

Preserving legislative digital records

National Conference of State Legislatures
New Orleans 2008

Today

- Informal
- Introduction to the issues
- Some considerations
- One specific project

Why worry about preservation?

- COOP, disaster recovery
- Legal framework – records laws, litigation, discovery
- Increased public attention and expectations
- Complexity of systems – email, RMA, web, web 2.0
- Costs
- Lack of a good model

Preservation challenges

- Hardware
- Storage media
- Formats
- Mark-up languages
- Applications

Familiar challenges



Solution: ongoing process

- Migration
- Conversion
- Innovation
- Collaboration

Sustainability

- Appropriate solutions
- Integration into routines
- Priorities – appraisal, scope
- Cost control
- Use value
- Collaboration

Preservation issues

- Policy
- Storage media
- File format
- Metadata
- Security
- Copies
- Documentation
- Staff skills, resources

Policy: legal framework

"The current law is just completely unhelpful. The Legislature has to get to this. ... it'll be messy and quite ungratifying, but it has to be done."

Minneapolis Star-Tribune

13 July 2008

Policy: authenticity

- American Association of Law Librarians
- Uniform Electronic Transactions Act
- Control Objectives for Information Technology (CoBIT)

General suggestions

- Do no harm
- Monitor policy, legal developments
- Control costs
- Use standard formats
- Use standard, basic metadata
- Emphasize use value
- Collaborate

Archivists' role

- Add value, define niche
- Facilitate use
- Context
- Web 2.0
- Long term

Project outcomes

- Capture, preserve and provide access to “at-risk” digital content from state legislatures
- Test the model in MN
- Determine capacity of other states to adapt the model
- Promote the results through education and outreach
- Connect to national cyberinfrastructure

Conceptual framework

- Access
- Data consultancies
- Guidelines and standards
- Outreach, education, promotion
- Collaboration
- Larger context

Project partners

- MN
- CA
- CDL
- NCSL
- IL, KS, MS, TN, VT

Partners: unique and appropriate

- Audiences
- Mission
- Priorities
- Initiatives
- Capacity
- Resources

Underway

- NCSL meetings
- State meetings
- Preservation routine
- Policy issues: authentication and accessibility white papers
- XML core schema
- Analysis of technological options

Further information

Web site: www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/legislativerecords

Webcast: www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=4312

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