

Long-term Management and Preservation of Digital Information

Birds of a Feather Session, dg.o2004

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The Long-term Management and Preservation of Digital Information BOF was a successful session that permitted a review of core issues and exchange of ideas. Approximately a dozen government, academia, and commercial representatives discussed a range of concerns, including the following:

- Problems over time maintaining information encoded within proprietary software formats.
- Barriers in the ability of organizations to transfer large collections of digital information to another organization for the purpose of changing intellectual or physical custody.
- Strategic shortcomings in aligning and coordinating the many different communities that have a common interest in digital preservation.
- Difficulties in managing very large—and rapidly growing—digital collections within individual organizations.

Despite the challenges associated with these issues, it is clear that they cut across different communities of interest. There was broad agreement that research addressing these challenges would have strong potential for meeting similar needs of multiple communities.

The session concluded with a consensus view that the Library of Congress is ideally situated to provide critical leadership in implementing a national strategy for digital preservation. Session participants expressed strong interest in the Library's plans for this effort and encouraged an aggressive outreach program, particularly since so many communities and sectors have a stake in national preservation strategy.