Digital Collections Decisions: an NGDA perspective

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Goals:
- Create a national federated network committed to archive geospatial imagery and data.
- Collect and archive at-risk content.
- Develop best practices for collecting content.
- Develop a series of policy agreements covering retention, rights management, and obligations of the partners.
Geospatial Information Types
Spatial Information Matters!

- Widely used across many fields and disciplines.
- Created by a wide variety of entities.
- Geographic Exploration Systems display the world to the world.
- Use in researching and understanding the physical world:
  - Natural processes,
  - Human endeavors.
Information is at Risk

- Ownership
- Change in format
- Variety of formats
- Volume
- Versioning
- The new new thing
Preservation Challenges

- The challenge of internal change.
- The challenge of external change.
- The challenge of creativity.
- The challenge of time.
- The challenge of money.
- The challenge of knowledge.
The Old (Present and Future) World

Reading Room, Green Library, Stanford University
Photo by L.A. Cicero

Library of Congress Main Reading Room
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division,
Theodor Horydczak Collection LC-H8-CT-L01-005 DLC.
You are here: the digital library
Challenges

- Versioning – vector and raster
- Proprietary formats
- Volume
- State funding
- Copyright status/practices and approvals

Benefits

- Excellent metadata
- Long-standing relationships
- People can come to us
Challenges
- Lack of stable funding and severe budget cuts
  - Site visits count.
  - Cost recovery efforts matter.
- Proprietary formats
- Copyright practices vary
- Permissions

Benefits
- They were thrilled to have us archive their content.
Challenges
- Copyright
- Lack of complete geospatial metadata

Benefits
- Internal collection
- Unique
Challenges
- Volume and versioning
- Variety of formats
- Variety of display mechanisms

Benefits
- Long-standing relationship
- Few copyright barriers
- Solid metadata, but from two sources
New - Rumsey Historical Maps are in Google Earth! See 16 historical maps in the Featured Content layer of the Google Earth 3D Globe. The georeferenced maps wrap the virtual globe in their modern spaces, allowing explorations of both time and space. Read more.

the collection

The David Rumsey Historical Map Collection has over 15,000 maps online. The collection focuses on rare 18th and 19th century North and South America maps and other cartographic materials. Historic maps of the World, Europe, Asia and Africa are also represented. Collection categories include antique atlas, globe, school geography, maritime chart, state, county, city, pocket, wall, childrens and manuscript maps. The collection can be used to study history, genealogy and family history.

Read an article about the collection, take a Flash Tour of the collection (requires Flash), or view 360° panoramic images of the collection space. You can also view Japanese Historical Maps or fine art images from The AMICA Library.

Read about Cartographica Extraordinaria which features stunning reproductions from the David Rumsey Map Collection and examines history from a uniquely geographic perspective.
Click and hold down your mouse in the QuickTime movie above to navigate. Hold down your Shift Key to zoom in, Control Key to zoom out. Click on "Hot Spots" to view details of maps and globes in the Insight™ Browser. (It may take a few moments for the Browser to open.)
What do we need to preserve?

- “The goods”
- The cultural artifacts
- A possible solution – a lot of one and a little of another.
The larger issues

- What gets preserved, at what level, and who makes that decision?
- What do we save when we don’t own things?
- What should we think about (and do with) the cultural artifacts laid on top of the content?
- There is complexity even with everyday tools.
- Preservation can work against innovation.
- Grants are requiring operation of sites/preservation of materials. What does this mean for libraries?
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