ACERA Discussion Topics

November 6-7, 2012

**Discussion Topic #1: How should NARA approach Presidential Directive Goal A3?**

The text of this goal is as follows:

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| A3 | *Investigate and stimulate applied research in automated technologies to reduce the burden of records management responsibilities* | |
| A3.I NARA, the Federal Chief Information Officers Council and the Federal Records Council will work with private industry and other stakeholders to produce economically viable automated records management solutions. By December 31, 2013, NARA will produce a comprehensive plan in collaboration with its stakeholders to describe suitable approaches for the automated management of email, social media, and other types of digital record content, including advanced search techniques. The plan will detail expected outcomes and outline potential associated risks. | |
| A3.2 By December 31, 2014, the Federal Chief Information Officers Council, and the Federal Records Council, working with NARA, will obtain external involvement for the development of open source records management solutions.   * What do we need from the commercial sector to make this happen? * What do we need from the research community? * What do we need from the open source community? * What do we need from the records management and archives communities? * How should NARA engage with these communities? | |

**Discussion Topic #2: Impact of Big Data**

Big Data guest speakers:

George Strawn, Director of NITRD

<http://www.nitrd.gov/about/Strawn_bio.aspx>

Dale Wickizer, CTO of NetApp

<http://fedscoop.com/events/about/speakers/dale-wickizer/>

* How will the general trend toward big data affect the archives?
* What are the challenges ERA will face?
* What are the opportunities for the archives?

**Discussion Topic #3: Benchmarking Electronic Records Processes**

The National Archives is embarking on a new round of strategic planning. Part of the process is an emphasis on building a culture of continuous benchmarking at NARA. We want to identify and learn from organizations (commercial, public, non-profit, in the archives field and outside the field) that do one of our functions or subfunctions really well. We are still early on in this process and are looking for ideas from ACERA about useful ways to approach benchmarking in the electronic records arena.

NARA does not want to limit itself to traditional benchmarking partners such as other large archives that do all the same functions NARA does. For example, perhaps we could identify organizations that do data storage very efficiently, at the lowest cost and with the lowest rate of data loss. We could identify organizations that present large numbers of complex electronic records (even if they don’t think of them as records) to the public in a particularly clear, user friendly way. We could identify organizations that are using a high degree of automation to identify and classify potentially restricted content such as privacy information. These are just examples of subfunctions that organizations outside the archives field also have to perform. ACERA could help NARA by brainstorming ideas for subfunctions to investigate and organizations that you think are doing these processes unusually well.

* What component parts of NARA’s electronic records activities could be benchmarked?
* What organizations should NARA benchmark because they do those sub-processes really well?