrow: Collaborative Development of Sustainable Infrastructure for Architectural and Design Documentation**

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**Abstract:** The Frances Loeb Library at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design received an IMLS National Forum Grant under the National Digital Platform funding priority to support two meetings of engaged stakeholders – architects, architectural historians, archivists, librarians, technologists, digital preservationists, and others to frame a national/international collaborative infrastructure to support long-term preservation of digital design data. The Forum took place on April 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2018, and provided a venue for the diverse group of stakeholders to think collaboratively about the issues in preserving architectural design data, to find alignments across communities, and to identify the needs required to develop an infrastructure to support archiving of digital design information that will be usable by a variety of types and sizes of architectural museums and archives. One outcome of the Forum was a set of strategic directions and potential actions that formed the basis for a roadmap for development of the human, institutional, and resource infrastructure needed to support this work. The second meeting was comprised of a subset of the stakeholders, a steering committee that took the strategic directions and potential actions and developed a three to five year plan.

## **About the Author:**

*Ann Whiteside* is Librarian/Assistant Dean for Information Services at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. The focus of her work is re-envisioning the 21<sup>st</sup> century library, including expanding the creation of and access to digital information in close collaboration with scholars, and the use of technology to support teaching and research. Her current work is focused on three areas of preservation: digital design data, web archiving, and AV materials. She is the PI for the IMLS grant, Building for Tomorrow, with the goal of developing a roadmap that outlines a shared infrastructure for the preservation and dissemination of electronic architectural documentation for institutions of varying types and sizes.