

# **Project background: preserving legislative digital records**

**National Digital Information Infrastructure  
and Preservation Program**

# Issues & challenges

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

# Assumptions

- Collaboration
- Standards
- National cyberinfrastructure
- Rigorous appraisal and ROI: use value of electronic records
- Education
- Cultural and institutional change
- Sustainability

# Project partners

- MN (ROS, LRL, MHS)
- CA and KS
- CDL
- NCSL
- AR, IL, MS, ND, NE, TN, VT
- ThomsonReuters, private sector

# Partners: unique and appropriate

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

# Process

- Lots and lots of meetings
- Documentation: BaseCamp
- Research
- Re-grants
- Implementation
- Evaluation

# Lessons we're learning

- Change: perpetual beta, budgets, personnel
- “Constant partial attention”
- User expectations: preservation = access over time; success = content + functionality
- Access: open content, loosely coupled, specialized needs

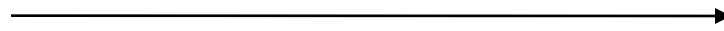
# Lessons we're learning (2)

- Collaboration and integration
- Lower costs, lower barriers
- Catalysts: business case, mandate, charisma
- Local knowledge
- No single model: common problems, but not the same solutions



# Practical outcome: incremental improvement

Storage



Preservation

Policies  
Standards  
Partners  
Technologies  
Model

# Progress

- Research and white papers: access, records mgmt, digital audio/video, legislative history, XML usage, mashups, authentication etc.
- Education: handouts, podcasts, NCSL
- Schema
- NCCUSL model law

# MHS: next steps

- Integration of non-XML content
- Import and export: web and CDL
- CA and KS
- Automating the process
- Education
- Gap analysis and toolkit
- Evaluation

# Partners: next steps

- Education
- Sharing content
- Adapting models
- Gap analysis
- Evaluation

# Solution: ongoing process

- Standards
- Migration
- Conversion
- Innovation
- Collaboration

# More information

- Project website:  
[www.mnhs.org/ndiipp](http://www.mnhs.org/ndiipp)
- Contact:  
Bob Horton  
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# Policy framework

- Document decision and transactions
- Accountability, transparency, FOI
- Privacy
- Re-engineering government
- Costs

# 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



# 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

# Sustainability: business case

- Appropriate solutions
- Integration into routines
- Priorities – appraisal, scope
- Cost control
- Use value (access, transparency, open gov't)
- Collaboration

# Archivists' role

- Add value, define niche
- Facilitate use and collaboration
- Context and significance
- Web 2.0
- Long term preservation

# Conceptual framework

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

# Common ground

- Trustworthy
- Preserved
- Accessible
- Standards based

- NCCUSL: Authentication Model Law

Legislature  
(creation)



Web  
(harvesting)



Access



(Item)

Archive  
(mgmt/admin)



(Batch)



Repository  
(preservation)