Appendix I:
Digital Archivist Community

1. Born Digital Archives Blog

Background

The blog http://born-digital-archives.blogspot.com/ was created in late May 2009 as part of the digital archivist community building work. The Digital Archivists felt that a blog would offer an easier and quicker mechanism for the digital archivists and software developer to provide updates on their work than placing all of this on the project website hosted by UVa.

It was also a reflection of the usefulness of some digital preservation blogs that we were reading on a regular basis including Chris Prom's Practical E-Records (http://e-records.chrisprom.com/) and the FutureArch blog (http://futurearchives.blogspot.com/).

Content

A wide range of topics have been featured on the blog including digital forensics, reports of events attended including the DLF Forum, the AIMS un-conference and the 2011 Personal Digital Archiving Conference. It has featured the use of FTK at Stanford, the development of Rubymatica by the project's software developer, the creation of a web survey to collate information from donors and arrangement and description of born-digital archives.
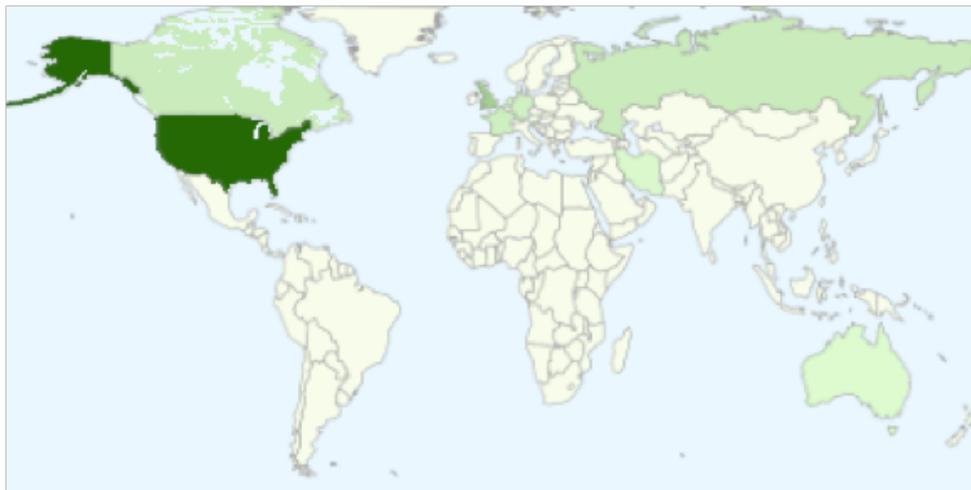
Statistics

As of 24th October 2011:

Total Number of posts:	39
Total Number of page views:	19,418
About Us page - number of page views:	1006

Three most popular posts are:

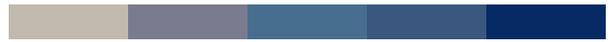|	
Other Highlights from the DLF Fall Forum (uploaded 16 Nov 2010)	1971 page views
Digital Library Federation (DLF), Fall Forum, 2010 (uploaded 29 Oct 2010)	1236 page views
AIMS; the Unconference (uploaded 18 May 2011)	392 page views

Audience:

Country	Page Views	Percent of Total Views
United States	8466	44%
United Kingdom	2577	13%
France	1199	6%
Russia	945	5%
Canada	920	5%

Impact

It was not practical to post as frequently as we had initially hoped and believed that the postings needed to be relevant and interesting rather than regular. In some cases the nature of the work meant it was not always

appropriate to write an entry – for example the AIMS unconference and UK symposium were largely by personal invitation which removed the necessity to use the blog to generate interest prior to the event.

Future

The four institutions have agreed to continue providing updates of activities and reports of events attended beyond the life of the grant.

2. Digital Archivist Community Events

Part of the AIMS approach has been to situate the framework within the standards and best practices set by the archival community. However, as the project began the partners realized that the community surrounding the specific issues of born-digital materials in collecting repositories was emerging somewhat differently between the US and the UK.

The US had a well-established electronic records and digital preservation community at the outset, but its connection to collecting repositories was not very strong. That said, early efforts must be acknowledged here, such as Susan E. Davis's 2008 article, "Electronic Records Planning in 'Collecting' Repositories" (*American Archivist* 71, no. 1), Michael Forstrom's 2009 article, "Managing Electronic Records in Manuscript Collections: A Case Study from the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library" (*American Archivist* 72), and the March 2009 Stewardship of E-Manuscripts symposium held at the University of North Carolina. There were relatively few posts with the explicit job title of digital archivist, and the precise requirements and responsibilities of these posts varied quite dramatically. Mark A. Matienzo, Digital Archivist at Yale University, expressed a significant interest in bringing these communities together more frequently. In the UK there was already quite an established digital preservation community with much of the momentum being created by the Digital Curation Centre and the Digital Preservation Coalition. There are however, only a few examples of posts with the explicit job title of digital archivist.

A key element of the AIMS Project was active engagement with these emerging communities, both in order to gather insight and information for the development of the whitepaper, but also to ensure that the framework would have a community in which it could be adopted. To accomplish this, the Digital Archivists participated in different archival and born-digital community events and the AIMS team coordinated three additional outreach events. A complete list of events attended or held by the AIMS team is included at the end of this appendix. A summary of the AIMS-sponsored events follows.

AIMS Unconference, Charlottesville, May 2011

Feedback from AIMS Unconference Attendees:

I most enjoyed the chance to talk to known colleagues and meet new ones. It's also useful to hear what other folks consider a "solved" problem in their environments (and therefore a potentially replicable solution), and what is still completely challenging. For example everyone's recognition that managing access to restricted materials is not supported by current tools was fortifying. I believe that consensus like that is very important for funding agencies to hear, so they can focus on funding projects that aim to chip away at this problem.

- Aprille McKay, University of Michigan

I think this was the perfect professional development activity for me right now. This group was neither too large nor too small and yet specialized enough that we are able to immediately get to the specific issues facing our community. I sometimes feel depleted as the "born-digital" person in my institution - this invigorated my drive and inspired me with new approaches and fresh ideas to get to work on some daunting tasks back home.

- Erin O'Meara, UNC Chapel Hill

The lightning talks were a great way to familiarize oneself with the attendees. It also felt like luxury to be in a room with people who have all had practical experience with digital records, and that we all spoke the same language (SIPs, DIPs, AIPs never had to be defined).

- Courtney Mumma, City of Vancouver Archives

The Digital Archivists organized a two day unconference in May of 2011. The "unconference" is a participant-driven meeting wherein attendees are called on to develop the agenda and activities once they arrive in order to address emerging and cutting-edge topics. The AIMS unconference was a gathering of similarly minded people from the US, Canada, and the UK to bring issues and challenges related to stewarding born digital archives to the table. The Archivists hoped that the unconference format would allow participants to share knowledge, experience, and concerns, while learning new strategies and developing new partnerships to help tackle this enormous challenge we all face.

The 27 participants represented libraries, archives, museums, and digital humanities centers. Despite the differences in our institutions, backgrounds, and training, we learned that we not only shared similar challenges, but also the same hopes for collaboration and innovation. Through an unconference wiki the delegates shared information about their role and institution and proposed topics that they would like to discuss in the event. During the event, notes, slides from lightning talks, and links to useful resources were added to the wiki. The wiki remains publicly available at https://wiki.duraspace.org/display/AIMS/AIMS+Symposium as a clearinghouse for the information discussed during the event.

The event resulted in two concrete outcomes. First the delegates agreed that they wanted to continue to work together to help the emerging born-digital stewardship community address shared challenges. The delegates agreed to keep up discussions via the Google Group set up prior to the event and to hold bi-monthly chat/video conference calls to continue discussing the following topics:

- Curriculum Development
- Best Practices and Policies
- Tool Development
- Digital Research Communities

In addition, a specific suggestion was made at the unconference to organize a "Day of Digital Archives" similar to the "Day of Digital Humanities" that's become an annual event with our DH colleagues. Gretchen Gueguen took responsibility for developing

> ### Comments from UK Event Delegates:
>
> *Understand what is happening in digital preservation, meet people doing digital preservation things, look for partners for projects.*
> - Richard Boulderstone, Director eStrategy, British Library
>
> *Excellent balance: shorter presentations and more discussion worked very well. Tool demos would be useful*
> - Ifor ap Dafydd, Development Officer, National Library of Wales
>
> *Reassuring that we're currently asking the right questions (or at least the same questions as everybody else).*
> - Owain Roberts, Workflow Analyst, National Library of Wales

this event, which will take place October 6th, 2011. The project blog is found at http://dayofdigitalarchives.blogspot.com/. Thirty-seven participants, both unconference delegates and others, representing archives, libraries, museums, and tool developers from the US, the UK, Australia, and Europe are set to participate by either blogging or tweeting about their activities related to born-digital content management on the 6th.

Feedback from the event was very positive. Many attendees commented that the opportunity to share experiences with a group of professionals who are also engaged in similar tasks was energizing and would impact their continuing work.

UK AIMS event: Revisiting archival principles from a digital preservation viewpoint, London, June 2011

This one-day event sought to replicate many aspects of the unconference. Organized in collaboration with the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC), the goal was to facilitate discussion with a group of practitioners to look at three core aspects:

- Collection management
- Arrangement and description
- Discovery and access

A series of brief presentations from invited speakers were followed by open discussion among the delegates about practical issues. These ranged from working with depositors, using and integrating third party tools, born digital archives workflow and other aspects. The event was attended by twenty-three delegates representing eighteen institutions including the British Library, the National Archives of Scotland, University of Cambridge, London School of Economics, The (UK) National Archives, JISC, the National Library of Wales and the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

A wiki was created for the UK event, and the program, slides, and notes from the event are online:

https://wiki.duraspace.org/display/AIMS/AIMS+UK+event

While both the US and UK events followed a similar theme there were some key differences. Instead of a pre-selected delegate list by the Digital Archivists as in the US event, the UK event was an open invitation to DPC members. The UK event was promoted as a joint AIMS-DPC event with the theme and agenda being selected by the AIMS team and the DPC undertook most of the administration of the event and promoted it to their members. This meant we had a small but highly experienced audience from a range of institutions. This wealth of practical knowledge and the relatively small size of the group encouraged everybody to share experiences and perspectives.

With the UK digital archivist community already established there was not felt to be a need to generate any direct actions from the day, though comments were sought on the nature and format of the event to see whether it could be repeated, possibly with different emphasis, on an annual basis.

Collecting Repositories & E-Records Workshop, Chicago, August 2011

The AIMS partners hosted a workshop in the run-up to the 2011 SAA (Society of American Archivists) Annual Meeting in August. Forty-five participants from the US and Canada explored the challenges, opportunities and strategies for managing born-digital records in collecting repositories. The workshop was organized around the four

main functions of stewardship in the AIMS framework: collection development, accessioning, arrangement and description, and discovery and access.

In addition to presentations by AIMS Project members, several guest presenters showcased case studies from their hands-on approaches to managing born-digital materials. Seth Shaw, from Duke University discussed the evolution of electronic record accessioning at Duke University and his development of the Duke Data Accessioner. Gabriela Redwine discussed work done in arrangement and description at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Finally, Erin O'Meara showcased work done at the University of the North Carolina at Chapel Hill to facilitate access to born-digital records through finding aid interfaces.

In between presentations, the participants engaged in lively discussions around provocative questions and hypothetical scenarios. At the end of the event, the AIMS partners felt they had gained just as much from the day's activities as they hoped the participants had. The Ideas discussed and case study examples presented played a major role in the development of this white paper.

The program for the event is available on the AIMS wiki:

https://wiki.duraspace.org/display/AIMS/AIMS+Workshop+-+program

and the presentations from this event are available via the project blog:

http://born-digital-archives.blogspot.com/2011/09/aimssaa-part-one-crew-workshop.html

The Digital Archivists delivered a presentation at on the AIMS project on Saturday morning, providing an overview of the project and the unveiling of the AIMS framework, or the four areas identified as key functions in the stewardship of born-digital materials. There were over 150 SAA conference attendees in the audience, despite competition from Hurricane Irene's effect on travel schedules, an 8 a.m. Saturday timeslot, and simultaneous SAA presentations from colleagues Michelle Light, Dawn Schmitz, and John Novak on delivering born-digital materials online as well as presentations from the archivists for the bands Phish and the Grateful Dead.

The presentations from the event are available at:

http://born-digital-archives.blogspot.com/2011/09/aimssaa-part-two-saa-session-502.html

Continuing Community Involvement

As a result of attempts to engage with and garner feedback from the born-digital community, the AIMS partners embarked on continuing projects to collaborate and exchange knowledge with other professionals.

Hull has been approached by a number of other institutions (including the London School of Economics, the John Rylands University Library (The University of Manchester), the Duke of Northumberland Estate, the Wellcome Library, the East Riding Archives Service and the West Yorkshire Archives Service) as a direct result of their involvement in the AIMS project. These contacts resulted in numerous exchange visits and sharing of work in-progress which has been mutually beneficial to all parties and will continue beyond the life of the project.

Mark A. Matienzo, Digital Archivist at Yale University, and Bradley Daigle, Director of Digital Curation Services at the University of Virginia, will both serve on the development advisory group for the BitCurator project, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. BitCurator seeks to develop an open source digital forensics solution for archives. Archivists at Yale University have also begun collaborating more closely internally; staff at Manuscripts and Archives and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library have worked together to create workflows and documentation and to share resources to build their capacity and expertise.

3. Day of Digital Archives

The first Day of Digital Archives took place on October 6th, 2011 as a direct outcome of the AIMS project. The event was modeled on the ongoing Day of Digital Humanities project, which encourages participants from around the world working in Digital Humanities to blog, tweet, or otherwise document what they are doing on a specific day each year. The Day of Digital Archives did the same on October 6th, 2011, creating a record of what the field actually looks like as a way to create a deeper understanding with colleagues, researchers, future students, and the world at large.
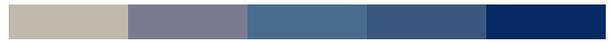
The idea was first formed at the AIMS Unconference in May as one way to address the lack of awareness some of our colleagues and users have about work with born-digital archives. Digital Archivist Gretchen Gueguen of the University of Virginia took responsibility for setting up and managing the blog and marketing the event. Information about the day was circulated at the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting as well as on listservs related to the field. Prior to the event more than 50 participants contacted Gretchen to participate and registered with the Day of Digital Archives blog. Numerous other participants joined in on the discussion, particularly through Twitter, on the day itself. These participants were not limited just to those working with born-digital archives, but represented many working with digitized materials, some working within the realm of Digital Humanities, and others involved in software design or archival education. The scope of participants stretched outside the United States to Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia.

While participants were not discouraged from blogging on their own platforms, Gretchen made an effort to cross-post these entries to the centralized Day of Digital Archives blog (http://dayofdigitalarchives.blogspot.com) in order to have one clearinghouse for contributions. At the end of the day there were 45 posts on the Day of Digital Archives blog and 8 posts linked to on other blogs. The site received more than 3,000 pageviews on the 6th and continues to be viewed daily, albeit at a lower rate. More than 700 messages were tweeted throughout the day with the #digitalarchivesday hashtag by 365 twitterers.

The topics of posts and tweets covered a broad range of activities from early discussions of the need for particular tools to announcements of completed products. Others used the platform to discuss things like education and training, collaborative initiatives, gaps in tools or shared knowledge, or the activities involved in planning or carrying out projects.

The success of the Day of Digital Archives exceeded initial expectations. The volume of participants and the quality of their submissions were both higher than was anticipated. However, several commenters during the day noted that they were surprised that they had not heard about the effort before that day. This was due to the relatively small amount of effort put into marketing the event. Word-of-mouth was the key tool used as marketing for this initial event, and in some sense this might have added to the excitement surrounding the day's activities on Twitter. However, for future events more formal methods of awareness and participation encouragement should be used.

The only issue that still poses a challenge for Day of Digital Archives is a reliable method for archiving the day's activities. Tweets were backed up to two online service providers: TwapperKeeper and the Archivist, but a more

trustworthy solution should be found. Given the small volume of tweets, creating a simple database of them may be feasible for this year, but may not be feasible in the future. The blogging software chosen was Blogger. While this is a major service of Google and unlikely to go away anytime soon, a long-term solution needs to be found. At the very least obtaining a back-up of the posts and comments should be sufficient.

4. Presentations, Conferences, and Publications

Presentations and Conferences attended on behalf of AIMS

Awre, Chris. "The Hydra Initiative: Underpinning Repository Interaction for Research Support." Paper presented at Fedora UK & I/EU User Group Meeting, Oxford, UK, December 2009.

Wilson, Simon. Attendee at Digital Preservation — The PLANETS Way, London, UK, February 9-11, 2010.

Gushee, Elizabeth. "AIMS." Poster presented at New Horizons in Teaching and Research Conference, Charlottesville, VA, May 5, 2010.

Wilson, Simon. Attendee at European Conference on Digital Archiving, Geneva, CH, April 28-30, 2010.

Edwards, Glynn. "Born-Digital Material @ Stanford" Pecha Kucha session at Northwest Archivists, Inc. Western Roundup, Seattle, WA, April 30, 2010.

Gushee, Elizabeth. "Assessing & Accessing Archival AV Content at the University of Virginia." Presented at the Washington Conservation Guild, May, 2010.

Daigle, Bradley. "AIMS Update." Presented at the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities Computer Forensics and Born-Digital Content in Cultural Heritage Collections Symposium, College Park, MD, May 2010.

Matienzo, Mark. Attendee at the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities Computer Forensics and Born-Digital Content in Cultural Heritage Collections Symposium, College Park, MD, May 2010.

Wilson, Simon. Attendee at Practical Approaches to Electronic Records, Dundee, UK, May 21, 2010.

Wilson, Simon. "Brief introduction to the AIMS Project." Presented at Digital Lives Research Seminar, British Library, London, UK, July 5, 2010.

Wilson, Simon. "Brief introduction to the AIMS Project." Presented at CALM Digital Records Workshop, London, UK, July 22, 2010.

Matienzo, Mark. "Accessioning, Transfer, and Ingest Workflow for Born-Digital Archives in Collecting Repositories." Poster presented at Society of American Archivists Research Forum, Washington, DC, August 2010.

Wilson, Simon and Malcolm Howitt. "Managing Digital Archives: A Calm Perspective." Presented at Society of Archivists Annual Conference, Manchester, UK, September 2, 2010.

Awre, Chris. "Hydra" Presented at Repository Fringe, Edinburgh, UK, September 3, 2010.

Wilson, Simon. "Creating a born-digital workflow that includes both CALM & Fedora." Presented to the National Library of Wales and Archives Wales, Aberystwyth, UK, October 11-12, 2010.

Chan, Peter, Glynn Edwards and Michael Olson. "'Archiving' Digital Lives: Choices, Challenges, and Change." Presented at Digital Library Federation Fall Forum, Palo Alto, CA, November 2, 2010.

Edwards, Glynn, Peter Chan and Michael Olson. "Born-digital Materials." Presented to San Jose State University Library School, San Jose, CA, January 2011.

Matienzo, Mark. "Fiwalk with Me: Building Emergent Pre-Ingest Workflows for Digital Archival Records using Open Source Forensic Software." Presented at Code4lib 2011, Bloomington, IN, February 9, 2011.

Matienzo, Mark and Amelia C. Abreu. "Archival Sensemaking: Personal Digital Archiving as an Iteration." Presented at Personal Digital Archiving 2011, San Francisco, CA, February 24-25, 2011.

Wilson, Simon. Attendee at UK Archives Discovery Forum, London, UK, March 2, 2011.

Burg, Judy. "What will survive of you is...Pencil, paper, pen-drive" Presented at Society of Authors, Northern Region Meeting, Hull, 26th March 2011.

Wilson, Simon. "Born-digital archives & the AIMS Project." Pecha Kucha session at Digital Collaboration Colloquium, Sheffield, UK, March 29, 2011.

Edwards, Glynn and Michael Olson. "Born-Digital Materials in Collecting Repositories: Getting off the Ground." Presented at Society of California Archivists Annual General Meeting, San Jose, CA, April 2011.

Wilson, Simon. "Born-digital archives @ Hull: early steps and lessons learnt (so far)." Presented at Digital Preservation Roadshow, York, UK, April 14, 2011.

Edwards, Glynn, Peter Chan, and Michael Olson. "Born-Digital 'Papers' at Stanford: Overview" Presented at SULAIR Chalk Talk, Palo Alto, CA, May 2011.

Daigle, Bradley, Peter Chan, Gretchen Gueguen, Mark Matienzo, and Simon Wilson. Organizers and attendees at AIMS Unconference, Charlottesville, VA, May 13-14, 2011.

Burg, Judy and Wilson, Simon. Organizers and speakers at Revisiting Archival Principles from a Digital Preservation Viewpoint: joint AIMS / Digital Preservation Coalition event, London, UK, June 10, 2011.

Wilson, Simon. Attendee at Curator's Workbench Workshop, British Library, London, UK, June 30, 2011.

Edwards, Glynn. "Processing Born-Digital 'Papers' at Stanford." Presented at RBMS Pre-Conference, Baton Rouge, LA, June 22, 2011.

Wilson, Simon. Attendee at Preserving Email, London, UK, July 29, 2011.

AIMS Working Group. Organizers and presenters at CREW – Collecting Repositories & E-records Workshop, Chicago, IL, August 23, 2011.

Chan, Peter. "Using Forensic Software to Assign Metadata to Born Digital Archives" Presented at Metadata and Digital Object Roundtable at the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 24, 2011.

Chan, Peter, Gretchen Gueguen, Mark Matienzo, and Simon Wilson. "Born-Digital Archives in Collecting Repositories: Turning Challenges into Byte-Size Opportunities" Presented at Society of American Archivist Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 27, 2011.

Wilson, Simon. "Archivist to Digital Archivist" Presented at Archives and Records Association Annual Conference, Edinburgh, UK, September 1, 2011.

Awre, Chris. "Hydra (and Fedora) in Hull" Presented at Fedora UK & I User Group, Manchester, UK, September 15, 2011.

Publications

Edwards, Glynn. "Born-Digital Material at Stanford," *Archival Elements: Newsletter of the Society of American Archivists Science, Technology, and Health Care Roundtable*, Summer 2010.

Awards

The AIMS project was awarded *Archive Pace Setter* status, part of a program led by the Archives and Records Association (UK & Ireland) in partnership with a number of strategic bodies working across the archives sector. The award recognizes the project's innovative nature and its adherence to good practice in relation to project planning, management, and evaluation.