



Preserving *the past,*
Insuring *the future...*

Newsletter

November 2009

Welcome To The First Issue of the *NanoArk* Newsletter!

In working to ensure the safe keeping of important documents and records while continuing research and expropriation into new means of technology-free preservation, we hope to enlighten, educate, and share information on the ever growing field of digital and analog preservation. With information on upcoming preservation conferences, interviews with experts working in archival fields, and compelling articles on a wide range of topics, we hope the NanoArk newsletter will both entertain and inform. Thank you!

Upcoming Conferences: November '09

November 1-4, Digital Information Management
Ann Arbor, MI, IEEE (<http://www.icdim.org/>)

November 15-18, Publishing on the Web
Monterey, CA, SPG (publishingcourses.stanford.edu)

November 17, The Semantic Web: Fact or Myth?
College Park, MD NFAIS (cendievents.infointl.com)

November 17, What Future for Digital Information
London, UK CILIP (<http://www.cilip.org.uk/>)

November 17-18, Enterprise Search Summit West
November 19-20, Taxonomy Boot Camp 2009
San Jose, CA, Information Today. (<http://www.infotoday.com/conferences.asp>)

Sustainability & Archives: What Will the Future Hold?

The new hot topic coming out of major media outlets these days is the notion of sustainability in every sector of business, technology, and American life.

Sustainability, according to the Environmental Protection Agency's *Brundtland Report* published in 1987, is "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." In other words, to be sustainable means to preserve what we have now for future generations, be it natural resources, economic stability, or information and archives.

Coupled closely with the debate over the stability of digital assets, the notion of sustainability questions how long we can keep assets of any form preserved for future generations. Sustainable also involves the constant search for new technologies that can store information and be unaffected by climate change, natural disasters, fire, water damage, or natural decay.

The Council of State Archivists, in response to the disastrous outcome of Hurricane Katrina, started the Emergency Preparedness Initiative, which outlined a general framework for protecting assets from being destroyed by natural disasters and evaluated, state by state, who had adequately prepared their records for natural disasters or emergency situations. What they found was while most states had emergency plans for safeguarding their records, most archives did not practice through emergency plans often enough. This is likely to ring true for most businesses as well.

To ensure your records are kept safe from natural disasters, begin by implementing your own disaster recovery plan. Back up all existing data, if electronic, onto hard drives utilizing the current digital archive standard. Place important original analog documents in fire safe or waterproof storage units, and keep duplicate copies accessible for daily use. Storage of documents and hard drives in dry, cool areas is best to ensuring they last.

For more information on sustainability and how to safeguard your records visit <http://www.statearchivists.org/prepare/index.htm>

The Great Archival Debate: Analog vs Digital Files

When it comes to the debate over record keeping, archiving, and asset management, the question of reliability becomes crucial in the ongoing debate over the authenticity of digital archives.

Currently this issue holds two differing views: digital archives are true assets with the same validity as analog assets, or files are not true assets due to unreliable, unknown uphold in the ever changing digital media landscape.

It's true no one side of the divide can offer clear solutions to this growing concern over the reliability of file formats, which update, upgrade, and become obsolete with every passing year, but the real question remains: are digital files true archives of the information they contain?

To answer this, think back ten to fifteen years ago to the age of the floppy disk, when this revolutionary portable file device made archiving and distributing small amounts of information from computer to storage possible. If you, like many others, forgot what those disks held and wanted to see the information they contained, you'll be hard pressed to find a computer now that can read these disks or an inexpensive service that can extract that information for you.

Of course, some with the foresight to take the floppy information forward with every changing storage device were saved from the frustration of lost information.

And what about the software that made it possible for you to open those documents and retrieve the information? This obviously vicious cycle of unknown variables occurs with every new storage innovation and brings along with it the question "how long do you have until your files have to be reformatted your files to suit the newest technological changes?"

So you have your life saved to a computer, files saved to CD's, external hard drives, in content management systems, but when the backups fail, the files are moved, lost, or never backed up at all, without a hard copy, you're left with nothing. In the end, a digital file is only as good as the technology that supports it; when that fails, when digital fails, digital archiving proves insignificant.

A Message From Our CEO

Dr. P.R. Mukund

Welcome to NanoArk's first news letter. We hope to publish one every month. I hope you find the contents interesting, informative and good reading.

If you have any suggestions on how we can improve the contents, please let us know.

As you may know, our company offers many services in archiving of documents and vital records. Our patent pending technology offers many advantages over more traditional media like microfilm. Please visit our website at www.nanoarkcorp.com for more details.

I hope we can be of service to you soon.

Sincerely,
P.R. Mukund



Resources for Archiving & Records Management

The National Archives - <http://www.archives.gov>

Council of State Archivists - <http://statearchivists.org>

Emergency Preparedness Initiative - <http://statearchivists.org/prepare>

New York State Archives - <http://archives.nysed.gov>

United States Census - <http://www.census.gov>

Office of the Federal Register - <http://gpoaccess.gov/nara>