Digital Preservation in Practice

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Paul M. Hebert Law Center Library
Current Projects

• Nuremberg Files
• Civil Law Source Materials
Nuremberg Files

Papers relating to Paul M. Hebert’s service as a judge at the Nuremberg Tribunals
Over 40 linear feet of records

175+ images in the collection

Contains daily transcripts, prosecution and defense exhibits and notes and memoranda

Some images already available on the Louisiana Digital Library
Collection Issues

• Trial Transcripts already available digitally

• Focus is on the unique materials i.e. Hebert’s notes

• These are to be digitized for access purposes
• Documents are scanned to 600 dpi .tif files

• Images uploaded to LDL through ContentDM

• Archival .tifs stored at LSU Law

• Metadata for images stored in a Word document
Current Preservation Scheme

- Archival .tifs stored on CD-Roms
- CD-Roms replaced every 3 years
- A copy of the Metadata document is stored on each disk.
Sources of the Civil Law

- Project of the Center for Civil Law Studies at the Paul M. Hebert Law Center
- Purpose to make rare or obscure legal materials more readily available

Photograph Courtesy of Vicenç Feliú
FCIL Librarian LSU Law
• Scanning underway since 08/01/2007

• As of 09/20/2007 over 5000 pages scanned

• Ten titles scanned so far

• Mainly 18th and early 19th century French and Spanish materials
Current Preservation Scheme

- Scanned .PDF’s stored on Law Center Servers
- Servers backed up three times daily with Microsoft Volume Shadow
- Once a week a tape backup is made and kept one year
- No archival backups
Preservation Problems

• No long term plans for preservation
• Inadequate backups
• Backups stored on site
Preservation Pointers

• Use standard file formats for storage
• Migrate the data to new formats regularly
• Storage is cheap. Make copies and store one copy off site.
Standard Formats
Factors to Consider

• Open Standards - Use a non proprietary format
• Ubiquity - Use a common format
• Stability - Format specifications stable with backwards compatibility
• Metadata support
Data Migration
And why you need to do it

• Hardware and Software goes obsolete quickly
• Data that can’t be read is useless
• Storage media can decompose
MAKE COPIES

• Creating digital resources is labor intensive
• Making backups is quick
• Use good quality media
  • CD-R’s with gold foil should out last CD technology
• Store at least one backup off site
Thank You

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