



The Alabama Digital Preservation Network (ADPNet)

A statewide private LOCKSS network

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Objective

To create a low-cost, low-maintenance, sustainable, geographically distributed digital preservation network for libraries, archives, and museums in Alabama.



Background

- Inspired by Auburn's experience with Library of Congress-funded NDIIPP MetaArchive Project
- ADPNet supported by an IMLS grant: September 2006 through September 2008
- Grant awarded to and administered by Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL) in Montgomery
- Project director at Auburn University Libraries
- Commitments from seven institutions across the state



Seven participating institutions

- Alabama Dept. of Archives and History (Montgomery, AL)
- Auburn University (Auburn, AL)
- Spring Hill College (Mobile, AL)
- Troy University (Troy, AL)
- University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, AL)
- University of Alabama at Birmingham
- University of North Alabama (Florence, AL)



LOCKSS: How it works

- Installation and setup
- Manifests and plug-ins
- Collecting (Web crawl)
- Preserving and auditing (polling)
- Administering (Web-based console)
- Accessing files
- Security (OpenBSD)



LOCKSS: Why we chose it

- Familiar with it (through the NDIIPP MetaArchive project)
- Simple and robust
- Cheap (except for membership in LOCKSS Alliance—more on that later)
- Excellent technical support
- Know it works



The network

- ADPNet is a Private LOCKSS Network (PLN)
- “Dark” archive: for preservation ONLY, not access or display
- Uses off-the-shelf equipment and software
- LOCKSS servers (“nodes”) at all seven participating institutions
- Each institution maintains its LOCKSS server
- Each institution contributes content for harvesting and archiving by the network
- Runs on sweat equity (with help from LOCKSS staff)



Why Alabama?

- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Growing number of rich digital collections (e.g. *AlabamaMosaic*)
- Modest financial resources
- Uneven technical support
- Ideal test case for geographically distributed digital preservation network



Costs

- Servers: LOCKSS server and Web server (for making content available to the network)
- Staff time: less than we anticipated
- Communication: e-mail listserv, weekly conference calls, some meetings
- Travel: mostly in-state
- The biggie: annual LOCKSS Alliance membership fee. Supports LOCKSS software development and technical support



ADPNet cached content

- ADPNet currently contains 39 digital collections (“archival units”) from all seven member institutions
- Over 300 gigabytes harvested
- Network capacity: one terabyte, soon to be upped to 1.5 terabytes
- Plenty of room for more collections
- More collections on the way, including audio and video files (e.g. lecture series)



ADPNet governance

- ADPNet is a single-state network
- Part of the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries (NAAL)
- Not a service organization
- No membership fee—but LOCKSS Alliance membership mandatory
- In-kind contribution: bring up and run a LOCKSS node in the network—with possible exception for smaller institutions



ADPNet governance, continued

- ADPNet governance document just adopted by NAAL
- Membership is available to all libraries, museums, and cultural heritage organizations in Alabama
- Every member has a voting representative on the ADPNet Steering Committee
- ADPNet Technical Committee advises on network hardware and software needs
- Regular conference calls, annual business meeting
- To repeat: no membership fee



Achievements and objectives

- ADPNet is the first single-state private LOCKSS network in the U.S.
- Designed to serve as a low-cost, low-maintenance model for other states and consortia
- Similar networks being built by state libraries and a consortium of Canadian academic libraries
- Presentations at state, regional, and national conferences



Lessons learned

- Keep it simple
- Keep it cheap
- Go with a lightweight governance structure
- Aim for low maintenance and low administrative overhead
- Take advantage of existing structures and relationships (e.g. NAAL)—easier to do with a single-state network.



The future

- Add more content to the network
- Recruit more member institutions, including public libraries, museums, and other cultural heritage organizations
- Develop partnerships with other PLNs
- Spread the word



For more information...

ADPNet: <http://adpn.org/>

LOCKSS: <http://www.lockss.org/>

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