Getting Unstuck

A Collaborative
Approach to Getting
Started with Digital
Preservation

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Five Colleges of Ohio



Denison University



Kenyon College



Oberlin College



Ohio Wesleyan University



College of Wooster

Five Colleges of Ohio

- Formed in 1995 with libraries being the initial catalyst for collaboration
- Other Library Initiatives:
 - Information Literacy
 - Government Documents
 - Cooperative Collection Development
 - Shared Technical Services
 - Digital Initiatives: Digitization & Digital Scholarship
- A consortium within a consortium (OhioLINK)

Digital Collections -> Scholarship & Pedagogy

Mellon-Funded Digital Initiatives





Digital Collections -> Scholarship & Pedagogy

Mellon-Funded Digital Initiatives

Observations:

- Faculty-initiated projects more likely to see use than library-initiated projects
- Sustainability of digital projects is uncertain
- Not all digital projects worth preserving indefinitely
 - But which ones are, and how?

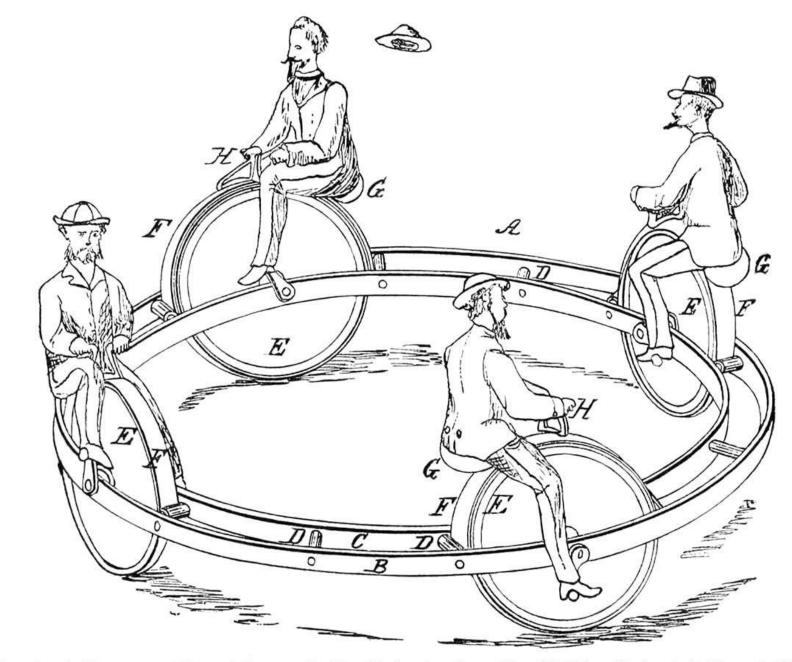
OH5 Digital Preservation Task Force



Where We Were

(standing on the shoulders of POWRR)

- Recognition that digital preservation is important, but few dedicated resources to implement any sustainable initiatives
- Mixed bag of knowledge and expertise in digital preservation
- Preservation efforts largely limited to backup
- Few consortial conversations around preservation



Sturdy & Young, of Providence, R. I. Velocipede. No. 89,700. Patented May 4, 1869.



For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.

99

- Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics

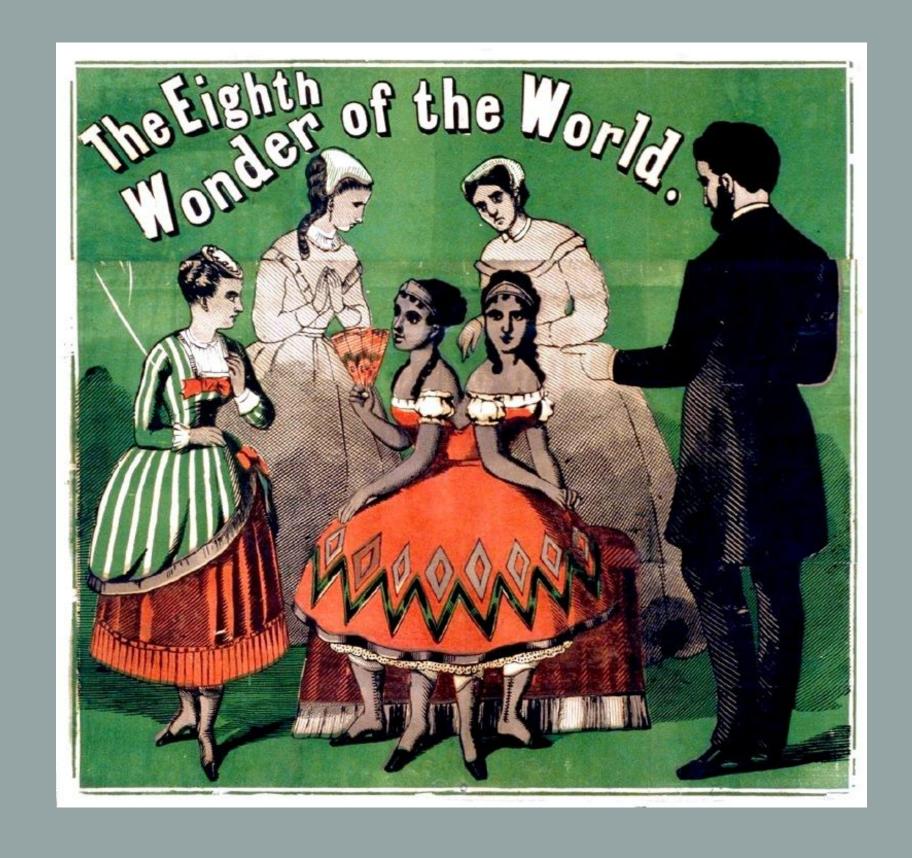
Getting Unstuck

- Shared Principles:
 - We can learn faster together.
 - We can learn through experimentation.
 - We can make minimal upfront investments and re-evaluate as we go.
 - We can refine practices
 through collaborative learning
 and experimentation.



Megan Mitchell

The Five
Colleges of
Ohio Digital
Preservation
Task Force



Phase I - Fall 2015

Task force charged in October

- Describe DP plans/progress at each institution
- Investigate DP initiatives at other liberal arts colleges
- Investigate advantages/disadvantages of a shared system
- Identify technical/institutional barriers to collaborating on DP
- Identify individuals able/willing to commit to DP at each institution

How We Work Together

- Basecamp
- Virtual Meetings
- In-Person Workshops



Information Gathering

- Articles, reports, etc.
- Local digital inventories
- Calls to consultants
- Outreach to similar institutions/consortia
- Queries to Vendors http://bit.ly/2mE5Qlp





Preservation 101 - January 2016

Managing Digital Content Over Time

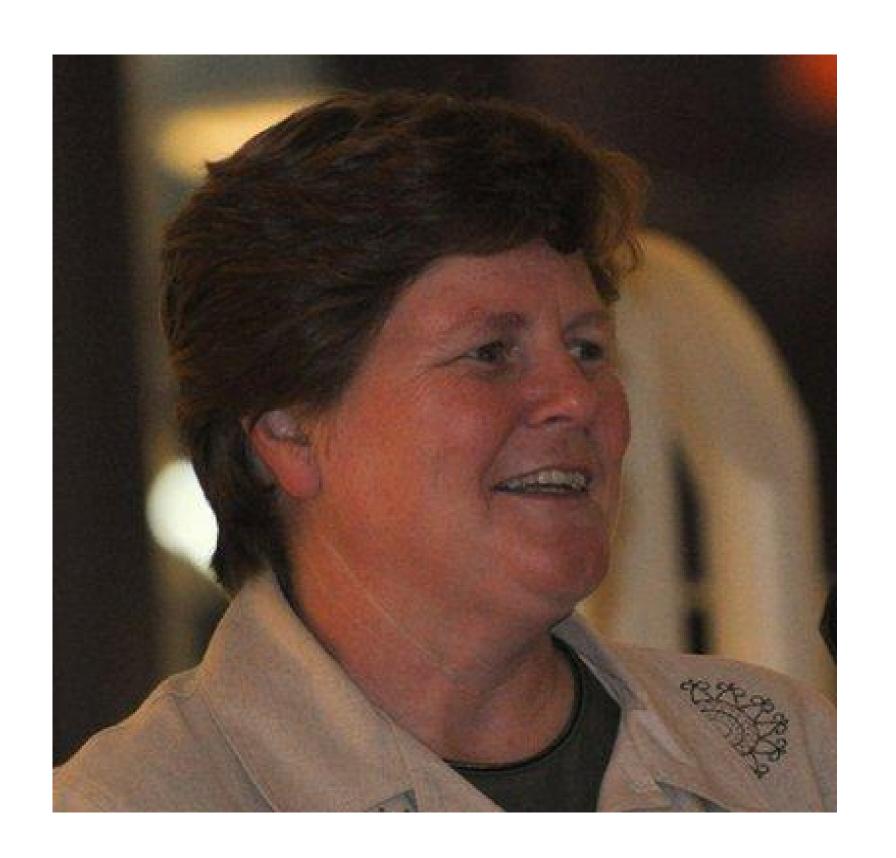
Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Program (DPOE) Workshop with Jillian Carney at Ohio Wesleyan University

- Back to basics curriculum
 - Identify, select, store, protect, manage, provide
- Acquiring a shared vocabulary
- First face-to-face meeting of Task Force

Task Force Retreat - March 2016

Meg Miner at Oberlin College

- Range of DP activities & tools
- Community values & needs
- Policy frameworks
- Hands-on tool time
- Advocacy & communication



Report to the Directors - What We Learned

- Status of each institution where we are and who's involved
- Range of DP solutions at other LACs
- Barriers to collaboration
 - Particular local needs (e.g. Archives at Denison and Oberlin)
 - IT infrastructures
- There are no consortia sharing a single soup-to-nuts DP system
 - Vendor Concerns:
 - Performance
 - Privacy
 - Dashboard confusion
 - Limitations of shared workflow

Report to the Directors - Potential Approaches

All-in-one for Everyone

Each institution gets an instance of same all-in-one system

Hybrid Model

- Digital archival storage for library collections (surrogates)
- Full digital preservation system for archives collections (born digital)

No consortial action

Each institution goes it alone

Phase II - Spring 2016

New charge:

- Identify tool for consortial use
- Come up with a budget
- Forge ahead



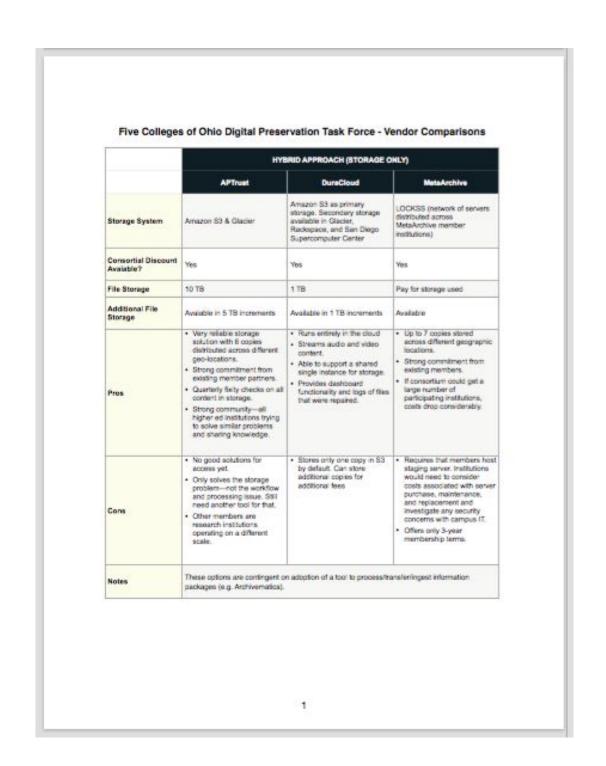
Tool Demos and Reviews

Tools:

- ArchivesDirect
- Preservica
- APTrust
- DuraCloud Enterprise Plus
- MetaArchive
- bepress (Amazon s3)

Vendor Comparisons:

http://bit.ly/2mE5Qlp



Digging in to DuraCloud & Archivematica



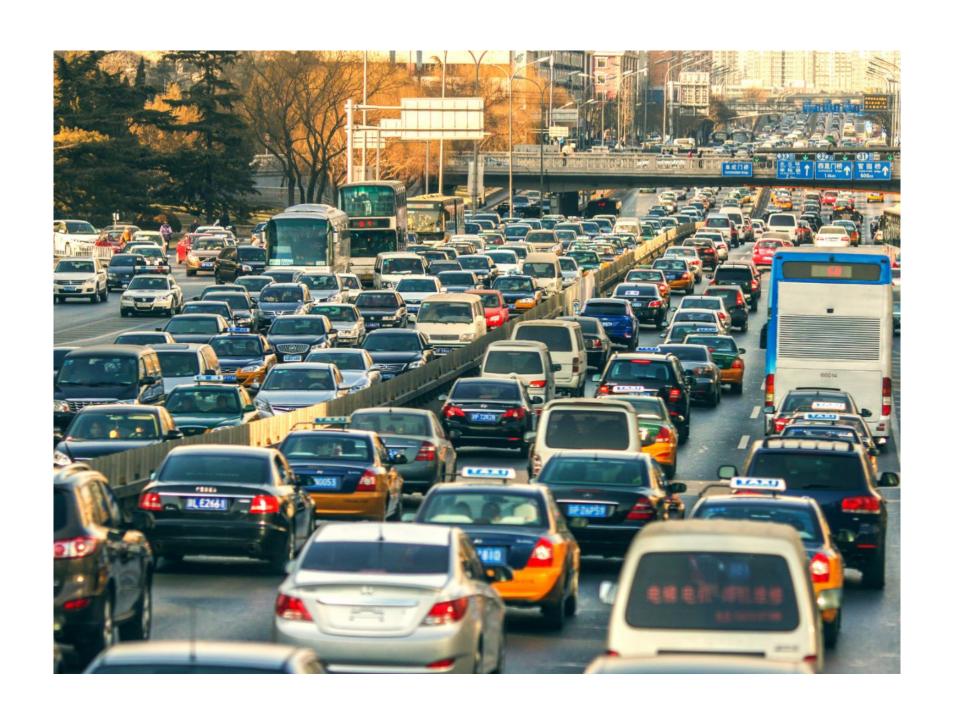
Catie Newton

Slow and Steady Progress...



Delays: Security Concerns

- Is it the company's practice to keep a log of activity/note unusual activity?
- What security agreements does the company keep with host providers (AWS, SDSC)?
- What responsibility does DuraCloud have to report unusual activity to the consortium and what does that look like?
- Has the company done a 3rd party security audit?
- What kind of insurance could they provide in the case of data loss?



Delays: Contract Negotiations

- Able to leverage consortial procurement expert to make sure each school's interests were represented
- Customized language to account for multiple needs and multiple users
- Added more specific language about training and support obligations
- Updated language about support for transfer out of DuraCloud

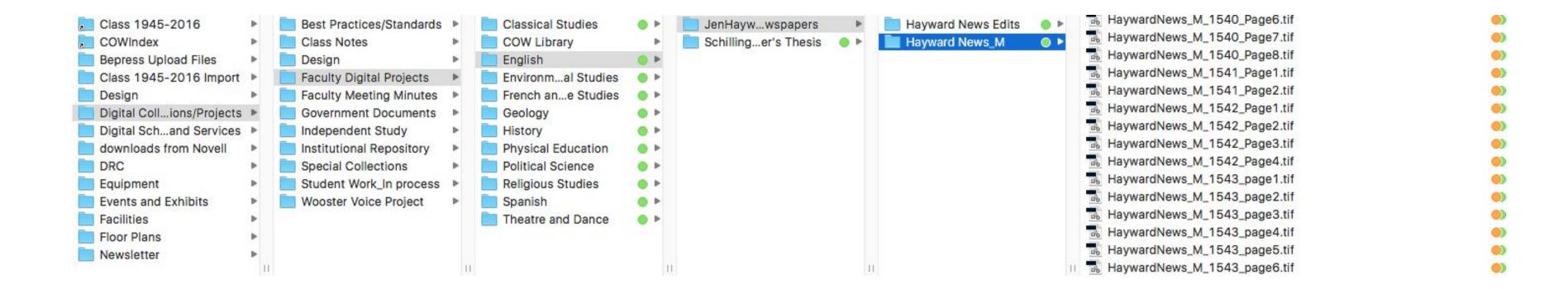


(Statue en branze de Gutenberg, par David d'Angers, inaugurée à Strawbourg, le >4 puin 1840.)

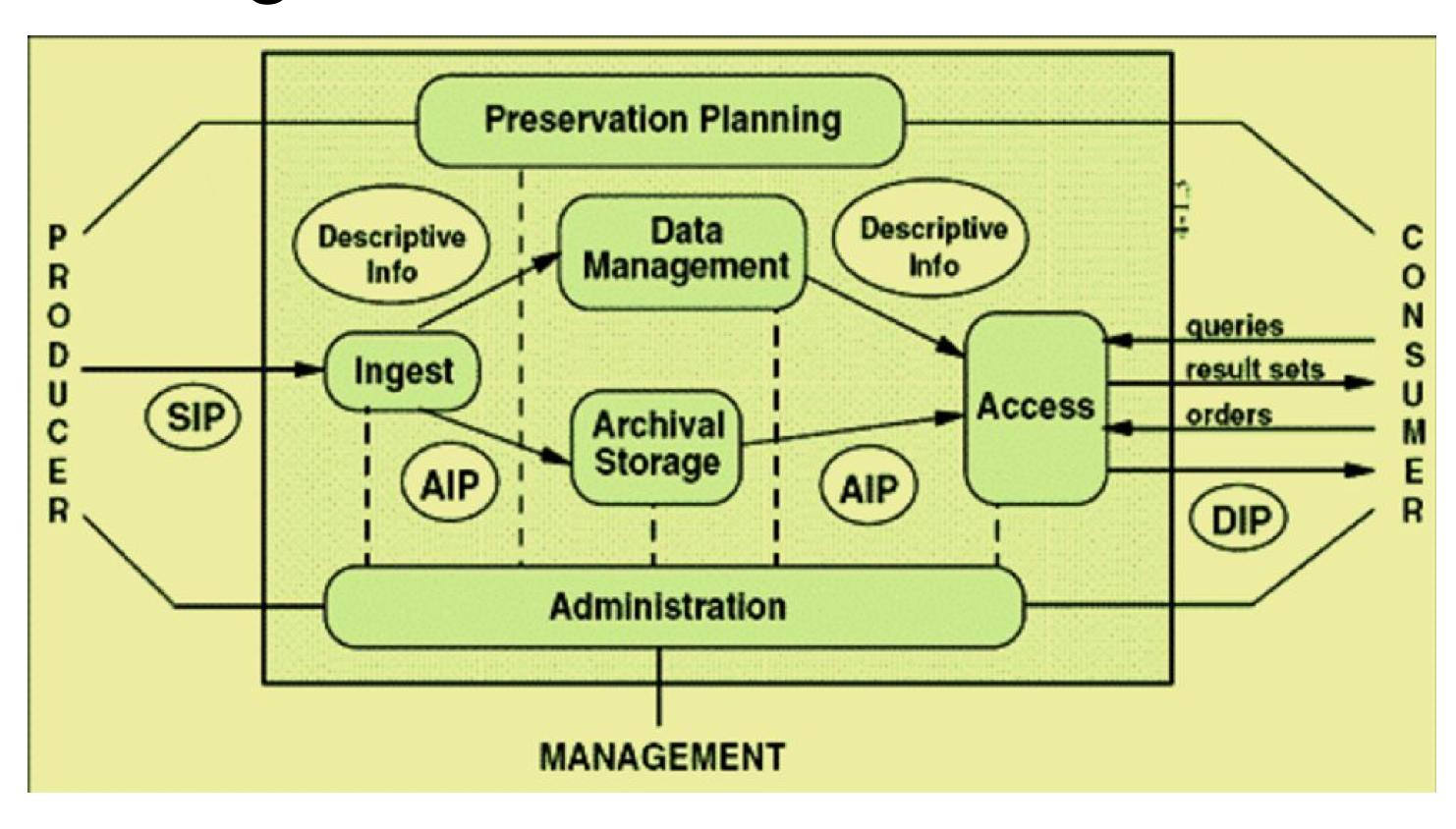
oldbookillustrations.com

Lessons from Experimentation

- Disagreement about organization of "spaces" in DuraCloud
- Local organization of content is important!
- Consistent use of file naming conventions is also important!
- Sometimes you need to take a step back and prepare your content locally before you can effectively implement the use of a digital preservation tool



Processing Workflows: Fun with Archivematica



Competing Obligations





Separate...

- Slow, but steady ingest
- Purchasing RAID arrays
- Some will be using Archivematica to process and package files
- Some schools will be adding Preservica for born digital archival materials
- One school is diverging a bit





bepress Archive



...but Together

- Role of the task force is shifting toward mutual support and learning
- We'll be focusing on drafting documentation
- Bringing in an expert to help us draft a joint digital preservation policy for the 5 Colleges



Questions?

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