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Taking Charge: Preserving Our Digital Heritage Part II

Amy Kohrman

Stanford University, akohrman@stanford.edu

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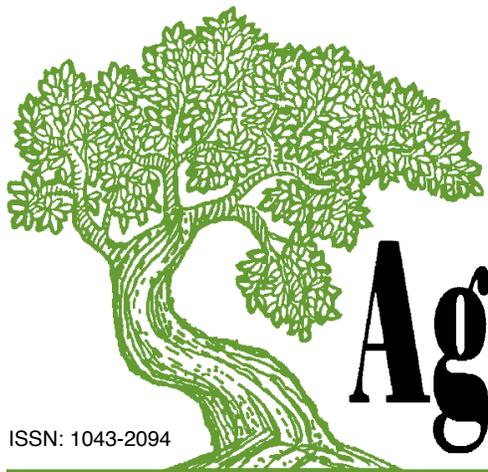


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Against the Grain

“Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians”

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Taking Charge: Preserving Our Digital Heritage Part II

by **Amy Kohrman** (Marketing Director, CLOCKSS and LOCKSS, 1450 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304)
<akohrman@stanford.edu> <http://www.clockss.org> and <http://www.lockss.org>

In the wake of a global economic crisis, few institutions are in the position to make new investments. Yet never has the need been greater for the research community to take action to ensure the long-term survival of our digital heritage. Each day brings with it the potential for irrevocable loss to our communal knowledge. Newspapers, publishers, banks, and other long-lived producers of information are disappearing at an alarming rate.

The challenges the economy poses to digital preservation for academia is only amplified by the outdated mode of stewardship employed by most university libraries. Historically, universities have operated without explicit collaborative agreements for saving the records of mankind. Clearly, this old way of preserving materials is ill-suited to the digital age. Indispensable lessons about the fragility of monolithic structures, coupled with the positive outcomes of collective digital preservation efforts, are presented in this volume.

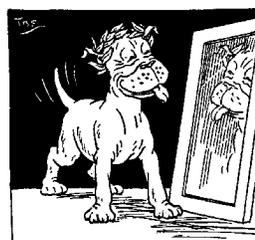
The **Library of Congress’ National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP)** has been working to build a network of digital preservation partners whose efforts will benefit the greater research community. Five of the seven extraordinary projects featured in this issue received funding from NDIIPP, including:

- **Preserving Digital Public Television (PDPT)**
- **CLOCKSS**
- **National Geospatial Digital Archive (NGDA)**
- **PeDALS**
- **Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS)**

Nearly all of the entities profiled in these pages — non-profit corporations, archives, publishers, and libraries — have been un-

deterred by the economic downturn and identified sustainable, low-cost methods to meet their needs. The entities highlighted here are moving ahead full throttle with innovative, collaboration-based digital preservation projects. Central to many of these projects is the importance of redundancy, as well as the mutual dependence of like-minded institutions working together to preserve the digital record.

One hopes these rich examples serve as models for institutions around the world, ensuring that academic treasures will be available for generations to come. 🐶



If Rumors Were Horses

Springer Science + Business Media is not for sale, according to CEO **Derk Haank** who spoke at the **U.K. Serials Group (UKSG) conference** several weeks ago in Torquay, U.K. The sale was recently reported in **Liblicense**, **Peter Suber’s blog**, the **Guardian** and the **ATG NewsChannel**. According to **NewsBreaks** (“Springer is not for sale,” by **Katherine Allen**, April 2, 2009), **Haank** was quoted as saying: “My conclusion is that we are in for a boring decade.”

And, looking ahead to 2014, **Haank** foresees a world where technology will continue to improve but won’t dominate developments in the sector. “I couldn’t care less about Web 3.0 or whatever. The changes will be marginal compared

to what we have already had.” Like pretty much everybody, I was surprised that venture capitalists would want to sell **Springer** at this time in the economic downturn, but time will definitely tell.

- newsbreaks.infoday.com/NewsBreaks/Springer-Is-Not-for-Sale-Says-CEO-53277.asp
- www.springer.com
- www.earlham.edu/~peters/fof/2009/03/springer-on-block.html
- www.guardian.co.uk/media/2009/mar/26/publisher-springer-put-up-fo...
- www.cinven.com
- www.candoverinvestments.com
- www.library.yale.edu/~license/index.shtml
- www.against-the-grain.com/rumors

It’s official. The redeveloped **New Bodleian library building** will be renamed the **Weston Library** in honor of the £25 million donation

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