Digital Preservation Interview Questions   
October 2012

* Please tell me about the work/research you do and its significance.
  + What kind of data does your work generate?
  + Where do you put this data to keep it safe?
* If you lost all of your electronic files, what are the 3 files you would attempt to recover first and what would your approach be to recovering those files?
  + File category (Research Data, Scholarship, Teaching Materials, Communications, etc.)
  + File location (where it is physically stored…NIU server, external hard drive, Google Docs, another institution’s server, thumb drive, etc.)
  + File format(s) & size
  + File creation date
  + File stewardship
  + Recovery approach
* Have you ever experienced a significant data loss? If yes,
  + Was there University involvement in the attempt to restore your data?
  + What were the repercussions of the data loss?
* Have you experienced an "unrealized" data loss (For instance, where you have data saved in an older software version or on an older piece of equipment like a floppy disc that you probably couldn't access if you tried)
* Are you aware of any formal or informal policies from NIU, your college, or your department that govern how you should be protecting your data from loss?
  + If yes, please elaborate
* Are you bound by a granting agency data management plan?
  + If yes, what is your plan?
* If you were to suffer a data loss, how confident are you that your data could be restored? (Scale of 1 to 5 – 5 is “Very Confident” and 1 is “Not At All Confident”)
* How confident are you that your electronic files will be understandable and usable by your colleagues 25 years from now? (Scale of 1 to 5 – 5 is “Very Confident” and 1 is “Not At All Confident”)
* Do you care if your electronic files will be understandable and usable by your colleagues 25 years from now?
* What have we not asked you about your data that you believe we should know?
* Would you be willing to allow our team to have a copy of one or more of your electronic files to be used in the testing of various Digital Preservation Systems? (please see Informed Consent)