

From Theory to Action: A Pragmatic Approach to Digital Preservation Strategies and Tools

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Abstract: This poster communicates findings from DigitalPOWRR, or, Preserving (digital) Objects with Restricted Resources (<http://digitalpowrr.niu.edu>), a three-year project funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Northern Illinois University Libraries led this effort and brought together archivists, curators, librarians, and a digital humanist at Chicago State University, Illinois State University, Illinois Wesleyan University, and Western Illinois University. In consultation with a Board of Advisors, a group of 6 professionals known for their expertise and leadership in the field of digital curation and preservation, this project investigated, evaluated, and recommended scalable, sustainable digital preservation solutions for libraries with smaller amounts of data and/or fewer resources.

Two members of this team presented the project status at the 2013 SAA Annual Meeting at a point where a high-level survey of available preservation tools and a study of our campus digital object creation practices were complete. At that time we were beginning our in-depth tool testing phase and digital preservation planning process. This poster summarizes findings presented to the IMLS including our assessment of the tools we tested and the processes that our project members recommend given their distinctive institutional needs. Highlights include practical actions and affordable products that any digital object manager may implement to ensure long term accessibility of their collections. Conference attendees facing digital preservation challenges in repositories that lack technical support and/or funds to procure commercial services will benefit from the findings of the DigitalPOWRR project.

About the author:

Meg Miner is the University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian at Illinois Wesleyan University. She helps cultivate interest in IWU's history among alumni, students, faculty and administrators by arranging and providing access to university records in physical and digital formats. Miner also works with campus offices on records management issues, has curatorial responsibilities for Special Collections, and serves as the liaison to the History Department and School of Nursing. Her research interests include the impact digital collections are having on archivists' selection practices and researchers' scholarly and creative activities.