



Digital POWRR Interim Report
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From Theory to Practice: Extending the Reach of
Digital POWRR Preservation Workshops

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SUMMARY

In its first year, the Digital POWRR grant brought much needed digital preservation training to 123 professionals from 79 institutions, 16 states, and 5 Native American tribes and cultural heritage institutions. The POWRR team is gearing up for an even busier year two, but appreciate the opportunity to reflect on our first year's accomplishments and challenges.

GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 1.) **Performed environmental scan of publications and research findings:** The Digital POWRR Workshop had been developed as a result of an IMLS-funded research grant on digital preservation tools and services. The workshop had been developed in early 2014. Conducting an environmental scan was crucial to determine if the curriculum needed to be updated and revised.
 - Reviewed articles and blogs posted by leading organizations of digital preservation and training, such as the Library of Congress, the National Digital Stewardship Alliance, and the Society of American Archivists. Summaries of conference sessions and slides were often found, serving as another way to keep current of trends in digital preservation
 - Joined an participated in listservs that discuss digital preservation as a way to stay informed on issues important to information professionals
 - Surveyed websites of tools and services discussed in the workshop curriculum to determine if major changes had been made to the functions and features
 - Attended webinars provided by digital preservation vendors and services to learn more about emerging technologies and updated features

- 2.) **Developed program website¹:** A website for the POWRR project had already been created during the IMLS-phase of the grant, so the first few months were also spent updating content to describe the new phase of the project, updating the biographies of our instructors, and serving as the portal to promote workshops and materials. The website has served as a tool to:
 - Promote upcoming workshops² and serve as the source to register for workshops
 - Generate blog posts³ about recent findings in digital preservation and developments related to POWRR
 - Freely provide workshop materials on the "I Survived A POWRR Workshop"⁴ section of the website. Attendees can use this as a reference point while also making materials available to those unable to attend a workshop in personThe website not only helps promote the NEH-sponsored workshops, but provides information on the latest developments in digital preservation. It has been recognized as "an excellent starting point for planning a digital preservation program."⁵ We created a dedicated powrr@niu.edu email account early in the grant that has been

¹ <http://digitalpowrr.niu.edu/>

² <http://digitalpowrr.niu.edu/news/>

³ <http://digitalpowrr.niu.edu/blog/>

⁴ <http://digitalpowrr.niu.edu/survived-powrr-wkshp/>

⁵ Mita, Amanda. "Tech Services on the Web: Digital POWRR (Preserving digital Objects with Restricted Resources)," *Technical Services Quarterly* volume 33 (2016) 1; pg. 94-96, accessed January 22, 2016, doi 10.1080/07317131.2015.1093853

well used by professionals seeking out information about workshops and digital preservation.

3.) **Scheduled and planned workshops:** Collaborated with organizations of information professionals to schedule, plan, and promote workshops. We targeted several regional organizations of archivists and librarians whose membership was likely to include professionals from our targeted audience of small and medium-sized institutions. (See Appendix A for list of organizations). These organizations also have established mechanisms and paths of communications for reaching their members. We relied on the organizations to:

- Find an institution willing to host a workshop at little or no cost
- Survey members to gauge interest in a certain geographic region
- Promote workshops to members through e-mail listservs and posting on their website/social media
- Assist in making available travel scholarships to professionals representing historically marginalized populations and those with very limited funds

This strategy has proven very successful in not only scheduling workshops but also reaching out to even more groups of informational professionals. When word spread about upcoming workshops, several additional organizations reached out expressing interest in co-sponsoring a workshop. For example, when advertising began for the Northwest Archivists, Inc. workshop in Portland, OR, the Sustainable Heritage Network (SHN)⁶ reached out hoping to co-sponsor the event. SHN is a portal for indigenous peoples engaged in digital stewardship and funded by the IMLS. (See Appendix B for additional organizations).

4.) **Formative evaluation:** The Project Director met with the Co-PIs for two in-person meetings to discuss the environmental scan of publications. This resulted in revisions to the workshop slides⁷, the tutorial for Data Accessioner (DA)⁸, and the creation of a tutorial for DA: Metadata Transformer Tool.⁹ We consulted with two of the formative evaluators, Chris Prom and Martin Halbert, to update the section of the workshop covering tools. We eliminated the discussion of a tool no longer in use, and added information on two newer developments in the digital preservation field: BitCurator and e-mail archiving.

One goal we did not meet entirely was using the formative evaluation skills of Dr. Katherine Skinner, Executive Director of the Educopia Institute, during the workshop revision. Our first workshop was just 4 months after the grant began, and using her skills while we were revising the materials became an oversight as we focused more on learning materials and scheduling workshops. She was brought on in October to provide some much needed revisions to our workshop Pre and Post-Tests, our 3-month follow-up survey to participants, and to some of our workshop slides. The changes she has suggested will be integrated for the 2016 workshops.

⁶ <http://www.sustainableheritagenetwork.org/>

⁷ http://digitalpowrr.niu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/POWRRWorkshopSlides_DEADWOOD1.pdf

⁸ http://digitalpowrr.niu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/DA_printouts_afternoon.pdf

⁹ <http://digitalpowrr.niu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/DAMT-Tutorial.pdf>

- 5.) **Developed informational/learning materials:** Developed learning materials to reflect changes made to the curriculum. Worked with collaborating organizations to bring events to target audience. Notable achievements include:
- Posting on various digital preservation and professional listservs
 - Posting on training calendars maintained by NDSA; MAC; DuraCloud; and the ALA Digital Curation Interest Group
 - Created a Twitter account¹⁰ as a way to direct people to the website and advertise workshops. It has also served as a tool to keep up-to-date with updates to digital preservation tools and services and recent publications and reports
 - Our Co-PI, Lynne Thomas, assisted with the daylong instruction¹¹ to the newest class of the National Digital Stewardship Residents¹²
 - Project Director Danielle Spalenka gave an interview for The Signal¹³, a blog run by the Library of Congress Digital Preservation and Outreach Education (DPOE). This resulted great publicity for POWRR and resulted in scheduling of more workshops
 - Created a community on the Sustainable Heritage Network's website¹⁴ to post POWRR resources, allowing us to further reach indigenous communities
 - The POWRR Team received the 2015 NDSA Innovation Award for an organization.¹⁵ This honor has helped spread the word further about the grant project and is a reflection not only of our IMLS phase efforts but also our ongoing NEH phase activities

The POWRR team frequently receives communications from individuals seeking out guidance with digital preservation issues and questions. These are all answered and even passed along to the member of the extended team that can best answer them.

- 6.) **Teach workshops:** Taught four workshops across the country, exceeding the minimum of three workshops in year one. Provided many takeaways and learning materials to workshop participants, including a flash drive filled with all workshop materials, tutorials, and slides. Each participant received a packet containing the workshop slides to take notes and follow-along to the slide presentation during the daylong workshop. See Appendix C for list of scheduled workshops.
- Total of 123 information professionals from 76 institutions and 16 states attended a workshop in 2015. Our goal was to reach at least 150 information professionals over two years, so we are on track to exceed that goal
 - Provided 9 participants with travel scholarships, totaling \$2236.32. Four of the scholarship participants were from Native American tribes, aligning with our goal to reach underrepresented institutions at workshops. We worked with the organizations to promote and award the scholarships. It came as a bit of a surprise when we received fewer than anticipated applicants. We hope to improve on this process to expand the number of scholarship participants for 2016

¹⁰ <https://twitter.com/digitalPOWRR>

¹¹ <https://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2015/06/ndsr-2015-begins-with-conference-workshops/>

¹² <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsr/>

¹³ <https://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2015/07/dpoe-interview-with-danielle-spalenka-of-the-digital-powrr-project/>

¹⁴ <http://www.sustainableheritagenetwork.org/community/digital-powrr-project>

¹⁵ <http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/awards.html>

The responses to the workshops have been fantastic. We are currently on track to provide 6 workshops for 2016, with the possibility of a seventh. We are also working with the ACRL-DCIG to turn the workshop into a webinar. We would like to thank the NEH for providing us the opportunity to bring digital preservation training to eager professionals and their institutions across the country.

APPENDIX A

LIST OF COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

- American Association for State and Local History (AASLH)
- Association of College & Research Libraries Digital Curation Interest Group (ACRL-DCIG)
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC)
- Midwestern Archives Conference (MAC)
- National Digital Stewardship Alliance (NDSA)
- Northwest Archivists, Inc. (NWA)
- The Oberlin Group
- Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA)

APPENDIX B

ADDITIONAL PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

- American Library Association (ALA) Program and Publications Committee
- Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC)
- East-NY Chapter of ACRL
- South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board (SD SHRAB)
- Sustainable Heritage Network (SHN)
- Texas Digital Library (TDL)
- University of Missouri Library System

APPENDIX C

SCHEDULE OF POWRR WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

2015

- April 24 – POWRR Workshop, Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL. Co-sponsored by the Black Metropolis Research Consortium
- June 12 – Presentation to the National Digital Stewardship Residents, Library of Congress, Washington, DC
- June 30 & July 1 – POWRR Workshop, Portland State University, Portland, OR. Co-sponsored by the Northwest Archivists, Inc. and the Sustainable Heritage Network
- October 22 & 23 – POWRR Workshop, University at Albany, Albany, NY. Co-sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Consortium and the East NY Chapter of ACRL
- November 13 – POWRR Workshop, Deadwood Homestake Research Center, Deadwood, SD. Co-sponsored by the Midwestern Archives Conference and the South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board

2016

- April 22 – POWRR Workshop, Arkansas Studies Institute, Little Rock, AR. Co-Sponsored by the Society of Southwest Archivists
- April 27 – POWRR Workshop, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI. Co-sponsored by the Midwestern Archives Conference
- June 9 & 10 – POWRR Workshop, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN. Co-Sponsored by The Oberlin Group
- June 26 – Presentation to the ALA Programs and Publications Committee at the ALA annual conference, Orlando, FL
- July 8 – POWRR Workshop, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX. Co-Sponsored by the Association of College and Research Libraries- Digital Curation Interest Group
- September 1 & 2 – POWRR Workshop, University of Missouri- St. Louis, St. Louis, MO. Co-Sponsored by the University of Missouri Library System
- October 10 – POWRR Workshop, Atlanta History Center, Atlanta, GA. Co-Sponsored by the American Association for State and Local History