About the Connecticut Digital Archive
Connecticut Digital Archive

The Connecticut Digital Archive (CTDA) is a program of the University of Connecticut Library in collaboration with the Connecticut State Library. The CTDA is dedicated to the maintenance, delivery, and preservation of a wide-range of digital resources for educational and cultural institutions and state agencies in the State of Connecticut.

ctdigitalarchive.org

Our Mission

To provide services for the preservation of and access to digital assets inherent to the research, information, and educational missions of its participating institutions.

Our Vision

To serve as a standards-based repository and infrastructure supporting a diverse set of applications, services, and discovery tools that offer long-term management, secure storage, preservation solutions, and – whenever possible – open access to digital assets of enduring value, as determined by CTDA community members.

Organization and Governance

The CTDA is a service of the University of Connecticut Libraries. The CTDA provides services to preserve and make available digital assets related to Connecticut and created by Connecticut-based, not-for-profit educational, cultural, and historical institutions, including libraries, archives, galleries, and museums. In order to ensure that the needs of the community are being met by CTDA services, the UConn Libraries convenes committees to provide strategic advice on CTDA operations and services.

The CTDA Advisory Committee is made up of colleagues and peers from the cultural heritage, digital preservation, and academic communities in Connecticut and represents a wide variety of talents, knowledge, and perspectives. The committee meets quarterly to share experiences and provide advice on CTDA services and programs.

Sustaining Cultural Heritage in Connecticut

In the late 1990s a group of forward-thinking individuals acting according to a vision to "facilitate access to digitized primary sources about Connecticut and foster digital stewardship among Connecticut cultural institutions" created Connecticut History Online. CHO was a pioneering project that made Connecticut a leader in collaborative digital collection building. Given the technology of the time and the limitations of its resources, CHO succeeded admirably in supporting both aspects of its mission.

If we were to begin to build CHO today, we would include both the access and stewardship aspects of the original mission, but think of them very differently than we did in 1999. Today, we build topic-based digital portals on large-scale digital preservation repositories, separating the activities of preservation from those of access and presentation. This makes it possible to truly support stewardship over the long term for valuable digital assets (something that the original CHO technology infrastructure could not do) and, through tools that
digital assets (something that the original CTIC technology infrastructure could not do) and, through tools that make content and metadata creation and management more accessible to more people, greatly expand the breadth of the content for which we can provide access. Supporting a new approach to securing the original vision will keep the vision alive, and put digital cultural heritage in Connecticut on a secure foundation well into the future.

The CTDA is dedicated to the maintenance, delivery, and preservation of a wide-range of digital resources for scholars, students and the general public. Operational since November 2013, the CTDA provides preservation digital repository services for educational and cultural organizations and state agencies in Connecticut.