

# Protecting legislative digital records

Minnesota Historical Society  
National Digital Information  
Infrastructure and Preservation Program

# Today

- Informal
- Introduction to the issues
- Some considerations
- One specific project

# Why worry about this?

- Legal framework – records laws, litigation, discovery
- Increased public attention and expectations
- Complexity of systems – email, RMA, web, web 2.0
- Costs
- Lack of a good model

# Preservation challenges

- Hardware
- Storage media
- Formats
- Mark-up languages
- Applications

# Familiar challenges



# Solution: ongoing process

- Migration
- Conversion
- Innovation
- Collaboration

# Sustainability

- Appropriate solutions
- Integration into routines
- Priorities – appraisal, scope
- Cost control
- Use value
- Collaboration

# Preservation issues

- Policy
- Storage media
- File format
- Metadata
- Security
- Copies
- Documentation
- Staff skills, resources

# Policy: legal framework

"The current law is just completely unhelpful. The Legislature has to get to this. ... it'll be messy and quite ungratifying, but it has to be done."

*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

13 July 2008

# Policy: authenticity

- American Association of Law Librarians
- Uniform Electronic Transactions Act
- Control Objectives for Information Technology (CoBIT)

# General suggestions

- Do no harm
- Monitor policy, legal developments
- Control costs
- Use standard formats
- Use standard, basic metadata
- Emphasize use value
- Collaborate

# Archivists' role

- Add value, define niche
- Facilitate use
- Context
- Web 2.0
- Long term

# NDIIPP 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

# Conceptual framework

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

# Project partners

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

# Partners: unique and appropriate

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

# Goals: California

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

# Goals: Kansas

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

# Goals: Vermont

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

# Goals: Mississippi

- Core schema: web presentation and recordkeeping metadata
- Policy issues
- Preservation

# Underway

- NCSL meetings
- State meetings
- Preservation routine
- Policy issues: authentication and accessibility white papers
- XML core schema
- Analysis of technological options

# Further information

Web site: [www.mnhs.org/ndiipp](http://www.mnhs.org/ndiipp)

Webcast: [www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature\\_wdesc.php?rec=4312](http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=4312)

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