Spring CNI Task Force Project Briefing: Planning for Digital Preservation

— Beth Warner, assistant vice provost for information services - strategic initiatives

Richard Fyffe, Marilu Goodyear, Deb Ludwig, and Beth Warner presented a Project Briefing at the spring CNI Task Force meeting in Alexandria, Virginia, on April 15, 2004. The briefing, titled “Implications of Capture and Preservation of Scholarly and Administrative Information: The Need for Collaborative Enterprise Policy Development,” described two major efforts underway at KU – the HVC2 Digital Preservation Task Force and the KU ScholarWorks project.

As information professionals introduce new tools to facilitate KU’s scholarly research, teaching and administration, it is critical that we develop campus-wide policies and processes by collaborating with the faculty and staff engaged in research and administration. Two major efforts currently underway explore the policy and process issues involved in capturing and preserving KU’s scholarly and administrative information. As part of KU’s institutional repository program, KU ScholarWorks, we have developed an analytic framework of policy issues along with possible responses, and we have presented this framework to groups of early adopters and other informed faculty. Preliminary results on the strengths and limitations of this approach for long-term policy development were presented at the CNI meeting.

In a related effort, the Digital Preservation Task Force is exploring the implications of a University-level commitment to preserving digital resources, both administrative and academic, along with the information services infrastructure (organizational, technical, policy, financial) needed for implementing this commitment. The Task Force’s discussions of results-to-date included: focusing on research and on synthesis of current "best practices"; creating a prototype for a university-wide inventory of digital assets or asset-types; and educating/communicating with academic and administrative stakeholders. The presentation generated an excellent discussion with attendees and was given a unanimously “excellent” ranking in evaluations.

To view the CNI presentation and background documents, visit www.cni.org/tfms/2004a.spring/abstracts/PB-implications-fyffe.html.

Makeover, anyone?

One recommendation from the Scholars Quality Service Task Force was to pilot an information services “extreme makeover.” They propose we call our makeover “IS Eye for the Luddite Guy” as a fun way to indicate what we might be able to do. We are looking for volunteers to work on further defining this concept and doing a pilot test. Staff from all IS units and Student Success are welcome to express an interest. Please let me know at goodyear@ku.edu if you are interested. Thanks!

— Marilu Goodyear
Vice Provost for Information Services

In the next issue ...

How to get control of that email

The Coalition for Networked Information works to advance the transformative promise of networked information technology to improve scholarly communication and enrich intellectual productivity. CNI meets twice a year to discuss various topics, including state-of-the-art developments.

This update is provided by The University of Kansas Information Services. Contact: arlopez@ku.edu