

Open and accessible legislative records

National Conference of State Legislatures

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Today

- Brief background
- ULC - UELMA
- Access, authentication and preservation issues and options
- Next steps

MN NDIIPP project

- 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

Project partners

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

Uniform Law Commission

- NCCUSL
- State commissioners
- Uniform v. model
- Uniform law process: study, drafting comm, reports, approval
- State enactment

UELMA (1)

- Print to digital
- “Official” = digital
- Outcome based
- No specified technologies
- Assignment of roles and responsibilities

UELMA (2)

- Drafting comm members
- What's covered
- Standards
- Costs
- Uniformity and acceptance

Access

- Reasonably available
- Web sites
- Batch, API, mobile
- Role of private entities: copyright, open government

Authentication

- Trustworthiness
- Presumptions
- Electronic or automatic
- Chain of custody
- Rules of evidence

Preservation

- Long term access and authentication
- Ongoing process
 - migration
 - conversion
 - innovation
 - collaboration
 - sustainability

Lessons we're learning

- Change: perpetual beta, budgets, personnel, technology
- “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, fiscal, charisma, green
- No single model: common problems, but not common solutions

MN progress/results

- Research and white papers: access, authentication, preservation
- Education: handouts, podcasts, NCSL
- Preservation pilots (CDL, Hathi Trust, Tessella)
- Access pilot (Sunlight)
- Evaluation

Evaluation

- Matrix
- “Case studies”
- Timelines
- Documentation
- Comparison

Matrix: preservation costs

- Annual cost
- Cost per item
- Cost per GB
- Cost of retrieval per item
- Cost of retrieval per GB
- Cost of staff to manage preparation
- Cost of staff to manage retrieval or reconstitution

More information

- www.mnhs.org/ndiipp
- www.digitalpreservation.gov
- www.nccusl.org
- www.nccusl.org/Committee.aspx?title=Electronic%20Legal%20Material%20Act
- robert.horton@mnhs.org