

# A Tale of Three Libraries:

Key Factors in Successful Online Collaborative Projects

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# Goals today

- ☀ Offer advice about and examples of the “key factors” that lead to success in a collaborative project
- ☀ Discuss factors that could hinder the success of a collaborative project
- ☀ Help you decide if a collaborative project is right for your library

# Genesis of today's presentation

- ★ Our project encountered a series of setbacks, structural problems, and unforeseen events that would usually doom most projects
- ★ Yet, going on three years later, our project continues to thrive
- ★ Why?

# The Chesapeake Project

☀ Collaborative effort among:

- ☀ Georgetown University Law Library
- ☀ Maryland State Law Library
- ☀ Virginia State Law Library

☀ Goal: to preserve born-digital collections

# Our short history

- ✦ Brainchild of Robert Oakley, former director of the Georgetown University Law Library
  - Strong commitment to preserving legal information
  - Believed online legal information at risk
  - Believed law libraries to be responsible for the preservation of born-digital legal information

# The partners

- ✦ Enlisted the directors of the Maryland State Law Library and the Virginia State Law Library
- ✦ Designated as a demonstration project of the Legal Information Preservation Alliance

# Obstacle 1

## ☀ Three **very different** libraries

### ☀ Georgetown Law Library

- One of the premier law schools in the nation
- Two “branches”: E.B. Williams and Wolff International
- Staff of 68

### ☀ Maryland State Law Library

- Part of the Maryland Judiciary
- Open to the public
- Staff of 15

### ☀ Virginia State Law Library

- Part of the Virginia Judiciary
- Serves the appellate court of Virginia
- Staff of 4

# Obstacle 2

- ☀ Loss of our visionary

- ☀ Bob Oakley passed away before we completed our first year

- ☀ Provided the leadership, the reputation, and the vision to keep three totally unaffiliated libraries together



# Obstacle 3

- ✦ Total change of preservation system and technology
  - ✦ OCLC discontinued the Digital Archive
  - ✦ Required to learn a whole new system: CONTENTdm
  - ✦ Great deal of time went into learning the old system and setting up our processes
  - ✦ Had to start all over again!

# Obstacle 3: Digital Archive

\* Digital Archive Create Options Show Options

Digital Archive: 0000074730 Created: LEGAL 2008-06-20

Modified: 2008-06-20

Harvested On: 2008-06-20 Ingested On: 2008-06-20

Object Composition: pdf,1 LogicalObjectSize: 2.7 MB

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Title</b>                         | Shortchanging America's health : a state-by-state look at how federal public health dollars are spent. 2008   |
| <b>Title.Alternative</b>             | Shortchanging America's health 2008   |
| <b>Title.Alternative</b>             | State-by-state look at how federal public health dollars are spent  |
| <b>Creator.Corporate</b>             | Trust for America's Health  |
| <b>ContentDescription.Version</b>    | June 2008   |
| <b>ContentDescription.Summary</b>    | [Harvested by GUL]  |
| <b>Publisher</b>                     | Trust for America's Health  |
| <b>Date.Available.W3C-DTF</b>        | 2008-04   |
| <b>ObjectLocator.Original.URI</b>    | <a href="http://healthyamericans.org/reports/shortchanging08/Shortchanging08.pdf">http://healthyamericans.org/reports/shortchanging08/Shortchanging08.pdf</a> |
| <b>ObjectLocator.OCLCArchive.URI</b> | <a href="http://digitalarchive.oclc.org/request?pid%3Dobjid%3A0000086258">http://digitalarchive.oclc.org/request?pid%3Dobjid%3A0000086258</a>                 |
| <b>DARRecordLanguage.ISO639-2</b>    | eng   |
| <b>Language.ISO639-2</b>             | eng   |
| <b>OCLCIdentifier.OCLCNumber</b>     | 74277992  |
| <b>ObjectType</b>                    | Multi-type Object   |
| <b>LocalNote</b>                     | sjr   |
| <b>LocalNote</b>                     | PDF-1.4   |

# Obstacle 3: ContentDM

 **CONTENTdm Administration**

admin home   server   **collections**   items

approve : index : add : edit : find & replace : lock administration : view collect

**Current collection:** Maryland State Law Library

### Edit item

Edit metadata then click **save changes**. To remove this item from the collection, click **delete**. After making changes, you must rebuild the text index.

\* Fields marked with an asterisk are required.

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <a href="#">view this item</a> |   |
| Title *                        | <input type="text" value="A report to the Maryland General Assembly regarding"/>      |
| Title-Alternative              | <input type="text"/>  |
| Creator                        | <input type="text" value="Maryland. Dept. of Transportation."/>                       |
| Rights                         | <input type="text"/>  |
| Date                           | <input type="text"/>  |
| PDI.Title                      | <input type="text" value="A report to the Maryland General Assembly regarding"/>      |
| Date-Issued                    | <input type="text" value="2004"/>   |
| Date-Available                 | <input type="text"/>  |
| Date-Created                   | <input type="text"/>  |
| Date-Modified                  | <input type="text"/>  |
| Subject                        | <input type="text" value="Maryland. Task Force on Parking for Individuals with"/>     |
| Description                    | <input decer"="" type="text" value="Title from cover.; David H. Hugel, Chairman.; "/> |

Done

# Key factors in successful collaborative projects

- ★ Fundamental commitment to the project goal
- ★ Project directly tied to the library's mission
- ★ Management commitment
- ★ Talented project manager
- ★ Complements current work processes
- ★ Flexibility and creativity
- ★ Face time
- ★ Outcome is useful



# Fundamental commitment to the project goal

- ✦ This is the key factor
- ✦ Define the goal, know what you are trying to achieve, and know **why**

# Project directly tied to the library's mission

- ✦ Provides the project with a strong foundation
- ✦ Makes it a less likely target for budget cuts
- ✦ Makes it easy to focus on project's goals



# Management commitment

- ✦ Chain of command must commit to the fundamental goals of the project
- ✦ Commitment is demonstrated by staffing and budget
- ✦ Collaborative projects cannot be “under the radar”



# Talented project manager

- ✦ Need a savvy point person from the start
- ✦ Someone who has not been given the job of project manager as "other duty as assigned"





# Project work complements current work processes

- ✦ The project needs to integrate with current library work process
- ✦ Does not require a complete re-tooling of work processes



# Flexibility and creativity

- ✦ When trying anything new, everyone involved must be willing to be flexible
- ✦ Great opportunity to learn

# Face time

- ✦ Communication is always key and a great deal of work can be done via email and phone
- ✦ But there is no substitute for face-to-face meeting
- ✦ Team meets every quarter

The background is a dark blue gradient with several large, semi-transparent gears of various sizes scattered across it. On the left side, there is a vertical strip with a colorful, abstract, and somewhat pixelated texture in shades of orange, yellow, and brown. In the top-left corner of this strip, there is a small yellow icon of a book with three pages.

# Outcome is useful

- ✦ Even if all the above items are met, unless the goal of the project is to produce something of use, it will be hard to sustain

# Our accomplishments

- ★ Harvested more than 4,000 publications!
- ★ Available through our library catalogs, WorldCat, and Web search engines (i.e., Google)
- ★ Estimate that approximately 1 in 7 of these publications is no longer available online within a year of harvesting

# Why collaborate?

- ★ Combine resources and talent to accomplish what seems overwhelming and impossible
- ★ Opportunity to work with your peers
- ★ See what “life is like” in another library
- ★ For smaller libraries, opportunity to participate in projects that may be out of reach
- ★ Learn, learn, learn
- ★ Network
- ★ Contribute
- ★ Have fun



# Take a look at our handiwork

★ [The Chesapeake Project](#)

[www.LegalInfoArchive.org](http://www.LegalInfoArchive.org)

# LegalInfoArchive.org: Home page

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Find secondary sources of government, policy, and legal information published to the Web and archived for the future

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View a list of collections in the Legal Information Archive

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Get assistance using The Chesapeake Project's Legal Information Archive

### Additional Resources



#### Collection Plan

View the official collection plan for The Chesapeake Project's pilot digital preservation program, updated August 2008 (1.8 MB)



#### First-Year Pilot Project Evaluation

The Chesapeake Project's first-year project evaluation, completed in April 2008, is now available online (1.1 MB)

#### Copyright Information

View the copyright policy for items archived by The Chesapeake Project

#### Contact Us

Do you have questions about The Chesapeake Project?

### Find out more about The Chesapeake Project

#### About The Chesapeake Project

The Chesapeake Project contains government, policy, and legal information archived by the Georgetown Law Library, the Maryland State Law Library, and the Virginia State Law Library, including:

- Reports and studies relating to U.S. government and policy
- Materials relating to public policy and legal issues in the state of Maryland
- Publications issued by Virginia's judicial branch of government
- Materials by and about the District of Columbia

The Chesapeake Project was implemented as a two-year pilot project in early 2007 by the Georgetown Law Library and the State Law Libraries of Maryland and Virginia. Today, these three libraries have expanded the archive beyond the pilot phase. Law libraries nationwide are encouraged to join this collaborative digital archive, or establish their own preservation projects, under the auspices of the Legal Information Preservation Alliance.



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**AUTHOR** [Stephanopoulos, Nicholas.](#)

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