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SI 640 - Digital Libraries and Archives, Winter 2009

Conway, Paul

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SI 640 Digital Libraries and Archives

Week 3 – Content Landscapes
Pre-history

1 Themes
2 Definition
3 History
4 International

- Networks and mainframes
- Moore’s law
- Collaborative work: Doug Engelbart
- Business-government-academic


SI’s own history as an educational program is tied up in the evolution of the pre-history of digital libraries.
History – scanning and storage

- Xerox PARC 1978 – first scanner
- IBM – storage and workflow
- BellCore – image and text

Building on existing infrastructures, the search for new markets for emerging technologies focused on digital content in “business practices.”
History – govt./business early adoption

1 Themes
2 Definition
3 History
4 International

- Business efficiency – paperless office
- Govt. effectiveness – paperless govt.
- National Archives and Library of Congress – early experimenters
  - ODISS
  - Federal guidelines
  - American Memory pilot
History – university library experiments

1 Themes
2 Definition
3 History
4 International

• DLF. http://www.diglib.org/

Michigan and Cornell, 1989
LaGuardia Eight
Digital Library Federation
National leadership; little funding

Research libraries have a long and distinguished history of technology experimentation and adoption. [CLR, CPA, CLIR]

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History – university research efforts

1 Themes
2 Definition
3 History
4 International

- Fox and computer scientists
- NSF DLI1
- NSF DLI2
- Patents and trademarks as an issue

DLI1: http://www.dli2.nsf.gov/dllone/
DLI2: http://www.dli2.nsf.gov/

Themes of this week

Themes

- Overview
- How much information
- Content form and formats
- Institutional context
- Uniqueness

“Storage of new information has been growing at a rate of over 30% a year.”

*How Much Information, 2003*
Overview

Multiple perspectives

- Where is information?
- What is information?
- Values assigned?
- By whom?
How much information

1. Themes
2. Overview
3. How much information?
   4. Form and formats
   5. Institutional context
   6. Uniqueness

- Scope of the study
- Interesting findings
- Implications for the digital libraries

How Much Information:
http://www2.sims.berkeley.edu/research/projects/how-much-info-2003/
Forms and formats

1. Themes
2. Overview
3. How much information?

4. Form and formats

5. Institutional context
6. Uniqueness

Image available at:
Forms and formats

1. Themes
2. Overview
3. How much information?
4. Form and formats
5. Institutional context
6. Uniqueness

- Format: information structure
  - Discuss (image, text, multimedia)

- Form: Definitions
  - OED
  - Information as thing

http://www.ischool.berkeley.edu/~buckland/thing.html
Information-as-Thing

- Tangible entity (touch or measure)
  - Representation of knowledge
- Information as evidence
  - Symbol, fact, legal standing
- Evidence in the form of documents or “informative things”
- Representations are a transformation, necessarily incomplete, form shifting, summarized, derived, retaining properties
- Situational and predicted value of information-as-thing.

1. Themes
2. Overview
3. How much information?
4. Form and formats
5. Institutional context
6. Uniqueness

Forms and formats

1. Themes
2. Overview
3. How much information?
4. Form and formats
5. Institutional context
6. Uniqueness

- Form: Definitions
  - OED
  - Information as Thing
  - Business applications (use specific)
  - Diplomatics (components)

SAA Glossary of Archival Terminology
http://www.archivists.org/glossary/index.asp
Institutional context

1. Themes
2. Overview
3. How much information?
4. Form and formats
5. Institutional context
6. Uniqueness

- Creators, managers, users
- Institutional loyalties
- Choices and priorities
Content Landscape

1. Themes
2. Overview
3. How much information?
4. Form and formats
5. Institutional context
6. Uniqueness

Image can be found at: (http://www.oclc.org/reports/escan/images/collectgrid.gif)
Content Landscape

Web Gateway

Digitized Content

Acquired Content

Managed Content

Licensed Content

Research data + software
Library digital acquisitions

e-Journals
e-Books
Time-limited db

“Unmanaged” WWW resources

“Personal” digital collections

Blackboard objects
E-Reserve docs
Course websites

Image databases
Text databases
Multimedia
Research data
Student portfolios

Research center output
Faculty publications
Campus pubs
Enterprise systems
University archives
Web CMS

“Unmanaged” WWW resources

WWW resources

Content Landscape
Content Domains

1. Themes
2. Overview
3. How much information?
4. Form and formats
5. Institutional context
6. Uniqueness

Lingering Questions:

- Is “format” a meaningful construct?
- Is web context preservable in any meaningful way?
- Content (value neutral) or assets (value laden)?
Idea of Uniqueness

1. Themes
2. Overview
3. How much information?
4. Form and formats
5. Institutional context

6. Uniqueness

- Records (artifacts)
- Information (duplication/publication)
- Processes (functional view)
- Aggregations (distinct assemblages)

Idea of Uniqueness

1. Themes
2. Overview
3. How much information?
4. Form and formats
5. Institutional context
6. Uniqueness

- Intangibility
- Mutability
- Readers and writers
- Connectability

Idea of Uniqueness

1. Themes
2. Overview
3. How much information?
4. Form and formats
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6. Uniqueness

- Does uniqueness have any value today?
- How much of this idea uniqueness is associated with copying?
- How do we document uniqueness?

Thank you!

Paul Conway
Associate Professor
School of Information
University of Michigan
www.si.umich.edu