

Collaborations, Best Practices, and Collection Development for Born-Digital and Digitized Materials

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Abstract

The University of North Texas (UNT) Libraries is a collaborative partner in the Web-at-Risk project, one of eight preservation projects funded by the Library of Congress under the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP). Early in the project, UNT conducted a needs assessment to identify web archiving issues facing curators and librarians. Key findings in three areas are reported: current challenges, organizational issues, and collection development concerns. These findings informed the development of guidelines and a template for the project's curators to create web collection plans. In addition to the Web-at-Risk project, the Digital Projects Unit at the UNT Libraries has several digital library initiatives with government agencies at the Federal and State levels to preserve and provide access to important collections of born-digital and digitized materials. The library also houses the Portal to Texas History, a digital gateway to the rich collections held in Texas libraries, museums, archives, historical societies, and private collections. Collaborations, best practices, collection development, and key lessons learned from these initiatives are identified. The DPU is also involved in trialing emerging tools and solutions for the libraries' storage architecture and information services. Building on research findings and experience gained in collaborations and projects, future plans for infrastructure and services are discussed.