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Learn about current SPN working group activities through rotating reports from SPN Working Coordinators. This section will also feature any requests to the community for feedback.

Law & Policy Working Group

Working Group member, Jess Whyte of University of Toronto, is working with colleagues in research libraries across Canada to draw attention to technological protection measures related to software. The Canadian Copyright Act Review Committee requested and will review briefs from members of the community. More to come!

SPN is also participating in the U.S. Copyright Office 7th Triennial Section 1201 Exemption process. Our Class 9 exemption petition can be found [here](#), subsequent opposition comments can be found [here](#) and our reply comment can be



found [here](#) (alongside supporting reply comments from [Andrew Berger](#) and [Nick Montfort](#)). SPN is represented by [Kendra Albert](#), Evelyn Change, Anderson Grossman, Erin Roberts, and [Austin Bohn](#) of the Cyberlaw Clinic at Harvard Law School. [Henry Lowood](#), [Lyndsey Moulds](#), [Brandon Butler](#), [Jonathan Band](#) and Jessica Meyerson testified in support of SPN's petition on Thursday, April 12, 2018 at the U.S. Copyright Office in Washington, D.C.

Research Working Group

In alignment with SPN's mission to "generate knowledge to enable software preservation," the [Research Working Group](#) is currently developing a Software Preservation Research Toolkit, which will aim to engage the community in gathering data about the state of software preservation and mapping that landscape over time. The Toolkit will include survey and interview protocol templates that practitioners can use to gather data about software preservation and curation needs in their local communities. Publication of the toolkit will include directions on how to

contribute local data back to the SPN Research Working Group.



Training & Education

In partnership with the [Digital Preservation Coalition](#), the Training & Education Working Group has developed a [Software Preservation Webinar Series](#) that runs from April 25 - May 30. The series aspires to establish a common foundation that future programming can build on. The webinars will also gather topics and questions that are of the greatest interest to participants. Please note that each episode will be recorded and posted on the DPC and SPN websites the Thursday or Friday immediately following each Wednesday webinar.

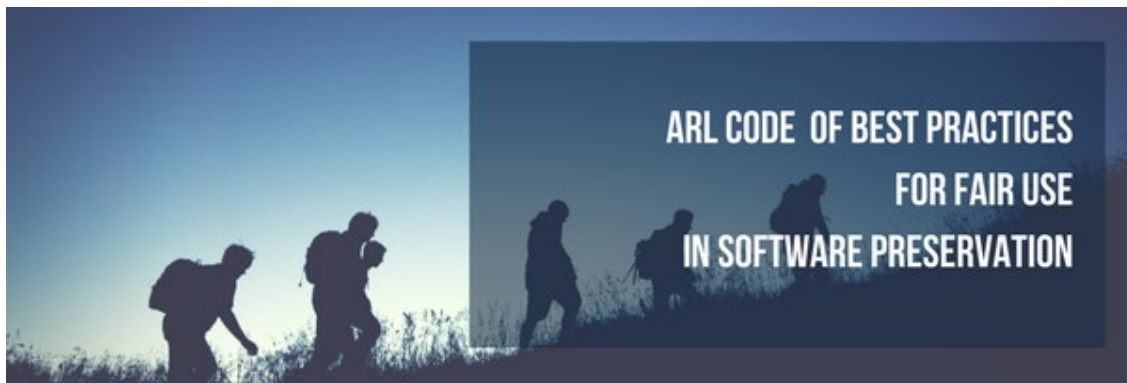
- Introduction & Overview
- Software Collection Development
- Software (Re)Use Cases
- Software in Digital/Scholarly Communications
- Scaling Software Preservation and



- Emulation
- Software Legal Challenges and Possibilities

AFFILIATED PROJECTS

Learn about SPN affiliated project activities and milestones. SPN affiliated projects focus on some aspect of software preservation/curation that supports the strategic goals of SPN.



Timeline: January 2017 – June 2020

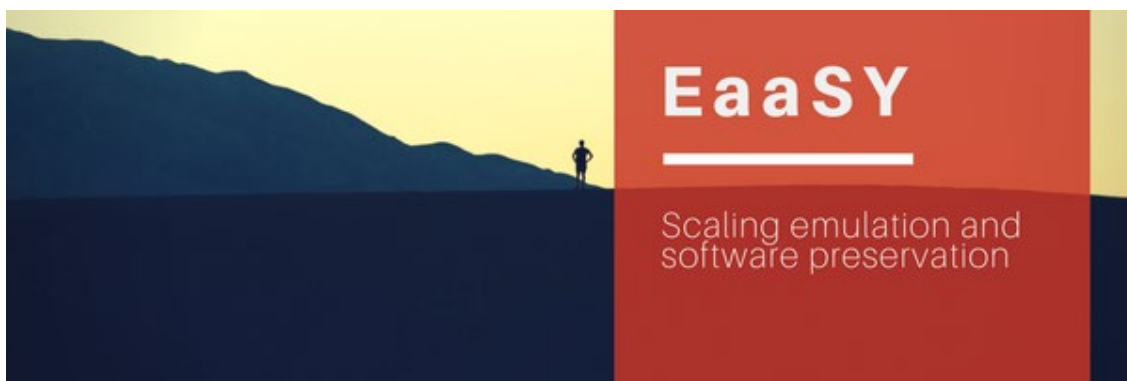
Funder(s): Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Awardee: Association of Research Libraries

In 2017, the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation awarded the Association of Research Libraries a research grant to develop community best practices surrounding software preservation as a way to outline clear guidelines for the application of fair use to the preservation of software and software dependent materials. The project will result in a Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Software Preservation.

In February, the first report from the project was published, and it is entitled [The Copyright Permissions Culture in Software Preservation and Its Implications for the Cultural Record](#). The report reflects the synthesis of the literature as well as extensive first-person interviews with researchers, digital preservation practitioners and other software preservation/curation stakeholders. The report documents widespread frustration around copyright issues in the software preservation community, and suggests deeper engagement with fair use as a possible solution.

Huge thanks to co-principal investigators [Patricia Aufderheide of the American University School of Communication](#), [Brandon Butler of the University of Virginia Library](#), [Krista Cox of the Association of Research Libraries](#), [copyright scholar Peter Jaszi](#) and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The Association of Research Libraries blog post about the Code of Best Practices project can be found [here](#).



Timeline: January 2018 – June 2020

Funder(s): Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

Awardee: Yale University

EaaSY "officially" kicked off in January 2018. The first six months of the project are devoted to information gathering and project planning. The project team recently completed an initial round of stakeholder interviews documenting existing digital infrastructure, digital curation workflows and informal use cases for emulation in distinct organizational contexts. The project team is engaged in internal planning for system functionality, technical specifications and metadata requirements. Requests to stakeholders for supplementary documentation such as sample metadata records, will inform architectural design of the network as well as Phase 1 development priorities. The project will soon begin configuration of a library of software titles that will seed the network and be available to pilot partners.



Timeline: June 2017 – May 2020

Funder(s): Institute for Museum and Library Services #RE-95-17-0058-17

Awardee: CalPoly State University

The FCoP call for software preservation application projects closed in February. Applications were reviewed by a group of external reviewers with criteria based on application requirements and FCoP project goals.

FCoP Software Preservation Project Cohort announced in March:

- University of Virginia: *Emulation in the Archives*
- Guggenheim Museum: *Developing Metadata for Software-based Art*
- University of Arizona: *Through Use and Emulation: Increasing Institutional Knowledge of Software Preservation with Computer Game Archiving*
- University of Illinois: *Preserving Musical Notation and Composition Software*
- Living Computers: Museums + Labs: *Emulation in the Middle Ages: Mainframes and Minicomputers*
- Georgia Tech: *retroTECH Online*

Between now and August (when internal cohort member projects kick off), we will work the cohort to document existing digital curation procedures, infrastructure and local stakeholder needs for software preservation and reuse.

The Cohort In-Person Kickoff Meeting is scheduled for early August - more to come!

NETWORK MAINTENANCE

Learn about changes and improvements to functional aspects of the Network. This section will feature updates on governance, funding, engagement strategies and other activities that comprise backbone support for working groups, affiliated projects and strategic partnerships.

In January-February of 2018, SPN hosted a 2018 All-Hands Strategy Meeting Series for active members of working groups and committees. These meetings came about as a result of multiple discussions between members - thoughts about how to improve, and also concerns that since the in-person forum in 2016, there had not been a place (virtual or otherwise) where all the members can hear from one another and articulate recommendations for how to improve processes.

Meeting 1 - January 23

Susan Malsbury, Zach Vowell and Jessica Meyerson discussed data collected from working groups regarding their action plans and then presented a mapping of the working groups' tasks to SPN's recently adopted set of strategic goals.

Meeting 2 - January 31

Tim Walsh and Megan Potterbusch presented also used the data collected from working groups but focused on the ways in which the Working Groups and Committees complement one another. This led to a fruitful discussion of strategies for increasing cohesion, transparency, and communication across SPN as a whole.

Meeting 3 - February 7

Wendy Hagenmaier, Chip German and Lauren Work discussed "resource pipelines," or mechanisms to acquire, manage, and apply resources (human and financial) in pursuit of the mission of that organization. Facilitators seeded this discussion with a document of "Pipeline Models" used by organizations similar to SPN in one way or another.

FIND OUT MORE

The Software Preservation Network (SPN) facilitates and supports software preservation efforts. SPN preserves software through community engagement, infrastructure support and knowledge generation in five core activity areas including Legal & Policy Advocacy, Metadata & Standards Development, Training & Education, Research-in-Practice and Technological Infrastructure.



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