Store your Digital Artifacts

An important part of building your digital archive is finding appropriate digital storage options. Here are some popular strategies for storing your digital artifacts.

WEB BASED STORAGE

There are a few web sites that give your free storage space on their servers that is accessible via the Internet (most free web storage was discontinued in 2001). The remaining free web based storage companies are listed at: http://www.freewebspace.net/guide/diskstorage.shtml. Yahoo Briefcase (http://yahoo.com) allows 30MB of file storage and can be configured to appear as a Y: Drive on a Windows computer. Apple Computer's iDisk service, which was free until September 2002, is now a subscription service called .Mac, providing 100 MB of online storage.

SERVER STORAGE ON LAN/WAN

The best storage is on a local area network that is also accessible from the Internet. Most universities provide a relatively small amount of space for students (5-10 MB). The space is usually no longer available once students graduate, although some alumni associations are encouraging "lifelong" storage for professional portfolios created by graduates,

HARD DRIVE STORAGE (e.g., Apple's iPod)

Some universities are loaning hard disk drives (either USB or IEEE 1394—FireWire) for students to use for digital video editing. A small portable disk drive may prove to be the most effective storage option, since most today cost in the low $100's for gigabytes of storage. This is an essential option for electronic portfolios with a lot of multimedia. Apple's iPod is both hard drive and MP3 player that can be used for e-portfolio storage.

REMOVABLE MEDIA STORAGE

An out-dated option for e-portfolio storage is the Zip or Jaz Disk Drives made by Iomega. The limitation with this strategy is reliability of the media, cost, and availability of drives,

CD-RECORDABLE (CD-R) AND CD-READ-WRITE (CD-RW) DISKS

CD-Recordable disks are a great medium for publishing the final e-portfolios, as well as for backing up student files. They are not efficient for day-to-day working storage.

USB STORAGE

A relatively new storage medium, sometimes called a "disk on key" or a "USB drive" uses Flash memory to store files on a very small device with a USB connection at one end. Plug the drive into the USB port of a computer and it appears just like any other disk on the computer's desktop. These drives usually come in sizes from 32 MB to 256 MB and up. While handy for working portfolios, make sure these data are also backed up elsewhere.