A Tale of Three Libraries:

Key Factors in Successful Online Collaborative Projects

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COMPUTERS 2009

Goals today

- Offer advice about and examples of the "key factors" that lead to success in a collaborative project
- Discuss factors that could hinder the success of a collaborative project
- Help you decide if a collaborative project is right for your library

Genesis of today's presentation

- Our project encountered a series of setbacks, structural problems, and unforeseen events that would usually doom most projects
- Yet, going on three years later, our project continues to thrive
- Why?

The Chesapeake Project

- Collaborative effort among:
 - Georgetown University Law Library
 - Maryland State Law Library
 - Virginia State Law Library

Goal: to preserve born-digital collections

Our short history

- Brainchild of Robert Oakley, former director of the Georgetown University Law Library
 - Strong commitment to preserving legal information
 - Believed online legal information at risk
 - Believed law libraries to be responsible for the preservation of born-digital legal information

The partners

- Enlisted the directors of the Maryland State Law Library and the Virginia State Law Library
- Designated as a demonstration project of the Legal Information Preservation Alliance

Obstacle 1

- Three very different libraries
 - Georgetown Law Library
 - One of the premier law schools in the nation
 - Two "branches": E.B. Williams and Wolff International
 - Staff of 68
 - Maryland State Law Library
 - Part of the Maryland Judiciary
 - Open to the public
 - Staff of 15
 - Virginia State Law Library
 - Part of the Virginia Judiciary
 - Serves the appellate court of Virginia
 - Staff of 4

Obstacle 2

- Loss of our visionary
 - Bob Oakley passed away before we completed our first year
- Provided the leadership, the reputation, and the vision to keep three totally unaffiliated libraries together

Obstacle 3

- Total change of preservation system and technology
 - OCLC discontinued the Digital Archive
 - Required to learn a whole new system: CONTENTdm
 - Great deal of time went into learning the old system and setting up our processes
 - Had to start all over again!

Obstacle 3: Digital Archive

-**Create Options Show Options** Digital Archive Digital Archive: 0000074730 Created: LEGAL 2008-06-20 Modified: 2008-06-20 Harvested On: 2008-06-20 Ingested On: 2008-06-20 Object Composition: pdf,1 LogicalObjectSize: 2.7 MB Title Shortchanging America's health: a state-by-state look at how federal public health dollars are spent. 2008 Title Alternative Shortchanging America's health 2008 Title.Alternative State-by-state look at how federal public health dollars are spent Trust for America's Health Creator. Corporate ContentDescription. Version June 2008 ContentDescription.Summary [Harvested by GUL] Publisher Trust for America's Health Date.Available.W3C-DTF 2008-04 ObjectLocator.Original.URI http://healthyamericans.org/reports/shortchanging08/Shortchanging08.pdf ObjectLocator.OCLCArchive.URI http://digitalarchive.oclc.org/request?pid%3Dobjid%3A0000086258 DARecordLanguage.ISO639-2 enq Language.ISO639-2 eng OCLCIdentifier.OCLCNumber 74277992 ObjectType Multi-type Object LocalNote sir PDF-1.4 LocalNote

Obstacle 3: ContentDM

CONTENTAM Administration						
admin home		server	collections	items		
:: approve : index : add : edit : find & replace : lock administration : view collect						
Current collection: Maryland State Law Library						

Edit item

Edit metadata then click **save changes**. To remove this item from the collection, click **delete**. After making changes, you must rebuild the text index.

* Fields marked with an asterisk are required.

	view this item
Title *	A report to the Maryland General Assembly regarding
Title-Alternative	
Creator	Maryland. Dept. of Transportation.
Rights	
Date	
PDI.Title	A report to the Maryland General Assembly regarding
Date-Issued	2004]
Date-Available	
Date-Created	
Date-Modified	
Subject	Maryland. Task Force on Parking for Individuals with
Description	Title from cover.; David H. Hugel, Chairman.; "Decer

Key factors in successful collaborative projects

Fundamental commitment to the project goal

Complements current work processes

Project directly tied to the library's mission

Flexibility and creativity

Management commitment

Face time

Talented project manager

Outcome is useful

Fundamental commitment to the project goal

- This is the key factor
- Define the goal, know what you are trying to achieve, and know why

Project directly tied to the library's mission

- Provides the project with a strong foundation
- Makes it a less likely target for budget cuts
- Makes it easy to focus on project's goals

Management commitment

- Chain of command must commit to the fundamental goals of the project
- Commitment is demonstrated by staffing and budget
- Collaborative projects cannot be "under the radar"

Talented project manager

Need a savvy point person from the start

Someone who has not been given the job of project manager as "other duty as assigned"

Project work complements current work processes

- The project needs to integrate with current library work process
- Does not require a complete re-tooling of work processes

Flexibility and creativity

- When trying anything new, everyone involved must be willing to be flexible
- Great opportunity to learn

Face time

Communication is always key and a great deal of work can be done via email and phone

- But there is no substitute for face-toface meeting
- Team meets every quarter

Outcome is useful

Even if all the above items are met, unless the goal of the project is to produce something of use, it will be hard to sustain

Our accomplishments

- Harvested more than 4,000 publications!
- Available through our library catalogs,
 WorldCat, and Web search engines (i.e.,
 Google)
- Estimate that approximately 1 in 7 of these publications is no longer available online within a year of harvesting

Why collaborate?

- Combine resources and talent to accomplish what seems overwhelming and impossible
- Opportunity to work with your peers
- See what "life is like" in another library
- For smaller libraries, opportunity to participate in projects that may be out of reach
- Learn, learn, learn
- Network
- Contribute
- Have fun

Take a look at our handiwork

* The Chesapeake Project www.LegalInfoArchive.org

LegalInfoArchive.org: Home page

Legal Information Archive

THE CHESAPEAKE PROJECT

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Menu

Search

Find secondary sources of government, policy, and legal information published to the Web and archived for the future

Browse

Browse through materials archived by participating libraries without formulating a specific search

Collection Directory

View a list of collections in the Legal Information Archive

Help

Get assistance using The Chesapeake Project's Legal Information Archive

Additional Resources



Collection Plan

View the official collection plan for The Chesapeake Project's pilot digital preservation program, updated August 2008 (1.8 MB)



First-Year Pilot Project Evaluation

The Chesapeake Project's first-year project eviaution, completed in April 2008, is now available online (1.1 MB)

Copyright Information

View the copyright policy for items archived by The Chesapeake Project

Contact Us

Do you have questions about The Chesapeake Project?

Find out more about The Chesapeake Project

About The Chesapeake Project

The Chesapeake Project contains government, policy, and legal information archived by the Georgetown Law Library, the Maryland State Law Library, and the Virginia State Law Library, including:

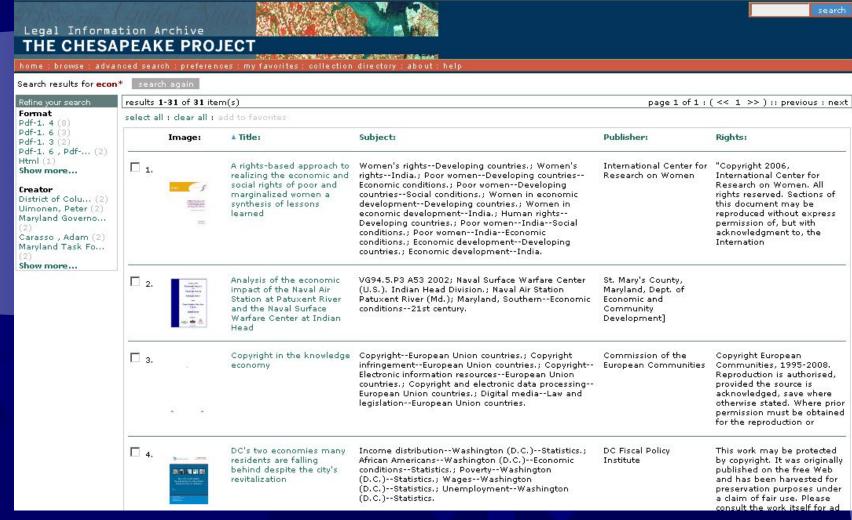
- Reports and studies relating to U.S. government and policy
- · Materials relating to public policy and legal issues in the state of Maryland
- Publications issued by Virginia's judicial branch of government
- Materials by and about the District of Columbia

The Chesapeake Project was implemented as a two-year pilot project in early 2007 by the Georgetown Law Library and the State Law Libraries of Maryland and Virginia. Today, these three libraries have expanded the archive beyond the pilot phase. Law libraries nationwide are encouraged to join this collaborative digital archive, or establish their own preservation projects, under the auspices of the Legal Information Preservation Alliance.

Georgetown Law Library | Maryland State Law Library | Virginia State Law Library | Contact us

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LegalInfoArchive.org: Search results



Access via library catalog



Online Catalog

Search for print and online versions of treatises, form books, law reviews, task force reports, and government publications available at the Library.

Start Over Save To List MARC Display (Search History)

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Search

[ITLE Reforming redistricting [electronic resource] : why popular initiatives to establish redistricting commissions succeed or fail / by Nicholas Stephanopoulos.

AUTHOR Stephanopoulos, Nicholas.

PUBLISHER [Washington, D.C.]: American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, 2007.

AVAILABLE ONLINE:

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DESCRIPTION 31 p. : ill., tables, digital, PDF file.

NOTE Title from title screen (viewed Oct. 29, 2007).

"March 2007."

Also available in the OCLC Digital Archive. Harvested from http://www.acslaw.org/files/ Stephanopoulos%20-%20Redistricting%20Initiatives%20March%202007.pdf on 2007-04-16.

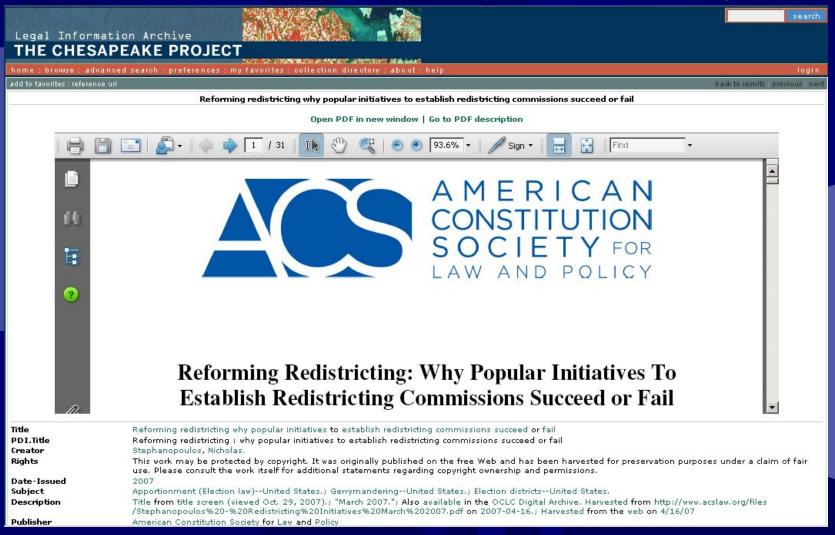
SYSTEM DET Mode of access: World Wide Web.

System requirements: Adobe Acrobat Reader.

SUBJECT Apportionment (Election law) -- United States.

<u>Gerrymandering -- United States.</u> Election districts -- United States.

Links to The Chesapeake Project



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Votelaw, Edward Still's blog on law and politics

"Reforming Redistricting: Why Popular Initiatives To Establish Redistricting Commissions Succeed or Fail. decreasing the black population of the adjacent 4th District, encompassing Chesapeake, from 39.4 percent to 33.6 percent. ... www.votelaw.com/blog/archives/redistricting/ - 977k - Cached - Similar pages

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Publisher:	[Washington, D.C.]: American Constitution Society for Law and Policy, 2007.	
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