You Gotta Go to School For “This?” — A Rave Review

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Oh for the days when the word “rave” merely referred to speaking or writing enthusiastically (or incoherently) about something. Yet, linguistic evolution marches on. The term “rave” now describes a wild dance party. Certainly this is not news to those among you on the inside. The term “rave” now describes a wild dance party. Yet, linguistic evolution marches on. The term “rave” now describes a wild dance party. Certainly this is not news to those among you on the inside. For those ancient ones among us who remember it) the rave has all the noise, chaos, and mayhem of a street riot, but with much less steam” during this time is beyond me, since during my youth library into a rocking, screaming, pounding, seething mass of screaming, dancing, exhilarated students. I think the sight of students crowd surf and sustain a robust, inexpensive distributed digital preservation network for Alabama, but also hopes to serve as a model for similar networks in other states and other countries who may think they can’t afford to preserve their local digital heritage. Private LOCKSS Networks offer communities a low-cost, highly customizable alternative to more expensive digital preservation solutions. If ADPNet had a motto, it might be “keep it simple and keep it cheap.” This basic approach appears to be working well for Alabama. It remains to be seen whether it will work for other states and consortia, but the signs so far are encouraging.

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Policy Committee. Together, the two committees are responsible for the day-to-day management of ADPNet. In keeping with the network’s guiding principles, the requirements for membership are as simple and affordable as we could make them. Participating institutions must agree to install and run a LOCKSS server in the network; contribute content to the network; and join the LOCKSS Alliance for an annual fee. There is no ADPNet membership fee.

Surveys have shown that ADPNet has succeeded in raising awareness of the importance of digital preservation among Alabama libraries, archives, and state agencies. The task now is to translate this increased awareness into participation in ADPNet.

Going Forward

ADPNet’s main mission is to build and sustain a robust, inexpensive distributed digital preservation network for Alabama, but also hopes to serve as a model for similar networks in other states and other countries who may think they can’t afford to preserve their local digital heritage. Private LOCKSS Networks offer communities a low-cost, highly customizable alternative to more expensive digital preservation solutions. If ADPNet had a motto, it might be “keep it simple and keep it cheap.” This basic approach appears to be working well for Alabama. It remains to be seen whether it will work for other states and consortia, but the signs so far are encouraging.

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BORN AND LIVED: Born and raised in western Massachusetts. Lived in Canada, California, Washington, D.C., Germany, and Illinois. Currently living in Opelika, AL.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I’m the Assistant Dean for Library Technology at Auburn University, a land-grant university in east-central Alabama. I’m responsible for overseeing all aspects of library technology at Auburn, including the integrated library system and discovery tools, digital collections and initiatives, and the Media and Digital Resource Laboratory (mdRL), a multimedia resource center for students and faculty. I came to Auburn from the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign, where I held the rank of associate professor of library administration and managed two Web-based, revenue-generating reference services. Before becoming a librarian, I was trained as a Slavist, and worked for some years as a Russian affairs analyst at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Munich, Germany. I have a BA from McGill University, an MA from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), and an MLS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Philip Larkin, Collected Poems. This one seems to make the trip from the night table into the suitcase more often than any other.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: In my almost twenty years as a librarian, I have seen a shift in emphasis from content curation to content creation. In other words, I have seen libraries add the creation of new scholarly content, or the publishing of it, to their traditional role as organizers and stewards of content created by other agencies. I have also seen the boundaries between libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural heritage organizations begin to dissolve. I think these are positive developments, and hope they continue. How they will affect the industry and our field in five years, or even three, I don’t pretend to know. Given the events of the past five or six months, long-term prognostication seems rather beside the point. I agree that librarianship is at a fateful juncture, and find the prospect invigorating rather than dismaying. Whatever the challenges ahead may be, I think that we can best serve our profession by joining forces with our counterparts in other institutions and focusing on first principles, which include stewardship, discovery, open access, enrichment, and — the theme of this issue — preservation. That’s our job, and I don’t see it changing.

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