Beyond Technology: Creating and Sustaining the MetaArchive Cooperative

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MetaArchive Cooperative: The Early Days

- Shared goal: preserving digital materials relating to the history of the American South, at reasonable cost
- NDIIPP-supported
- Six initial participants plus Library of Congress:
  - Emory
  - Auburn
  - Virginia Tech
  - Georgia Tech
  - Florida State University
  - University of Louisville
MetaArchive Cooperative: From the Beginning

- A collaborative effort, a philosophy -- not a service
- Modifications to basic LOCKSS set-up
- Created Cooperative Agreement for sustainable collaboration
- Developed traditions and practices that encouraged input, trust, and accountability
Communication, Traditions, Practices

Essential for keeping the collaborative nature alive across state and regional boundaries

- Conference calls (1/week)
- Steering Committee meetings (1/year)
- Listserv(s)
- Wiki for document development
Sustainability and Governance

- Charter
- Membership Agreement
Charter

- Organization and governance
- Answers questions like…
  - What can membership fees can be spent on?
  - What are our responsibilities re: copyright?
- Establishes the roles of committees
  - Steering committee
  - Content committee
  - Preservation committee
  - Technical Committee
Membership Agreement

❖ Clarifies the relationship

❖ More than one type of membership
  ❖ Different institutions have different needs
  ❖ Different institutions have different resources
  ❖ We all have stuff to preserve

❖ Both membership types presuppose a 3-year commitment

❖ Both membership types presuppose membership in the LOCKSS Alliance
Membership Types: Sustaining Members

- Leadership role
- Operate a node
- Contribute more content to be ingested
- Cost: $5,000/year or $12,000/3 years
Membership Types: Preservation Members

- Operate a node
- Can have representatives on the content, preservation & technical committees
- Contribute some content each year to be ingested
- Cost: $1,000/year
Expansion and Evolution

- Expanding collaborative group
  - More members
  - More minds for problem-solving
  - More stuff

- Adding new networks/archives
  - Electronic Theses and Dissertations Network
  - Transatlantic Slave Trade Network
For more information…