Preserving Digital State
Legislative Records

National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP)

Arkansas Partners Meeting, October 22, 2010
Today

- Project background
- Review of the issues
- Update on progress and products

Informal – speak up with questions and comments. What do you want to talk about?
Minnesota NDIIPP Project

- Multi-year project to explore methods of preserving and providing enhanced online access to trustworthy legislative materials in digital form
- Explore related issues like authentication, digitization, legal requirements, web archiving, etc.
- Develop products to help other states assess capacity to preserve and provide access to their records
Partners

- **Organizations:** National Conference of State Legislatures, University of California Curation Center (UC3), Thomson Reuters, Vendors

- **State Government:** Minnesota Revisor’s Office, Minnesota Legislative Reference Library, California Legislative Counsel

- **State Archives and Libraries:** Arkansas, California, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont
Assumptions

• Collaboration is necessary, along with cultural and institutional change
• Standards increase efficiency and consistency and lower costs
• Practicality and sustainability are essential
• Must position ourselves for whatever comes next
• Use value of content drives ROI for access and preservation
Access and Transparency

• Public data as public assets
• Accountability and responsiveness
• Use and re-use
Mashups

• Legislative data is in demand
• Combining datasets creates new meanings and insights
• If agencies themselves are not being proactive and providing access to data, other organizations are finding a way to make it available.
Project Activities

• Identify, analyze, and report on common issues
• Understand and articulate policy framework
• Explore and test technology options for content acquisition, access, use, management/preservation
• Create a resource center
• Outreach and promotion to encourage collaboration and further development
Lessons We’re Learning (1)

• Archivists role is to identify context and significance of content, add value through related information, facilitate access and use, and manage preservation – all through partnerships and collaboration!

• User expectations: Preservation = access over time; Success = content + functionality

• Access: range of options (mediated to bulk download) for different audiences
Lessons We’re Learning (2)

- Preservation can be linked to Disaster Recovery (COOP) for greater support
- Legal/policy framework getting more complex, not less, with web 2.0 and new technologies
- Authentication of records/content is of wide concern to government and citizens
- Better citizen access often follows standardization and data sharing between government entities
Lessons We’re Learning (3)

• Can’t lock in on one solution or technology, things are always changing
• Only “constant partial attention” is practical
• No single model: common problems but not common solutions – need to figure out what’s appropriate for your situation
• Catalysts: statutory mandate, budget pressures, going green, citizen demand, charisma
Common Issues: Resources and White Papers

- Authentication
- Digital Audio Files
- Retrospective Digitization
- Records Retention Policies for Selected Legislative Records
- Survey of Partners’ Legislative Records on the Web
- Government Data Mashups
- Web Content Accessibility
- Options for Improving Access to Legislative Data
- XML Usage Survey
- XML Native Database (eXist test)
- Legislative History Guide

Minnesota Historical Society, October 2010
Current Project Work: Authentication

• Uniform Law Commission (ULC, National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws) – model law on “authentication and preservation of state electronic legal materials” in the works, will be presented for final approval in July 2011

• www.nccusl.org
Current Project Work: Kansas’ KLISS and KEEP Systems

• Driven by legislative information creation and management needs, e-democracy
• Collaboration between legislature and state archives – target date April 2011
• KLISS: Modular hardware and software solution for legislative information (www.propylon.com)
• KEEP: Kansas Enterprise Electronic Preservation system for all of state government
• http://keep.ks.gov/about-2
Current Project Work:
UC3’s Preservation Repository

• University of California Curation Center (UC3)
• Set of independent, yet interoperable services relating to key digital repository functions
• MHS will be testing selected services as they are completed
• Looking at means of authentication, establishing trustworthiness
• www.cdlib.org/services/uc3/merritt
Current Project Work: UC3’s Web Archiving Service

• Suite of tools for carrying out targeted web harvests using the Heritrix web crawler (developed by the Internet Archive and others) and managing collected content

• Searchable access to harvested pages

• Testing targeted web harvests of legislative information sources

• www.cdlib.org/services/uc3/was.html
Current Project Work: XML Wrapper

BASIC DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

- metadata essential to interchange recipients
- XML source in provider's native syntax
- HTML rendition of document being interchanged
- one or more attachments for other renderings
  (encoded as Base64 or other plain-text format)
Current Project Work: Metadata Scheme

• Designed to describe legislative documents like bills, resolutions, and acts
• Facilitates document interchange, use, and preservation
• Deliberately small set – 13 elements, only 7 required
• In most cases, can be automatically populated from information already in bill drafting system
Metadata Elements

1. Identifier - R
2. Title - R
3. Type - R
4. Jurisdiction R
   - 4.1 State Code - R
   - 4.2 State Name - O
   - 4.3 Body - O
5. Agent – R
   - 5.1 Publisher - R
   - 5.2 Author - O
6. Publication Date - R
7. Session – O
   - 7.1 Legislative Session - O
   - 7.2 Session Year - R
   -- 7.3 Session Number - R
8. Description - O
9. Subject - O
10. Relation – O
    - 10.1 Version Of – O
    - 10.2 Companion Bill – O
    - 10.3 Chapter – O
11. Governor Action– O
12. Management History– O
    - 12.1 Event Date/Time – R
    - 12.2 Event Type – R
    - 12.3 Event Description – O
13. Rights – R
Future Project Work: Sunlight Foundation Partnership

• Sunlight Foundation: “Making Government Transparent and Accountable” (http://sunlightfoundation.com/)

• Open States Project similar to OpenCongress.org – will launch this fall with access to content from California, Louisiana, Maryland, Texas, and Wisconsin with more in progress
Final Product: Resource Center
(project ends June 30, 2011)

• *Where Do I Begin?:* Introduction to the issues addressed in the project and why they are important

• *What Are the Issues?:* Detailed description of the issues along with reports and guides to assist other states make their own decisions about what is best for them

• *More Information:* Links to external resources about the topic addressed in the resource center
Minnesota Digitization Projects

• Minnesota Office of the Revisor of Statutes
  – *Session Laws*: territorial days (1849) to present, funded by RO, completed in 2007.
  – *Administrative Rules*: 1982-2007, grant funded, completed June 2010
  – *Statutes*: completed with two small grants – one for 1996-1982, the other 1981-1849. Currently in progress, to be completed by the end of 2010 and by March 2011

• Minnesota Legislative Reference Library
  – *Minnesota Edocs*: publications with link from library catalog www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/mndocs/edocs/overview.asp
Follow Along and Contribute

- We use Basecamp to share information with partners
- Contact Carol if you would like access
For More Information

• Minnesota Historical Society, State Archives, NDIIPP Project (www.mnhs.org/ndiipp)

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