An Overview of the Digital Repository Service (DRS) in 2011

The Digital Repository Service is a professionally managed preservation and access repository for Harvard’s digital content that has long-term value for scholarly research. The DRS ensures that this content will remain usable into the indefinite future despite a constantly changing technological environment.

Content

The DRS currently preserves:

- 123 terabytes (TB) of unique content (406 TB total copies after replication)
- 22,879,627 unique files
- Many content types including audio files, web harvests, page-turned objects (books, manuscripts, etc.), documents, plain text, still images, and biomedical images for 3-D rendering

Preservation support for e-mail messages and attachments will be added next year, and new formats are added on an ongoing basis. The next formats to be supported are architectural and drawing formats, video, office formats, computer games, databases, and datasets.

The digital files in DRS represent a broad range of intellectual content dating from nearly 5,000 years ago to the present, in multiple languages and across many domains. Content is both born-digital and digitized from analog collections. Among the oldest is an image from the Fine Arts Library of cuneiform tablets from Persia in the third millennium BC. Among the newest is the web site of the artist, feminist, and writer Judy Chicago, archived on March 19, 2010.

DRS content includes artwork (e.g., paintings, drawings, sculpture, and architecture); photographs (e.g., prints, lantern slides, and daguerreotypes); archaeological objects (e.g., baskets, pottery and ironwork); musical scores; musical performances; poetry readings; scientific specimens; ephemera (e.g., broadsides, posters, and catalogs); pamphlets; scrapbooks and photo albums; historic books; sketchbooks and logbooks; illuminated medieval manuscripts; correspondence (written, typescript, and printed); diaries; and journals.
Audience

Harvard Stewards

Harvard stewards of digital collections in DRS include cultural heritage repositories in every area of the University, including libraries, archives, and special collections from most faculties, the Harvard Art Museums, the Peabody Museum, the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Villa I Tatti, Dumbarton Oaks, and the Arnold Arboretum. Harvard stewards are responsible for legal rights clearance, ensuring discovery, providing reference services to users, and DRS fees.

End Users

The content in DRS is being preserved and made accessible for all current and future scholars (with selected content restricted by legal, policy, or contractual obligation).

Discovery

Harvard web sites & databases
HUH Index of botanical specimens, HU Archives Collections Online, Harvard Libraries web site, HCL Latin American Pamphlets (VC), MCZ Mayr Library Art Collection (TED), Art Museums Collections Online, Open Collection Program (VCs), Course iSites, etc.

Other web sites, databases and aggregators
OAIster, Catalogue of Digitized Medieval Manuscripts, Music Treasures Consortium, ARTstor, IIPC Member Archives, etc.

Search engines
Google, Yahoo, Bing, etc.

Services

- project planning
- format and metadata guidance
- deposit and management tools
- preservation activities
- content monitoring and recovery
- content replication
- risk management
- technology watch
- migration services
- integration with library catalogs and other applications
- delivery and streaming services
- authentication and authorization
- persistent names
- access controls
- user support
- security for sensitive data

DRS CONTENT

Public

Harvard-only
(after Harvard ID & PIN authentication)

Dark
(after Harvard account authorization)

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