

## **Building for the Future: Preservation in the National Digital Newspaper Program**

Deborah M. Thomas  
Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20540-4760  
[deth@loc.gov](mailto:deth@loc.gov)

Shiow Huang  
Library of Congress  
101 Independence Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20540-1300  
[shua@loc.gov](mailto:shua@loc.gov)

### **Abstract**

This paper describes aspects of the technical development and policy decisions incorporated into building the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress (LC). NDNP is a long-term effort to provide permanent access to a national digital collection of newspaper bibliographic information and selected historic newspapers, digitized by NEH awardees in all U.S. states and territories. This program, and managing the assets created, provides a rich testing ground for the development of large-scale digitization programs and predicting long-term needs for management and preservation of digital assets, both for NDNP and future projects. The current development phase focuses on ingesting and providing user-friendly 'access' to data produced according to experimental strategies for digital preservation. The lessons learned during this critical first phase will inform the design of future architecture and the implementation of additional management and preservation.