



Collaborative Electronic Records Project

Greetings. Welcome to the first edition of the Friends of CERP quarterly.

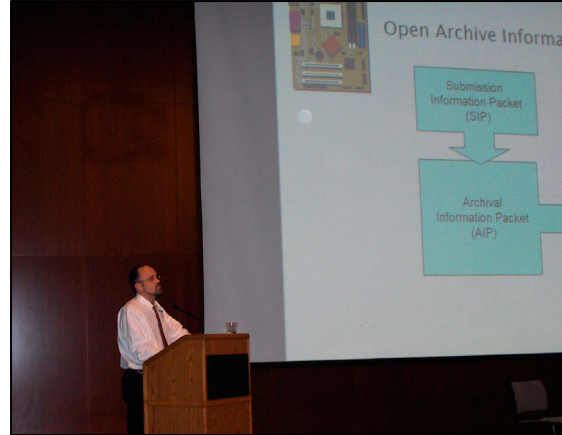
Here are some recent project highlights:

-- In December CERP received a modest grant from the Richard Lounsbury Foundation that can be applied to one or more of the special needs of CERP.

-- In December the Society of American Archivists approved the CERP team's poster proposal, "Digital Dilemmas: Preserving Electronic Records," for display at SAA's 2007 Chicago conference.

-- In November Rockefeller Archive Center Director Darwin Stapleton gave a presentation at the "Saving History: Using Digital Resources for Access and Preservation" seminar, which was sponsored by the Westchester County (NY) Historical Society and the Westchester County (NY) Archives. His talk, "A Historian Looks at Preserving History in the 21st Century," articulated the exciting opportunities as well as problems that digital documents hold for historical scholarship and for archives. Dr. Stapleton also discussed CERP and what it may offer archives in the future.

-- Also in November the CERP team addressed the Archivists Round Table (ART) of Metropolitan New York in Manhattan. The project manager and project archivists discussed some findings and problems encountered during the first phase. These included dealing with inconsistent institutional email practices and working with nearly obsolete software. The PowerPoint presentation is available at our website: <http://siarchives.si.edu/cerp/cerpindex.htm>



Riccardo Ferrante speaks about CERP to the Archivists Round Table (ART) of Metropolitan New York at the National Museum of the American Indian.

-- In October Dr. Steve Burbeck, a consultant with more than 20 years of experience in the computer technology field, started studying and making recommendations to the CERP team regarding preservation methodologies.

-- Generic e-mail guidelines are available from the Rockefeller Archive Center website: <http://archive.rockefeller.edu>. Additional project information is on the CERP website.

What is CERP?

The Smithsonian Institution Archives (SIA) and the Rockefeller Archive Center (RAC) are collaborating on a three-year project to develop, test, and share the technology to preserve digital documents with other non-profit organizations. There is a heavy focus on e-mail messages and attachments. Working together these two archives expect not only to achieve much more than they could accomplish separately, but to develop a model that will benefit a broad range of nonprofit and philanthropic institutions.