

Media Commons

A philosophical and occasionally practical
investigation

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Media Commons

- Effort between NYU, Institute for the Future of the Book, and NEH funding
- Future of the Book
- New forms of academic publication
- *The New Everyday*
- *In Media Res*

Why Preserve?

- Important component of historical record
- Increasingly common form of academic communication
- Preservation gives accreditation

4 avenues to consider

- E-journals
- Blogs
- Websites
- Time-based media art

E-Journals

- Preservation efforts began in 2004/2005
- Led to the TRAC self-audit, CLOCKSS and Portico
- Need to identify stakeholders and their needs
- Spread the costs for sustainability
- Create one repository to rule them all

Blogs

- Only recently beginning to be valued, increasingly common
- Concerns over copyrights
- Concerns over metadata like blogger identities and Shakespeare
- Concerns over boundaries: object versus behaviours; analog analogy

Web Preservation

- Metadata issues: the desire for content versus the desire for metadata
- Controlled vocabulary- 88 and Horcruxes
- Selection: what and when
- Concerns over boundaries again

Time-Based Media

- Need a new way of thinking about conservation to match new form of art
- “all efforts designed to understand cultural heritage, know its history and meaning, ensure its material safeguard and, as required, its presentation, restoration and enhancement” – International Council for Monuments and Sites
- Translation problem: books again
- Boundaries one more time

Putting the onus on the creator

- Moving preservation upstream
- Authors as creators
- Media Commons as creator

Web Crawlers

- Heritrix
- CDL
- Web Grabber
- HTTrack
- SiteSucker

The real solution

- Meeting with David and Brian
- Their proposed solution
- Unresolved issue 1: access
- Unresolved issue 2: format of saved materials
- Unresolved issue 3: APIs and databases

In the end

- Many questions
- Few answers
- But, there is hope...