Digital Preservation Outreach and Education Network: 2020-2022 and Beyond

Co-authors: Natalie Baur (Pratt Institute), Anthony Cocciolo (Pratt Institute)

Background

Digital Preservation Outreach & Education Network (DPOE-N) is an initiative formed following a move in 2018 from its first iteration at the Library of Congress, where it was known as Digital Preservation Outreach & Education. In contrast to the “train the trainers” in-person courses at LoC, the new program has a more distributed model, creating a “network” of resources and provides funds for those interested in practicing digital preservation in support of cultural heritage collections. With the generous support of the Mellon Foundation we are able to provide monetary resources and other opportunities related to digital preservation, and build out this network since mid-2020. This poster discusses the 2020-2022 project cycle and plans for moving into the 2022-2024 cycle.

Testimonials

DPOE-N Microgrant Recipients have benefitted from the following training opportunities:

- Society of American Archivists Digital Archives Specialist Certificate
- Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) professional training programs
- Computer Programming (SQL, Python, Web Development) courses
- American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) continuing education
- A variety of online workshops and training opportunities through organizations such as: Society of American Archivists, Digital Library Forum, Code4Lib, Association of Moving Image Archivists, American Library Association, American Association for State and Local History, Open Repositories, Preservation and Archives Special Interest Group

As a grateful DPOE-N microgrant recipient, the funding I received enabled me to complete the SAA's Digital Archives Specialist certification. This was incredibly helpful to me in my newly created position of Digital Projects Coordinator for Archives & Special Collections at the Bard College Stevenson Library.

Nicole Diehm
St. Augustine Historical Society

My major goal is to always be learning. DPOE-N funding helped me immensely by allowing me to continue that learning through the Society of American Archivists. Now I can take what I've learned and apply it to the plans we have for our collections.

Palash Bosgan
Bard College

Goals Met & Highlights

- Total of $134,349.37 to 91 individuals seeking funding for professional development support
- 22 emergency hardware grants, totaling $11,312.79, with an average grant award of $538.70
- Ten DPOE-N Workshop sessions attended by 206 cultural heritage professionals:
  - Sustainable Web Archiving at Scale
  - Reframing Digital Preservation Through an Anti-Racist Lens
  - Introduction to Digital Preservation for Moving Image and Sound
  - Moving Image and Sound Digital Preservation Software Tools & Intro to Python for AV
  - Intro to Digital Preservation Tools and the Command Line Interface
  - Building and maintaining database of training opportunities for digital preservation
  - Building outreach to the cultural heritage and digital preservation community through social media, listserv, and direct outreach to institutions

Future Plans

- Outreach to the Spanish-speaking cultural heritage and digital preservation community via the Spanish-speaking diaspora in the United States and Puerto Rico. This will include translation of standards, workflows and other digital preservation literature into Spanish and made available open-source; and two in-person workshops to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico over two years.
- Continued innovation in outreach to DPOE-N community through a monthly email newsletter
- New workshop curriculum to be delivered free and online, targeting both introductory and technical topics

Thanks to the support of DPOE-N, we were able to set up network-attached storage that not only centralizes and provides redundant backup storage for our data, but also allows our growing staff to work more efficiently. This is a major upgrade to our file storage and digital preservation practices, and it couldn't have come at a more critical moment!

Carissa Pfleiffer
Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center

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