

Preserving state government digital information

National Digital Information
Infrastructure and Preservation Program

Minnesota Historical Society

Project outcomes

- Capture, preserve and provide access to “at-risk” digital content from state legislatures
- Test the model in MN
- Determine capacity of other states to adapt the model
- Promote the results through education and outreach
- Connect to national cyberinfrastructure

MHS Background (1)

- ER projects: TIS, ERM, DHS
- NECCC e-government research
- Collaborations: legislative tapes, records retention schedules, government publications
- E-legislature project

MHS Background (2)

- Bush Foundation grant: collaboration, crossing boundaries
- Emphasis on use
- Convergence on the web: sharing data and tools
- National cyberinfrastructure

E-leg project partners

- MN: Revisor's Office, Legislative Reference Library
- CA: State Archives, State Library, Legislative Counsel
- San Diego Supercomputer Center

E-leg conclusions

- Collaboration
- Standards
- Rigorous appraisal and ROI: use value of electronic records
- Cultural and institutional change
- Sustainability

Conceptual framework

- Access
- Data consultancies
- Guidelines and standards
- Outreach, education, promotion
- Collaboration
- Larger context

Goals: MN

- Select content
- Capture content
- Make it available online
- Make it more useful online
- Plan for preservation
- Develop sustainable model

Project partners

- MN
- CA
- CDL
- NCSL
- IL, KS, MS, TN, VT

Partners: unique and appropriate

- Audiences
- Mission
- Priorities
- Initiatives
- Capacity
- Resources

Goals: CA

- Authentication (legal framework for preservation and access)
- Accessibility
- Access pilot
- Web harvesting (CDL project)
- Optimal conditions for preservation (content creation standards)
- Minimal schema

Goals: KS

- E-democracy: and citizen engagement
- Comprehensive hardware and software solution: collaborative and modular
- Minimal schema: sharing content
- Policy issues
- Retrospective digitization: standards

Goals: Vermont

- Minimal schema: recordkeeping metadata and XML
- Policy issues: authentication, accessibility
- Retrospective digitization: standards
- Preservation vs. storage (disaster recovery, continuity of operations)
- Web harvesting

Underway

- NCSL meetings
- State meetings
- Minimal schema
- Preservation routine
- Access pilot (and alternatives: open content, SiteMap, web harvesting ...)
- Policy issues: authentication and accessibility white papers

Early observations

- Business case: disaster recovery, COB, preservation, e-democracy
- Budget downturn: XML and other discontents
- What to capture? Events, process, initiative
- Access and use: tools, open content

Further information

Web site:

[http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/
legislativerecords/](http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/legislativerecords/)

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