Project background: preserving legislative digital records

National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program

Minnesota Historical Society
Today

• Informal
• Review of the issues
• Update on progress and products
• Discussion of next steps
Background: MHS

- ER projects: TIS, ERM, DHS
- XML research
- E-government research
- PAT project
- Collaborations: legislative tapes, records retention schedules, government publications
- Adoption of XML based bill drafting system
- E-legislature project
E-leg conclusions

- Collaboration
- Standards
- National cyberinfrastructure
- Rigorous appraisal and ROI: use value of electronic records
- Cultural and institutional change
- Sustainability
E-leg products

• Reports and evaluations
• Appraisal of “universe” of MN legislative records
• Cost/benefit analysis
• Ongoing partnerships …
NDIIPP program

• National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program
• Library of Congress
• Series of programs
• State studies, states initiatives
Four state grants

- Arizona: LOCKSS implementation
- Minnesota: legislative records
- North Carolina: GIS
- Washington: digital archives
Preservation issues

- COOP, disaster recovery
- 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
Familiar challenges
Solution: ongoing process

- Migration
- Conversion
- Innovation
- Collaboration
Sustainability: business case

• Appropriate solutions
• Integration into routines
• Priorities – appraisal, scope
• Cost control
• Use value
• Collaboration
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
Archivists’ role

• Add value, define niche
• Appraisal and selection
• Facilitate use
• Context
• Web 2.0
• Long term
Conceptual framework

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