Born-Digital Access Hackfest:
Collaborative Solution-Building for Current Challenges
SAA 2015 Session 110

Thursday, August 20, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Room 13 of the Cleveland Convention Center

Thank you for your interest in the Born-Digital Access Hackfest: Collaborative Solution-Building for Current Challenges! We have spent the past year researching born-digital access at cultural heritage institutions. The document outlining our research is available here: http://bit.ly/hackbdaccess-report.

We plan to have a “hackfest” for the majority of the session. This means that attendees will divide into hackfest teams. Each team will tackle a particular topic and develop a proposal for a collaborative project that would help address current obstacles to born digital access, as identified in our research. The teams will tackle developing project proposals for projects relating to one of these four topics:

1. UNDERSTANDING USERS FOR ACCESS: develop a plan for a project that would help archivists to understand the access needs of users of born-digital materials
2. ARCHIVIST BOOTCAMP FOR ACCESS: develop a plan for an archivist coding and skills bootcamp that would train archivists in the technical skills they need in order to provide access to born-digital materials
3. ADVOCACY FOR ACCESS: develop a plan for a study that would quantify the resources needed to provide access to born-digital materials and could be used by archivists to advocate for a future model of digital archives work
4. AGILE FOR ACCESS: develop a plan for training archivists to use agile methodologies when designing archival practices, workflows, and systems that support access to born-digital materials

Each of these groups will be led by a member of the research team and a volunteer group leader.

Because we plan to refer to many online documents, it may be helpful to bring a computer or other internet-enabled device, if possible. FYI, the session is capped at 60 participants, and the seating is first come, first served.

We hope to see you at SAA. Be sure to follow our session at the Twitter hashtags #saa15 #s110!

RESEARCH TEAM:
Rachel Appel (Special Collections, Bryn Mawr College Library)
Alison Clemens (Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University)
Wendy Hagenmaier (Georgia Tech Archives)
Jessica Meyerson (Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin)