

Contributor/Presenter:

Bernard F. Reilly, Center for Research Libraries

Title:

A New Template for the Preservation of Electronic News

Abstract:

During the last decade, the life cycle of news has been radically altered by the digital revolution and by the emergence of the Web and mobile communications platforms. Gathering, authoring, editing, managing, and dissemination of news in the digital environment are utterly different activities than the production and distribution of news associated with the print era. This “sea change” challenges the existing templates research libraries have used to preserve news, and calls for libraries to adopt new approaches that are better suited to promote the longevity and integrity of news that is born-digital. This presentation will suggest some of those approaches.

New templates for preserving born-digital news must take into account not only the dynamic technologies in use, such as social media and robust enterprise content management systems, but also the highly refined infrastructure of standards and standardized practice that the telecommunications and journalism industries have already put in place. In rethinking their preservation strategies libraries must also consider the broader societal functions of news content, in legal proceedings and financial activity, which have a bearing on how news content is handled.

CRL, a consortium of 270 North American academic and independent research libraries, recently conducted an in-depth analysis of the electronic news lifecycle, which suggested some new approaches to news preservation. This presentation will describe the findings of CRL’s analysis and will suggest how research libraries and major media organizations can act together to ensure the effective and strategic, long-term management of born-digital news content.

Biography:

Bernard F. Reilly is president of the Center for Research Libraries, a partnership of 270 U.S. and Canadian universities, colleges and independent research libraries, and formerly chief curator in the Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress. Reilly was principal investigator for two major digital preservation projects funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation: the Political Communications Web Archiving Investigation (2002-2004) and Auditing and Certification of Digital Archives (2005-2007). Reilly also was principal investigator of the NSF-funded Case Studies of Long-Lived Digital Collections study (2008-2010).