Organizational Models: Alabama and ADPNet

A statewide Private LOCKSS Network

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Private LOCKSS Networks: Community-Based Approaches to Distributed Digital Preservation
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“Digital preservation combines policies, strategies and actions that ensure access to digital content over time.” (Source: American Library Association, Association for Library Collections & Technical Services, Preservation and Reformatting Section, Working Group on Defining Digital Preservation)
Digital preservation is the flipside of digital collection-building.
Like most infrastructure, it’s invisible,
un glamor  ous,
and absolutely necessary.
Alabama’s solution: ADPNet

In 2006, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded a two-year National Leadership Grant to the Alabama Digital Preservation Network (ADPNet). ADPNet will preserve locally created digital assets and will demonstrate a solution for academic institutions, state agencies, and cultural heritage organizations. The project director is Aaron Trefethen, Director of Library Technology at Auburn University. The participating institutions are the Alabama Department of Archives and History, Auburn University, Spring Hill College, Troy University, the University of Alabama, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and the University of North Alabama.

By the end of the two-year project, institutions of higher education, libraries, state agencies, and other cultural heritage institutions in Alabama should have an increased awareness of the importance of preserving significant digital assets. The project will also show that a LOCKSS preservation network can support the digital preservation needs of different types of institutions. A representative body will govern the network and assure the long-term operation of ADPNet.
ADPNet’s mission

To create a low-cost, low-maintenance, geographically distributed digital preservation network for libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural memory organizations in Alabama.
Background

- Inspired by Auburn University’s experience with the NDIIPP MetaArchive Cooperative
- Began with a two-year IMLS grant: September 2006 through September 2008
- Grant awarded to and administered by the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) in Montgomery
- Project director at Auburn University Libraries
- Commitments from seven Alabama institutions
Member institutions

1. Alabama Department of Archives & History
2. Auburn University
3. Spring Hill College
4. Troy University
5. University of Alabama
6. University of Alabama at Birmingham
7. University of North Alabama
8. ?
Basic info about ADPNet

- ADPNet is a “Private LOCKSS Network”, or PLN
- “Dark” archive: for preservation ONLY, not access or display
- Uses off-the-shelf equipment
- LOCKSS servers (“nodes”) at all seven member institutions
- Each institution currently maintains its own LOCKSS server
- Each institution currently contributes content to the network
ADPNet cached content

- ADPNet currently contains 140 archival units from all seven member institutions
- Approximately 2.5 terabytes harvested to date
- Network capacity: 8 terabytes at each node, expandable to 16 terabytes
- Plenty of room for more collections
- More collections on the way, including audio and video files
Organizational Model 1.0 (2006-2010)

- Statewide network
- ADPNet is part of NAAL
- Lightweight governance structure
- Two committees:
  1. ADPNet Steering Committee (policy)
  2. ADPNet Technical Committee (hardware/software)
- All member institutions are represented on the ADPNet Steering Committee
- All member institutions have a vote
Organizational Model 2.0 (2010-)

- Statewide network, with servers in other states or provinces
- ADPNet is part of NAAL
- Lightweight governance structure
- Two committees:
  1. ADPNet Steering Committee (policy)
  2. ADPNet Technical Committee (hardware/software)
- Some member institutions are represented on the ADPNet Steering Committee
- Some member institutions have a vote
Membership Model 1.0 (2006-2010)

- Membership is open to all libraries, archives, and museums in Alabama that have publicly available digital content

- Three requirements:
  1. Bring up and maintain a LOCKSS server in the network
  2. Contribute content to the network
  3. Join the LOCKSS Alliance

- LOCKSS Alliance fee and LOCKSS box **mandatory** (with exemptions for small or poorly-resourced institutions)
Membership Model 2.0 (2010-)

- Membership is open to all libraries, archives, and museums in Alabama that have publicly available digital content.
- Four basic levels of membership:
  1. Anchor: $4,800 per year, 1TB storage allotment
  2. Host: $2,400 per year, 200GB storage allotment
  3. Participant (Large): $700 per year, 1.5GB storage allotment
  4. Participant (Small): $300 per year, 500MB storage allotment
- LOCKSS Alliance fee and LOCKSS box optional
Costs

- Servers: LOCKSS server and Web server (for making content available to the network)
- Storage upgrades (as network grows)
- Staff time: typically several hours per month
- Communication: e-mail listserv, monthly conference calls, annual business meeting
- Travel: mostly in-state

And the biggie…
Membership fee

- Annual fee for network support and expansion
- 2006-2010: LOCKSS Alliance fee ($1,080-$10,800 per year, depending on institution size and type)
- 2010- : ADPNet fee ($300-$4,800 per year, depending on amount of content in the network)
- Members may choose to continue paying LOCKSS Alliance fee
Why the change in policy?

Two reasons:

1. To ensure equitable network usage (use more, pay more)
2. To make membership financially attractive to smaller institutions and/or institutions that don’t have a lot of content to preserve

- LOCKSS agreed to a single lump-sum payment for the ADPNet group, **but**
- How we divide that payment is up to us
Guiding Principles

- Keep it simple
- Keep it cheap
- Go with a lightweight governance structure
- Aim for low maintenance and low administrative overhead
- Take advantage of existing administrative structures and relationships (e.g. NAAL in Alabama)
Challenges

- Scalability (how much can LOCKSS handle?)
- Negotiating different storage needs (large vs. small institutions)
- Ensuring a flow of content into the network
- Metadata: to PREMIS or not to PREMIS?
- Governance: sharing responsibilities
- Growth: attracting new members
- Sustainability: paying the LOCKSS bill and funding network expansion
The future

- Add more content to the network
- Recruit more member institutions in Alabama, including…
  - Public libraries
  - Museums
  - Other cultural heritage organizations
- Swap servers with other PLNs in other states (Arizona) and countries (COPPUL in Canada)
- Spread the word
Closing thought #1

A pretty good solution that can actually be implemented is better than a perfect solution that can’t be.
Digital preservation isn’t cheap, but it’s a lot cheaper than rebuilding digital collections.
For more information:

ADPNet:  http://adpn.org/
LOCKSS:  http://www.lockss.org/

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