

Context

Successful preservation of our cultural heritage cannot be accomplished in dark silos, invisible infrastructure and back rooms. Without a public understanding of our work and active participation from numerous communities with complementary areas of expertise, we compromise our efficacy as stewards of a shared cultural record. We should make our challenges highly visible and our solutions and processes highly collaborative. This manifesto is a call to action to do digital archives in public.

What is public?

adjective

1. of or involved in the affairs of the community
2. done, perceived, or existing in open view

noun

1. ordinary people in general; the community

Who is your public?

Users

Creators

Community members

Administrators

Funders

Colleagues

Groups with allied expertise

DOING DIGITAL ARCHIVES IN PUBLIC

MANIFESTO

#archivesinpublic

Digital archives work should be visible to the public.

We need to bring methods and challenges out of the theoretical and into the practical, advocating for what we do and the resources required, showcasing our work (not just the finished product), and creating open documentation.

Digital archives work should engage the public.

We need to invite the public to think about how their experience and expertise can contribute to this work, recruit community ambassadors to champion the cause, and embed the necessary technical skills within the community itself to promote sustainability.

Digital archives work is public.

Everyone creates stuff and should be empowered to decide what they want to do with it. Let's make that possible by putting people and process first and backgrounding technology.

Context

Successful preservation of our cultural heritage cannot be accomplished in dark silos, invisible infrastructure and back rooms. Without a public understanding of our work and active participation from numerous communities with complementary areas of expertise, we compromise our efficacy as stewards of a shared cultural record. We should make our challenges highly visible and our solutions and processes highly collaborative. This manifesto is a call to action to do digital archives in public.

What is public?

adjective

1. of or involved in the affairs of the community
2. done, perceived, or existing in open view

noun

1. ordinary people in general; the community

Who is your public?

Users

Creators

Community members

Administrators

Funders

Colleagues

Groups with allied expertise

DOING DIGITAL ARCHIVES IN PUBLIC

MANIFESTO

#archivesinpublic

DIGITAL ARCHIVES WORK SHOULD BE VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC.

We need to bring methods and challenges out of the theoretical and into the practical, advocating for what we do and the resources required, showcasing our work (not just the finished product), and creating open documentation.

DIGITAL ARCHIVES WORK SHOULD ENGAGE THE PUBLIC.

We need to invite the public to think about how their experience and expertise can contribute to this work, recruit community ambassadors to champion the cause, and embed the necessary technical skills within the community itself to promote sustainability.

DIGITAL ARCHIVES WORK IS PUBLIC.

Everyone creates stuff and should be empowered to decide what they want to do with it. Let's make that possible by putting people and process first and backgrounding technology.