

North Suburban Library System

MEMORANDUM

TO: NSLS Board of Directors

FROM: Sarah Long

DATE: May 19, 2010

RE: Discussion and Recommendation on Migration of Digital Past

Digital Past has been in existence since 1998. Currently there are 41 participants and over 100,000 items in Digital Past. As with all programs and services offered by NSLS, we recently looked at what the service is costing us, and what it would take for us to recover more of the cost. In April, we sent out an e-mail to Digital Past participants to survey them on their interest in remaining with Digital Past if we were to increase the fees in July. We estimate the cost to run Digital Past is \$90,000. In surveying the libraries, we found that 30% of them would not continue the service if the fees were increased, and therefore would leave us far short of the \$90,000.

During the time we were surveying the members, we were contacted by Anne Craig, Director of the Illinois State Library. Anne offered to take on all Digital Past members and work with NSLS to migrate them all to the State Library's digital project, IDA (Illinois Digital Archives). They are willing to do this at no cost to NSLS member libraries. After all of the collections are migrated, the libraries will be able to edit/add to their collections through CONTENTdm at no charge.

Although it will be very difficult to say goodbye to Digital Past, a wonderful service that has been in existence for over 10 years, we need to make the decision that makes the most sense for NSLS and participating libraries. NSLS staff plans to work with the ISL to migrate Digital Past participants to IDA and phase out Digital Past when the process is complete. At this time, we are uncertain of the timeframe. In order to migrate collections to IDA, the Illinois State Library must first upgrade IDA to a newer version of CONTENTdm. We will be in constant communication with the libraries, starting off with an e-mail to alert them to these upcoming changes. We will also continue to keep the board up to date on our progress.

The Management Affairs Committee recommends that the NSLS Board vote to migrate Digital Past from NSLS to IDA, supported by the Illinois State Library, as soon as is practicable.