

# Enabling Collaboration for Digital Preservation

Martha Anderson, The Library of Congress, September 2010



## **NDIIPP MISSION**

To ensure access over time to a rich body of digital content through the establishment of a national network of partners committed to selecting, collecting and preserving at-risk digital information



## A Network of People An Architecture for Preservation

VISION

ENSURES THE LONG-TERM ACCESS TO A RICH BODY OF DIGITAL CONTENT THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL NETWORK OF COMMITTED PARTNERS

PRESERVATION NETWORK

Preservation Architecture

PRESERVATION INFRASTRUCTURE

TWO KEY COMPONENTS OF INFRASTRUCTURE:

PRESERVATION NETWORK: PARTNERS COLLABORATING

TO PRESERVE AND PROVIDE LONG-TERM ACCESS TO

DIGITAL CONTENT AND PRESERVATION ARCHITECTURE:

TECHNICAL COMPONENTS THAT ENABLE DIGITAL

**PRESERVATION** 

**VALUES** 

- ► SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF MULTIPLE COMMUNITIES OVER LONG PERIODS OF TIME
  - ► RESPOND TO RAPIDLY CHANGING TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIVE BEHAVIORS
    - ► BE TRANSPARENT AND TRUSTWORTHY

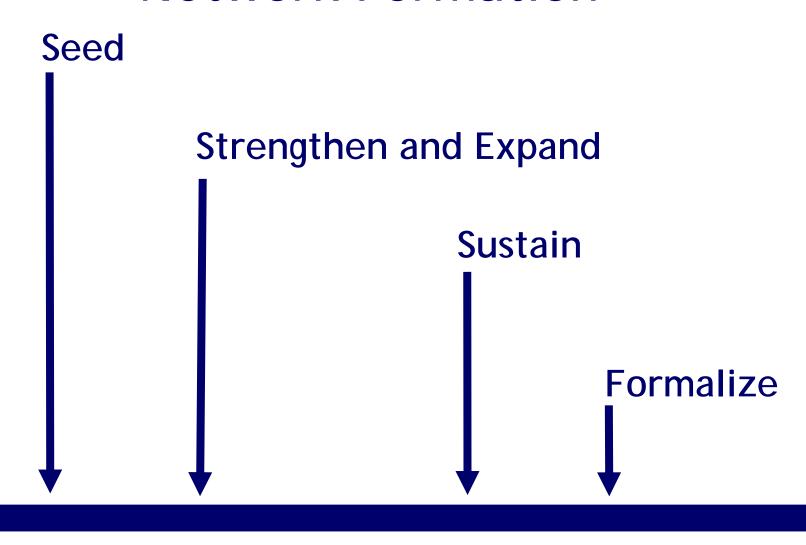


.... trust and reciprocity "lengthen the shadow of the future"....

Axelrod, The Evolution of Cooperation, 1984.



# Phases of Digital Preservation **Network Formation**





# 2002-2005

#### Seed the Network

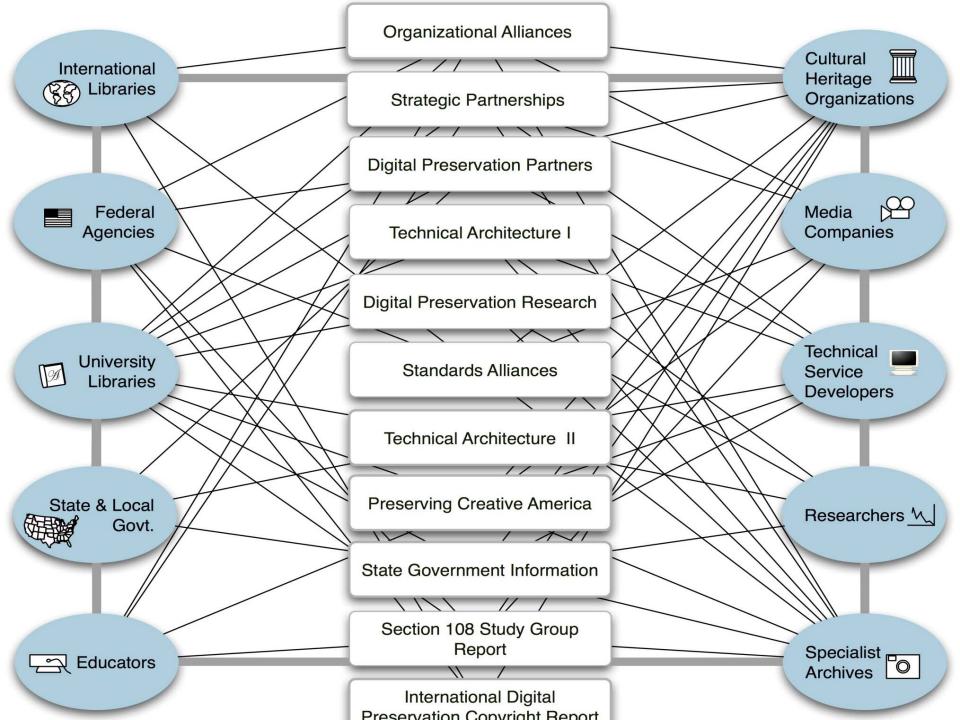
- Catalyze partnerships
  - Cooperative agreements with 8 consortia to identify, select and collect at-risk digital content
- Identify affinities
  - Content
  - Technical Architecture
  - Rights
  - Sustainability



# 2006-2008

## Strengthen and Expand the Network

- Catalyze a network
- Add States and Commercial Content communities
- Identify roles within network
- Focus on tools & services for the network



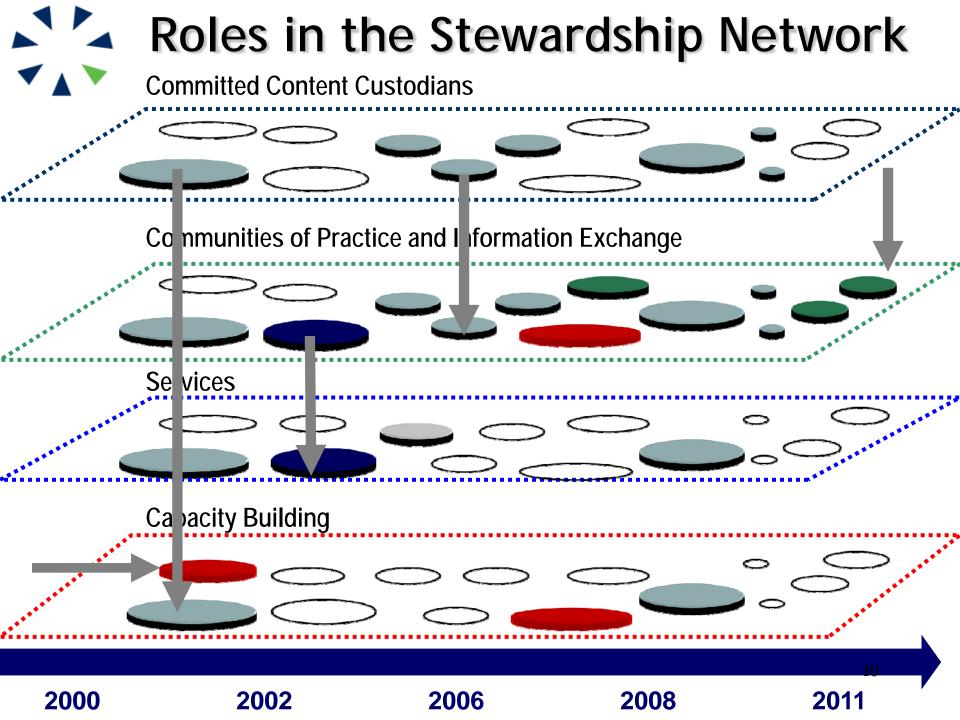


## 2008-2010

### Sustain the Network

- Develop and formalize network roles
- Focus on
   Sustainability
   Interoperability
   Access

2000 2002 2006 2008 201°





## Lessons from the network

## "Learn by doing"

- Ownership of digital preservation challenge must be distributed
- Benefits of shared expertise and resources can be gained through collaboration
- NDIIPP network has been emergent, not designed
- Organizational models depend upon strength of leadership and commitment of members
- The Library is regarded as a trusted broker and convener
- Trust is built by working toward a common goal



## Formalize the network

- Charter a digital stewardship alliance
- Commit to formalized roles and structure within alliance
- Focus on a national digital preservation agenda

2000 2002 2006 2008 201<sup>-2</sup>



Summer 2010 Founding memberships

Fall 2010 Organizing sessions

Winter 2010 Working Groups

Spring 2011 Outreach and expansion

Summer 2011 Annual Meeting



### For more information

http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndsa/

Also see:

Kwon, Pardo, Burke. Interorganizational collaboration and community building for the preservation of state government digital information: Lessons from NDIIPP state partnership initiative. Government Information Quarterly 26(2009) 186-192.





#### Collaborative networks

- Open
- Closed
  - Flat
- Hierarchical
- Centralized
- Distributed
- Strong leadership
- Shared responsibility



What motivates members?

How can action be sustained?

What are benefits?

When are networks ineffective?

Is there an ideal number of members for a network to be effective?

What are some organizational models?

How much structure is necessary?