Getting Unstuck

A Collaborative
Approach to Getting
Started with Digital
Preservation

Ben Daigle, Five Colleges of Ohio Megan Mitchell, Oberlin College Catie Newton, College of Wooster



Five Colleges of Ohio



Denison University



Kenyon College



Oberlin College



Ohio Wesleyan University



College of Wooster

Five Colleges of Ohio

- Formed in 1995 with libraries being the initial catalyst for collaboration
- Other Library Initiatives:
 - Information Literacy
 - Government Documents
 - Cooperative Collection Development
 - Shared Technical Services
 - Digital Initiatives: Digitization & Digital Scholarship
- A consortium within a consortium (OhioLINK)

Digital Collections -> Scholarship & Pedagogy

Mellon-Funded Digital Initiatives





Digital Collections -> Scholarship & Pedagogy

Mellon-Funded Digital Initiatives

Observations:

- Faculty-initiated projects more likely to see use than library-initiated projects
- Sustainability of digital projects is uncertain
- Not all digital projects worth preserving indefinitely
 - But which ones are, and how?

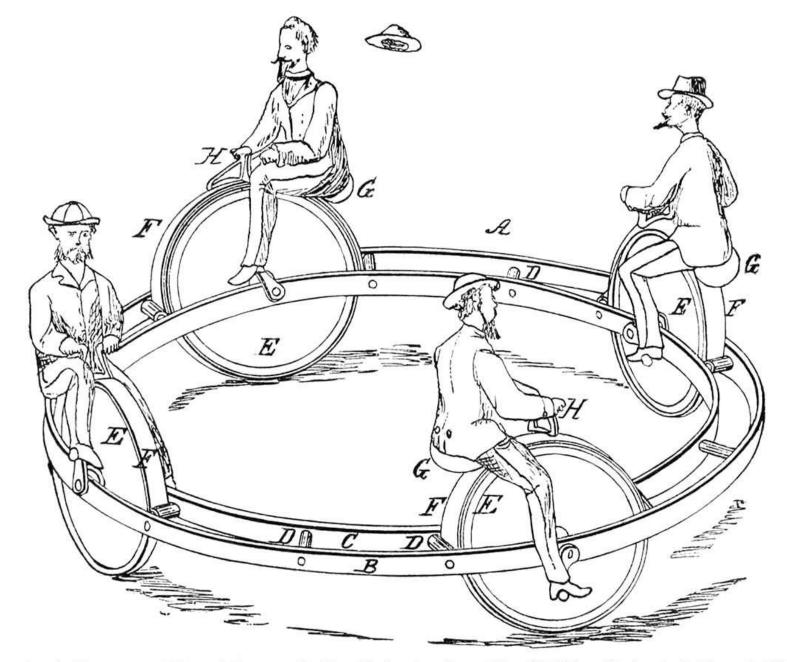
OH5 Digital Preservation Task Force



Where We Were

(standing on the shoulders of POWRR)

- Recognition that digital preservation is important, but few dedicated resources to implement any sustainable initiatives
- Mixed bag of knowledge and expertise in digital preservation
- Preservation efforts largely limited to backup
- Few consortial conversations around preservation



Sturdy & Young, of Providence, R. I. Velocipede. No. 89,700. Patented May 4, 1869.



For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them.

99

- Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics

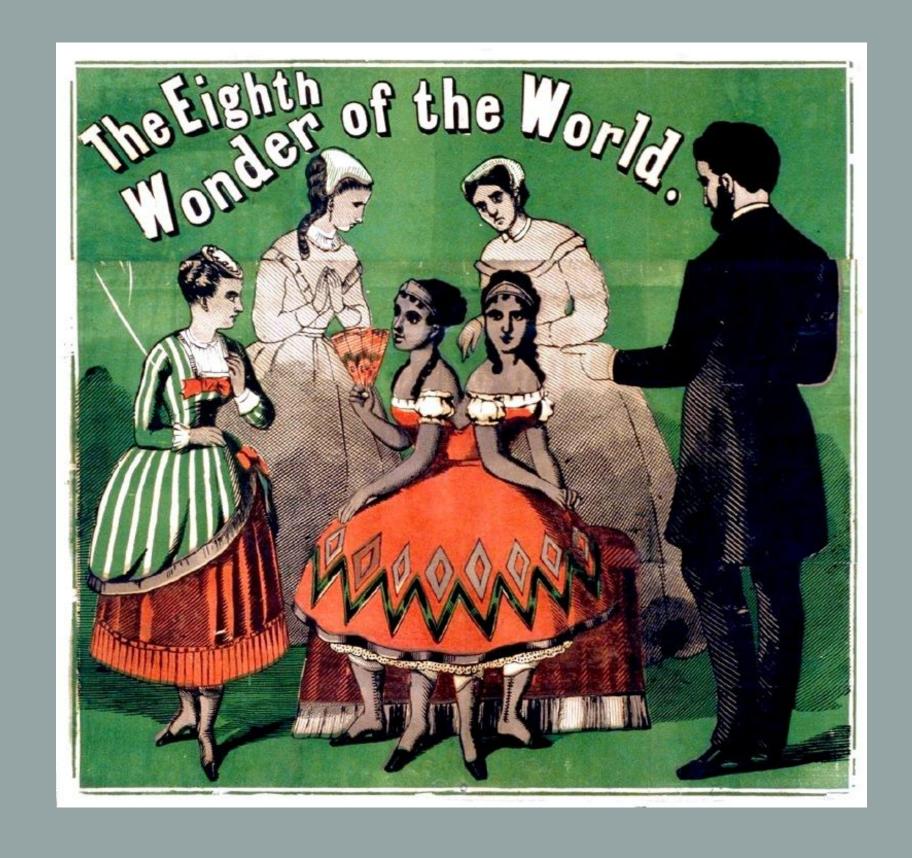
Getting Unstuck

- Shared Principles:
 - We can learn faster together.
 - We can learn through experimentation.
 - We can make minimal upfront investments and re-evaluate as we go.
 - We can refine practices
 through collaborative learning
 and experimentation.



Megan Mitchell

The Five
Colleges of
Ohio Digital
Preservation
Task Force



Phase I - Fall 2015

Task force charged in October

- Describe DP plans/progress at each institution
- Investigate DP initiatives at other liberal arts colleges
- Investigate advantages/disadvantages of a shared system
- Identify technical/institutional barriers to collaborating on DP
- Identify individuals able/willing to commit to DP at each institution

How We Work Together

- Basecamp
- Virtual Meetings
- In-Person Workshops



Information Gathering

- Articles, reports, etc.
- Local digital inventories
- Calls to consultants
- Outreach to similar institutions/consortia
- Queries to Vendors http://bit.ly/2mE5Qlp





Preservation 101 - January 2016

Managing Digital Content Over Time

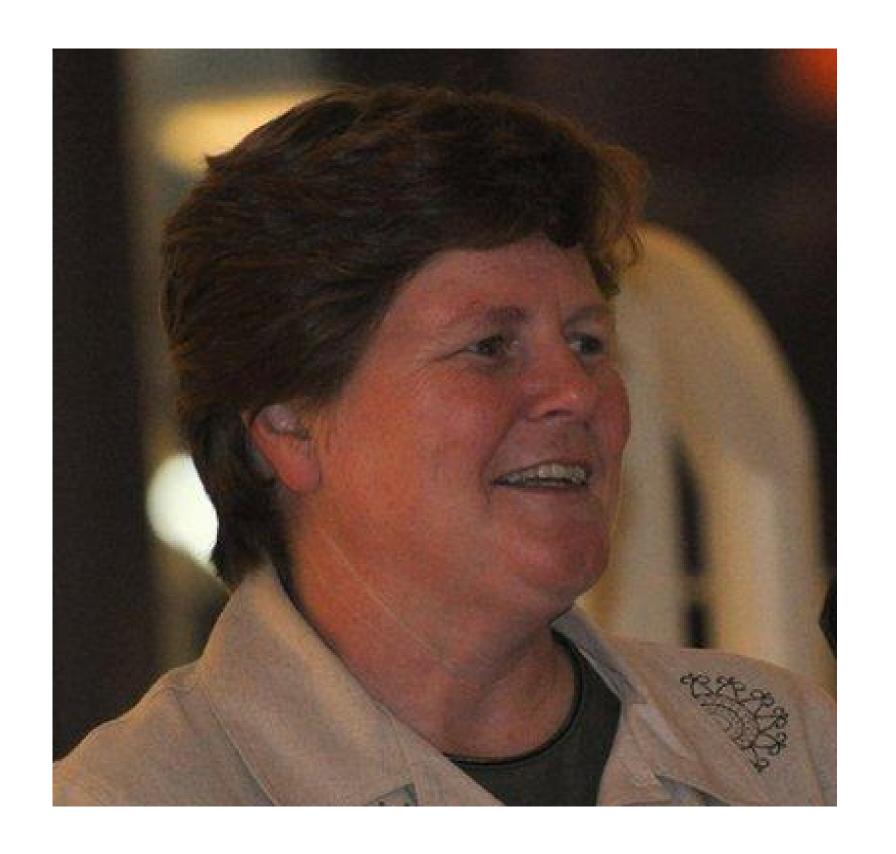
Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Program (DPOE) Workshop with Jillian Carney at Ohio Wesleyan University

- Back to basics curriculum
 - Identify, select, store, protect, manage, provide
- Acquiring a shared vocabulary
- First face-to-face meeting of Task Force

Task Force Retreat - March 2016

Meg Miner at Oberlin College

- Range of DP activities & tools
- Community values & needs
- Policy frameworks
- Hands-on tool time
- Advocacy & communication



Report to the Directors - What We Learned

- Status of each institution where we are and who's involved
- Range of DP solutions at other LACs
- Barriers to collaboration
 - Particular local needs (e.g. Archives at Denison and Oberlin)
 - IT infrastructures
- There are no consortia sharing a single soup-to-nuts DP system
 - Vendor Concerns:
 - Performance
 - Privacy
 - Dashboard confusion
 - Limitations of shared workflow

Report to the Directors - Potential Approaches

All-in-one for Everyone

Each institution gets an instance of same all-in-one system

Hybrid Model

- Digital archival storage for library collections (surrogates)
- Full digital preservation system for archives collections (born digital)

No consortial action

Each institution goes it alone

Phase II - Spring 2016

New charge:

- Identify tool for consortial use
- Come up with a budget
- Forge ahead



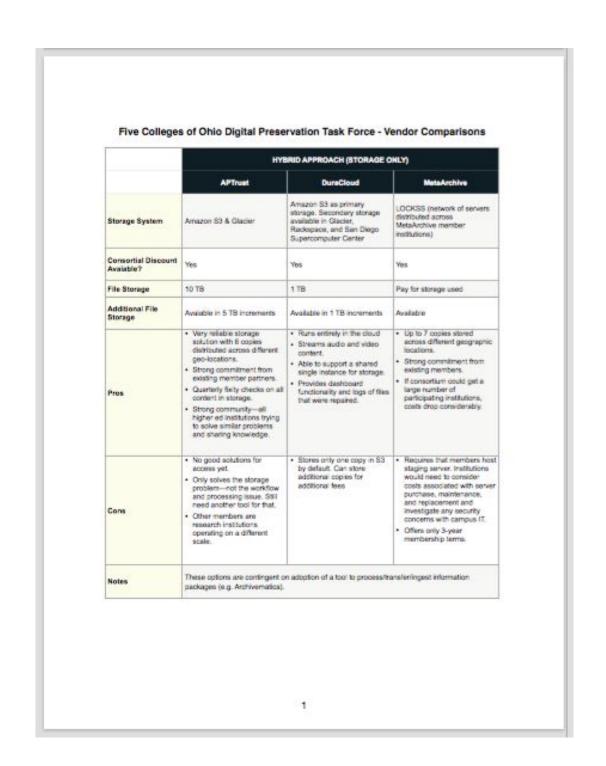
Tool Demos and Reviews

Tools:

- ArchivesDirect
- Preservica
- APTrust
- DuraCloud Enterprise Plus
- MetaArchive
- bepress (Amazon s3)

Vendor Comparisons:

http://bit.ly/2mE5Qlp



Digging in to DuraCloud & Archivematica



Catie Newton

Slow and Steady Progress...



Delays: Security Concerns

- Is it the company's practice to keep a log of activity/note unusual activity?
- What security agreements does the company keep with host providers (AWS, SDSC)?
- What responsibility does DuraCloud have to report unusual activity to the consortium and what does that look like?
- Has the company done a 3rd party security audit?
- What kind of insurance could they provide in the case of data loss?



Delays: Contract Negotiations

- Able to leverage consortial procurement expert to make sure each school's interests were represented
- Customized language to account for multiple needs and multiple users
- Added more specific language about training and support obligations
- Updated language about support for transfer out of DuraCloud

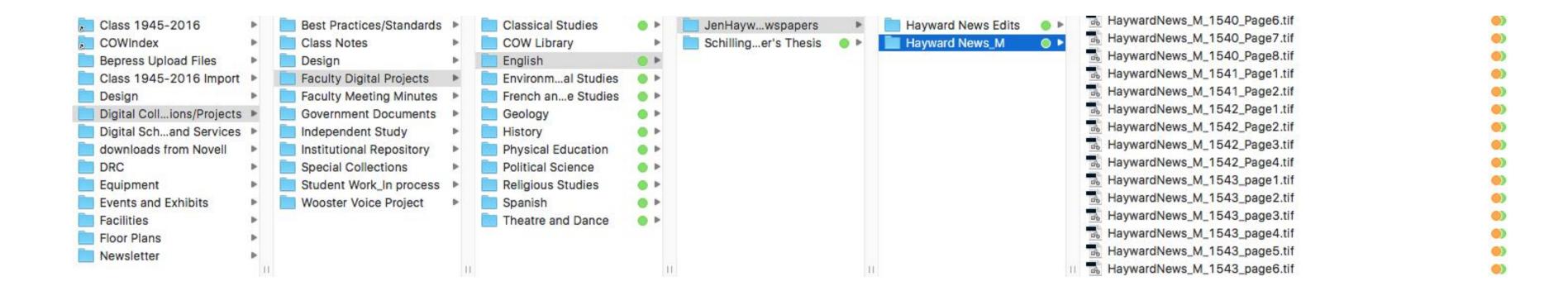


(Statue en branze de Gutenberg, par David d'Angers, inaugurée à Strawbourg, le >4 puin 1840.)

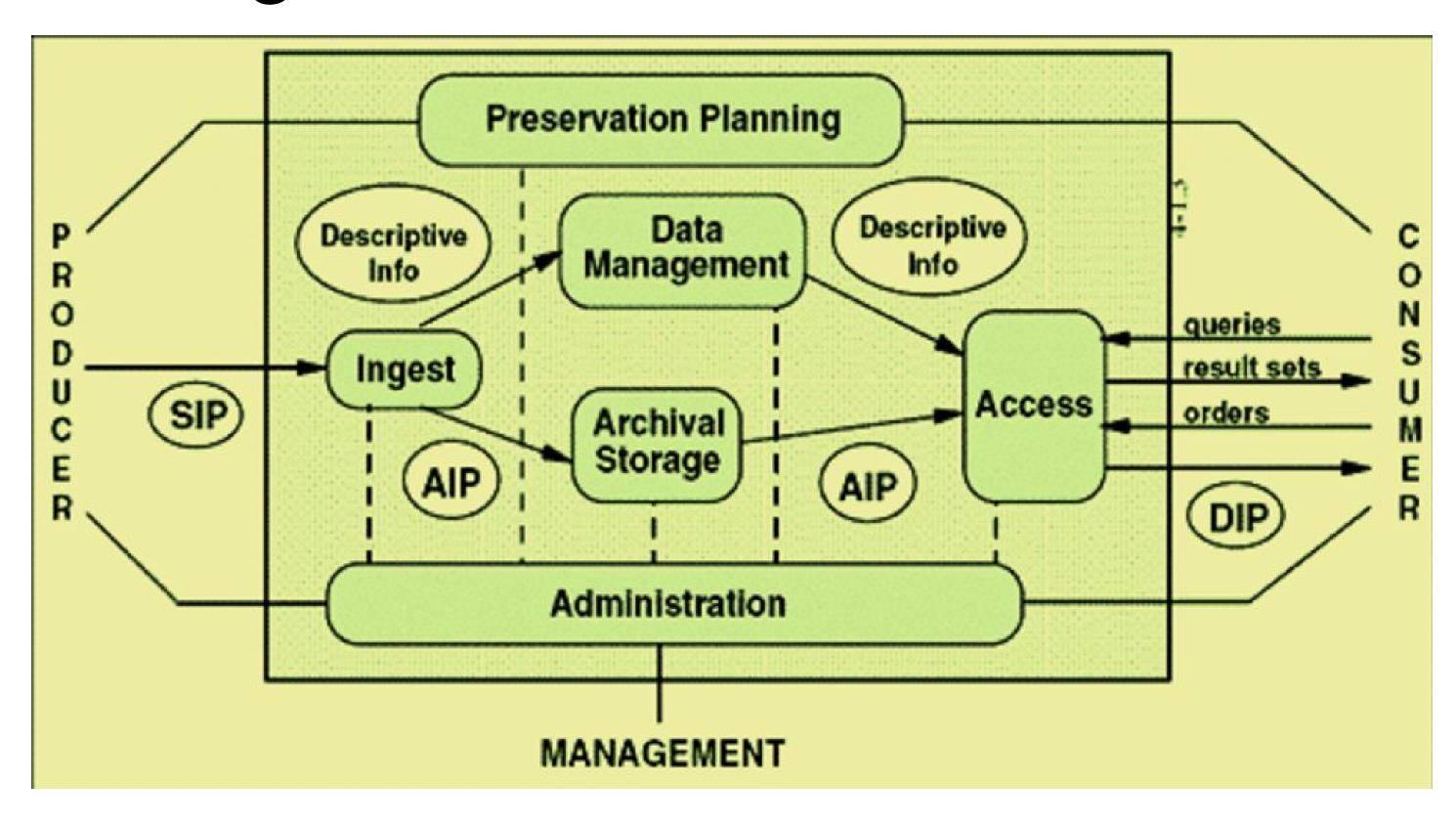
Oldbookillustrations.com

Lessons from Experimentation

- Disagreement about organization of "spaces" in DuraCloud
- Local organization of content is important!
- Consistent use of file naming conventions is also important!
- Sometimes you need to take a step back and prepare your content locally before you can effectively implement the use of a digital preservation tool



Processing Workflows: Fun with Archivematica



Competing Obligations





Separate...

- Slow, but steady ingest
- Purchasing RAID arrays
- Some will be using Archivematica to process and package files
- Some schools will be adding Preservica for born digital archival materials
- One school is diverging a bit





bepress Archive



...but Together

- Role of the task force is shifting toward mutual support and learning
- We'll be focusing on drafting documentation
- Bringing in an expert to help us draft a joint digital preservation policy for the 5 Colleges



Questions?

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