Software Curation: A panel discussion

Maintainers III
Gallaudet University,
Washington, D.C.
8 October 2019
Would you describe yourself as a software creator?
Who is responsible for maintaining all the paratextual materials needed for making meaning of software in a reuse context?
Who is responsible for maintaining all the paratextual materials needed for making meaning of software in a reuse context?
Hello!

Daina Bouquin
Zachary Furste
Seth Anderson
Brandon Butler
Why does software and curation matter?

**Software tells us about culture** — its makers and users and everyone it touches.

**Software tells us about software** — its evolution, its design, its function, its success, its failure.

Software opens digital files we care about and cannot faithfully access otherwise — **the right software is a Rosetta Stone for the file types it can read**, and rendering matters.

**Software curation and preservation** is a distinct archival practice that is not part of the consumer/commercial sphere.
Discussion topics

Maintenance and community-owned infrastructure
Post-custodialism and software curation
Developer norms v. stewardship norms
Metadata hand-offs between roles in the ecosystem
Law + policy intersections with evolving practice
Organizational policy challenges and building capacity
Contextual resources

Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Software Preservation  
https://www.arl.org/code-fair-use-software-preservation/

A Preservationist’s Guide to the DMCA Exemption for Software Preservation  

EaaSI Open Source Sandbox  
https://www.softwarepreservationnetwork.org/eaasi-sandbox/

Designing a Universal Virtual Interactor (UVI) for digital objects  
https://www.dpconline.org/blog/idpd/designing-a-uvi-for-digital-objects

Software Curation in Research Libraries: Practice and Promise; Alexandra Chassanoff, Yasmin AlNoamany, Katherine Thornton, John Borghi;  
https://doi.org/10.7710/2162-3309.2239

The Pathways of Research Software Preservation: An Educational and Planning Resource for Service Development; Fernando Rios;  
http://www.dlib.org/dlib/july16/rios/07rios.html