Computers in Libraries
The National Digital Stewardship Residency Program

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NDSR – Washington, D.C.
#ndsr

Library of Congress
Office of Strategic Initiatives
Washington, D.C.
The Institute of Museum and Library Services
Program Background

- 10 Residents
- 10 Organizations
- 2 Weeks of Workshop
- 9 Months of Hands-on Training
- 2 Professional Conferences
NDSR Mission

…to build a dedicated community of professionals who will advance our nation’s capabilities in managing, preserving and making accessible the record of human achievement held in digital form.
**The Importance of NDSR**

NDSR will serve the American people by developing the next generation of stewards to collect, manage, preserve, and make accessible our nation’s digital assets.

- NDSR will help define clear educational standards for digital stewardship education and training

- NDSR has joined forces with prominent American institutions to provide residents with a combination of hands-on learning and expert guidance

- NDSR will create experts in the emerging field of digital stewardship who will be able to return to their communities nationwide and assist the Library of Congress in its goal to keep record of America’s creativity as expressed in digital form

A Library of Congress survey found that

- **84% of institutions** have digital content that must remain accessible for 10 years or more. NDSR will create the experts who will be responsible for this preservation

A same survey found that only **33% of organizations** have staff dedicated to digital preservation.

This exemplifies the need for NDSR.
Why a Residency Program?

- Digital projects have been lying dormant
- Executive leadership not prioritizing stewardship
- Graduates are hungry for experience
- Post Graduate Training has no Standard model
- Institutions need to collaborate through a professional network
Finding the NDSR Hosts

- Association of Research Libraries
- Dumbarton Oaks
- Folger Shakespeare Library
- Library of Congress
- National Library of Medicine
- National Security Archive
- Public Broadcasting Service
- Smithsonian Institution Archives
- Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities
- World Bank Group
Selecting the Residents

• Julia Blase, U. Denver – NSA
• Heidi Dowding, Wayne State U. – Dumbarton Oaks
• Maureen Harlow, UNC – NLM
• Jaime McCurry, Long Island U. – Folger Shakespeare
• Lee Nilsson, Eastern Washington U. – LOC
• Margo Padilla, San Jose State U. – MITH
• Emily Reynolds, U. Michigan – World Bank
• Molly Schwartz, U. Maryland – ARL
• Erica Titkemeyer, NYU – Smithsonian Archives
• Lauren Work, U. Washington - PBS
2013-2014 NDSR Projects

- Management and preservation of digital assets at Dumbarton Oaks
- Born-Digital Preservation at the Folger Shakespeare Library
- Taking Action to Mitigate Format Obsolescence (Library of Congress)
- Developing a Thematic Web Archive Collection (National Library of Medicine)
- The Digital Dissemination Challenge (National Security Archive)
- Broadcast Media Archive: Appraisal and Evaluation of At-Risk Media to Support Digitization Initiative (Public Broadcasting Service)
- Time-Based Media Art: Specialized Requirements for Trustworthy Digital Repositories (Smithsonian Institution Archive)
- Accessing Born-Digital Literary Materials (Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities & University of Maryland Libraries)
- eArchives: Memory of the World Bank
In 2014, Dr. Howard Besser, Professor of Cinema Studies and Associate Director of New York University's Moving Image Archiving & Preservation Program (MIAP), as well as Senior Scientist for Digital Library Initiatives for NYU's Library and NDSR Curriculum Advisor, was recruited to evaluate the inaugural year of the program and provide a report on the findings.

The study utilized a variety of feedback from program management, residents, host mentors and supervisors from the pilot year (2013-14).

The overall goal was to gain valuable program insight to help build the program going forward.
2013-2014 NDSR Evaluation

- There were many successes noted in the findings of the report.

- All participants (residents and hosts) reported that the program was both important and valuable overall.

- Specifically, the residents reported that they learned valuable technical, management and collaborative skills in the process.
It is worth noting that all of the residents from that year received job offers or fellowships related to digital stewardship.
• The report also notes successes from the host organizations perspective as well.

• Most supervisors noted the great value in the mentoring component of the residency

• Several supervisors noted the positive institutional effects of having a resident dedicated to digital curation issues.

• Others noted that the prestige of being selected as a host helped to raise the profile and priority of digital preservation within their organization.
2013-2014 NDSR Evaluation

- There were also some challenges noted in the findings as well

- The residents and supervisors both noted some frustrations with lack of resources, both advisory and administrative
Because of these and other challenges, the report also included some program recommendations as suggested by the various participants.
Program Changes and 2015 Residency

- 2015-2016 NDSR hosts
- 2015-2016 residents
- Program updates
- Positive program impact
- Lessons learned
2015 – 2016 Washington, D.C. Hosts

Hosts and Projects for the 2015-2016 residency include:

• **The American Institute of Architects:** *Building Curation into Records Creation: Developing a Digital Repository Program at the American Institute of Architects*

• **D.C. Public Library:** *Personal Digital Preservation Access and Education through the Public Library*

• **Government Publishing Office:** *Preparation for Audit and Certification of GPO's FDsys as a Trustworthy Digital Repository*

• **National Library of Medicine:** *NLM-Developed Software as Cultural Heritage*

• **U.S. Senate, Historical Office:** *Improving Digital Stewardship in the U.S. Senate*
2015 – 2016 Washington, D.C. Hosts

Host Selection Process

- Initial informational meeting
- Application process
- Selection panel
- Host site visits
- Selection for the September 2016-2017 residency
  - Information will be posted as it becomes available via [www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsr](http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsr), *The Signal* blog and relevant social media channels
Residents for the 2015 class include

- **John Caldwell**, Lutherville, Maryland
  - Studied at the University of Maryland
  - Resident in the U.S. Senate Historical Office
- **Valerie Collins**, Eagle River, Alaska
  - Studied at Dalhousie University
  - Resident at the American Institute of Architects
- **Nicole Contaxis**, Easton, Connecticut
  - Studied at the University of California Los Angeles
  - Resident at the National Library of Medicine
- **Jaime Mears**, Deltaville, Virginia
  - Studied at the University of Maryland
  - Resident at the D.C. Public Library
- **Jessica Tieman**, Lincoln, Illinois
  - Studied at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
  - Resident in the Government Publishing Office
Resident Selection Process

- Posting of project proposals
- Application process
- Selection panel
- Interviews
- Apply for the September 2016-2017 residency:
  - Information will be posted as it becomes available via [www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsr](http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsr), The Signal blog and relevant social media channels
2015 – 2016 Washington, D.C. Residents

Example Video

Jaime Mears Video
2015 – 2016 Program Updates

- Revamped Curriculum and Immersion Workshop
- 5 Enrichment sessions
- Web Ex presentations
- NDSR Symposium
2015 – 2016 Program Updates

• Increased host/mentor participation
• Professional development plan and activities
• Resident direct benefits
  – Increased residency from 9 months to 12 months
  – Increased pay to $40,000 for the year
  – 2 sets of 5 residents
Positive Impact of the Program

100% of residents in the 2013-2014 program reported that:

- the program increased knowledge and skills in digital stewardship
- the program strengthened their professional networks
- they feel the program made them more competitive in the job market
- they are now employed or in other fellowship/graduate programs
- they would recommend the program to a friend.
Positive Impact of the Program

According to Hosts Surveyed in the 2013-2014 program

• **100%** of host respondents said their resident was very to extremely well-informed about the organization and ready to work.

• **75%** of host mentors said the residents’ project results will definitely be used to improve the way their organization conducts business.
Positive Impact of the Program

According to Hosts Surveyed in the 2013-2014 program

• **100%** of hosts stated that the resident’s project at least moderately increased their organization’s capacity for digital stewardship

• **90%** of hosts say they would recommend their organization participate in the program again
Lessons Learned

- Be transparent
- Expect the unexpected
- Maintain consistency
- Foster growth through collaboration
Get Involved

- Become a host organization
- Become a resident
- Collaborate with us
  - Share project ideas with residents
  - Be a guest speaker
  - Demonstrate your work
- Propose innovative and collaborative ideas
Contact NDSR DC

www.digitalpreservation.gov/NDSR

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