LOCKSS – Much is More

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LOCKSS – What is it?

• Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe

• An international program
• Digital preservation tool
• Authorized e-content
• Community of copies
• Founded @ Stanford University Libraries, 1998
LOCKSS – Support

• This program is now largely funded by contributions from libraries participating in the LOCKSS Alliance. It has received major funding from:
  – Andrew W. Mellon Foundation
  – National Science Foundation
  – Library of Congress

• The system was released into production April 2004.

http://www.lockss.org/lockss/About_Us
LOCKSS - How does it work?

• Analyzes publishers’ content
• Audited to ensure authoritativeness
• Archived through continuous process
  – Detailed analysis and checking
  – Repair digital elements, if necessary
  – Verify authenticity
  – Automated through programming
  – Format migration
LOCKSS - Organization

• Membership
  – University Libraries
  – Publishers
• Low operating costs
• Geographically dispersed nodes
• Content is owned by LOCKSS members
• LOCKSS is trademarked by Stanford University
LOCKSS – Basic Ideas

• The major threat to digital preservation is economic.
• A digital preservation system needs to build confidence in its users and justify its expense to its funders.
• We can make the system inexpensive for the publishers by preserving the "presentation" form of web content using "pull" collection in which preservation appliances crawl the publishers' web sites.
• We can make the system inexpensive for the readers.
• We can make the system inexpensive for libraries to run by enabling libraries preserving the same content to cooperate.
LOCKSS - Benefits

• LOCKSS provides benefits to libraries, publishers and researchers, while capitalizing on their traditional roles.
  – Perpetual access
  – Version control
  – Authenticity
  – Integrity
  – Long-term preservation

http://www.lockss.org/lockss/About_Us
LOCKSS - Benefits

• Libraries:
  – Can easily and affordably create, preserve, and archive local electronic collections;
  – Own rather than lease electronic information;
  – Retain traditional custodial role of scholarly information;
  – Provide continuing and perpetual access to their local community.

http://www.lockss.org/lockss/About_Us
LOCKSS - Benefits

• Publishers:
  – Can easily and affordably provide content to the libraries for preservation and archiving with minimal risk to their business models or to their publishing platforms;
  – Ensure perpetual access to their materials;
  – Fulfill librarians' requirements that publishers guarantee both continuing (day to day) and perpetual (very long-term) access to purchased content.

http://www.lockss.org/lockss/About_Us
LOCKSS - Benefits

• Researchers and Journal Readers:
  – Can access archived and newly published content transparently at its original URLs;
  – Can use existing search engines to transparently locate archived content;
  – Need not be aware that LOCKSS exists in order to take advantage of it.

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Join the LOCKSS Alliance

• “NYU Libraries’ decision to join the LOCKSS Alliance was grounded in our sincere commitment to the preservation of digital content. We want to support the broadest possible exploration of methods for insuring such preservation. The LOCKSS model is based on an elegantly simple philosophy, promoting the building of local collections and their preservation on site. We are impressed by the autonomy that the LOCKSS model offers and the minimal effort required to run it. NYU has been very happy with its decision to join LOCKSS, and we encourage others to express their commitment to digital preservation by joining the LOCKSS community.”

- Dr. Michael Stoller, Director, Collections & Research Services, New York University Libraries
Further Reading

• Keeping Bits Safe: How Hard Can It Be?
  As storage systems grow larger and larger, protecting their data for long-term storage is becoming more and more challenging.
  by David S. H. Rosenthal | October 1, 2010
  http://queue.acm.org/detail.cfm?id=1866298

• LOCKSS: Preserving Digital Commons Content at Your Institution
  http://digitalcommons.bepress.com/reference/22/
Further Reading (more)

• **Lots of Librarians Can Keep Stuff Safe**
  Libraries are able to safeguard content with LOCKSS, open source digital preservation software.
  By Karen G. Schneider -- Library Journal, 2007
  http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6466645.html

• **LOCKSS: A Permanent Web Publishing and Access System**
  http://www.dlib.org/dlib/june01/reich/06reich.html
Final Thought

• ...let us save what remains: not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident.

— Thomas Jefferson, February 18, 1791

http://www.lockss.org/lockss/Publications
The End.

Questions?