Attendees

1. Kenning Arlitsch (Univ. of Utah)
2. Gail McMillan (VA Tech)
3. David Minor (Chronopolis)
4. Matt Schultz (Educopia)
5. Katherine Skinner (Educopia)
6. Ryan Speer (VA Tech)
7. Jody Thompson (GA Tech)

Agenda & Minutes

Brief Staff Update & Welcome

1. Matt got the call started by welcoming Ryan Speer from VA Tech to our project staff
   a. Ryan will be our Data Wrangler – which has actually shaped up to be more of a research position than a technical position
   b. Ryan will be assisting Matt with researching the digital newspaper collections and repository systems in play
   c. Ryan will also assist Matt with preparing readiness plans for each of the content holders prior to ingest
   d. Ryan comes with several years of experience in digital archives – formerly serving as Digital Archivist at GA Tech
2. A big welcome to Ryan – looking forward to working with him on the project!

Discussion on Preservation Challenges & Preparedness

1. Matt opened discussion – asked the committee what key hurdles they anticipated for the long-term preservation of their digital newspapers? What aspects of digital newspapers seemed most complex (formats, ocr, metadata, other)?
   a. Gail replied that the metadata piece seemed challenging, just because legacy newspapers had never gotten the proper metadata treatment early on
   b. Kenning echoed Gail’s reply and added that applying METS/ALTO to their newspapers that did not get the NDNP treatment seemed daunting
   c. Jody responded that GA Tech’s newspapers were in fairly standard good shape and should be easy to export – but that staffing to accomplish the work seemed most daunting at this early stage
2. Matt briefly reviewed each content holders preferred methods of staging prior to ingests and asked about hurdles or concerns at that stage
   a. Katherine reassured the committee that future ingests would be tests using subsets of each partner’s newspaper collections
      i. Kenning inquired about each of the three DDP sites
      ii. Matt provided brief details on MetaArchive and its use of LOCKSS, UNT and their Coda repository, and David Minor provided some details about Chronopolis – namely their use of iRODS, BagIt, ACE
   b. Matt emphasized that the ingest stage should be straight-forward but we need to approach it as an exploration of achieving common approaches, but also placing the content needs front and center
3. Matt urged the discussion forward by asking for feedback on the project staff’s summary of early challenges & findings based on the collections surveys – namely:
   a. Those challenges & findings included:
      i. Digital newspaper holders have not moved beyond simple back-up strategies for preservation
      ii. Proprietary repository systems in use have technical and legal implications for preservation
      iii. There are no universally adopted OCR formats for long-term preservation & access
      iv. There are no standardized file structures, naming conventions, or object identifier schemes for long-term management
      v. Diverse priorities and expectations exist for access services
   b. Everybody on the call agreed that these captured very well the situation locally for their digital newspapers
   c. David asked about the issue of versioning in regards to digital newspapers – how is their content changing, what is the expectation for preservation service providers, etc?
      i. Everybody on the call agreed that this was an important topic, and currently something that was not fully clear to the content holders
      ii. OCR in particular is a major area of investigation

Monthly Call Scheduling

1. The Chronicles Committee will meet the last Wednesday of each month from 2-3pm ET – April 25th is our next call
   a. Next month we will review progress on the outline for the Guidelines to Digital Newspaper Preservation Readiness.
   b. We will also set aside some time to continue discussions about the importance of versioning – Chronicles Committee members are being asked to give this some serious thought in-between now and
then to what elements of their digital newspapers are likely to be most subject to updates over time (metadata, OCR, etc.)

i. Reminders will be sent out
Project Promotion

1. Matt updated the Committee on recent and upcoming opportunities for promoting the work of the project
   a. Martin debriefed the Committee on conversations generated during his poster session at iConference at the beginning of February
      i. Martin put Katherine & Matt in touch with a connection that was made from someone at the Calgary Herald – they are scheduled to meet on Wednesday, 02/29
   b. We also have a project briefing scheduled for 2012 Spring CNI on April 3rd – we will discuss the state of the project and preliminary recommendations for the Guidelines

Scheduling Future Calls

1. Matt will be moving to set-up regular monthly calls with each of the Project Staff, Chronicles Committee, and Advisory Group – stay tuned for Doodle schedulers
   a. We would like to begin making these more like “working calls” where we can collaboratively get our heads around a topic or issue of relevance to the project rather than just status reports (though those will remain important) – stay tuned

Additional Housekeeping

1. Matt will be updating the wiki both this week and next and will alert all parties when information becomes available
2. Martin will be sending out the iConference poster so that folks can have that for presentation purposes – we would strongly encourage all project partners to feel free to promote the project at all relevant opportunities
3. Our first interim report to NEH is due on Thursday, March 1st and we will aim to share that with the group shortly before submission