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Boston’s National Digital Stewardship Residents Announced

The first cohort of five residents will begin projects at Boston-area organizations, including the Harvard Library.

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June 24, 2014—The National Digital Stewardship Residency Boston ([NDSR-Boston](#)) program, a new program to develop professionals in digital stewardship through post-graduate residencies has announced their first cohort of residents. Each resident will take on a project at their host institutions beginning in September 2014.

The residents all have interesting and unique backgrounds with one common thread – a strong commitment to digital preservation and conservation.

The NDSR Boston staff and Boston Hosts are excited to begin work with the residents. Andrea Goethals, project director and the Harvard Library host mentor, welcomed them, saying, “I know that I speak for all the Boston area hosts when I say that we are very impressed with the amount of enthusiasm, creativity and intelligence these residents are bringing to the program. We’re confident that their work at the host institutions will contribute significantly to each institution’s digital preservation program.”



From left: Samantha DeWitt, Rebecca Fraimow, Joey Heinen, Jen LaBarbera, and Tricia Patterson.

Samantha (Sam) DeWitt’s residence will take place at Tufts University. She holds an MSLIS from Simmons College, and has previously interned for the Office for Scholarly Communication at Harvard. Sam is particularly concerned with questions including how digital material will be accessible for future users, considering dilemmas such as software and hardware obsolescence, metadata and the reality of prohibitive maintenance costs.

Rebecca Fraimow will join WGBH to carry out her residency. Upon graduating from the Moving Image Archiving and Preservation program at NYU in 2013 she joined the Dance Heritage Coalition as the Preservation Hub Manager for New York City, performing audiovisual conservation and preservation services and outreach for their Secure Media Network project. She has also worked as an archival consultant for Seahorse Films and Deep Dish Television and a technician at Mercer Media and New Museum’s NDSA Award-Winning XFR STN exhibit on media preservation. After the close of the XFR STN exhibit, Rebecca and her fellow technicians went on to found XFR Collective, a developing nonprofit membership organization providing preservation services for independent media, of which she is currently a co-director.

Joey Heinen’s residency will take place at the Harvard Library. Joey, a digital archivist and media art conservator, recently completed the Moving Image Archiving and Preservation program at New York University, focusing on the intersections between conserving time-based art objects and providing scholarly access to technical and historical documentation around the work.

Jen LaBarbera will carry out her residency at Northeastern University. She recently graduated with an MLIS from the University of Denver, with a concentration in archives and special collections. She has interned at the Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College, her alma mater, and focused her educational experience on two seemingly divergent topics: digital archives/digital preservation and building more inclusive archives/archival records.

Tricia Patterson will carry out her residency with the MIT Libraries. She is a recent MSLIS graduate from Simmons College, where she focused on digital preservation. She began her archival career at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, and has worked at several other Boston-area institutions such as Harvard University and the Boston Athenæum, honing her interests in digital stewardship and archival outreach in educational settings.

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