AIA/ Oliver Witte collection:

A digital preservation workflow

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Elisabeth Genest** |  |
|  | *Canadian Center for Architecture**Canada**egenest@cca.qc.ca* |  |
|  |  |  |

**Abstract – In 2017, the Canadian Center for Architecture (CCA) collaborated with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and Yale University to help preserve a collection of architectural software solutions from Oliver Witte, a writer and reviewer of CAD and CAD related software. The project consisted of disk imaging over 700 obsolete software, migrating them in the OAIS-compliant software preservation system, Archivematica, and finally using SCOPE, a born-digital archives access interface built by the CCA and Artefactual Systems. In addition, the CCA aims to use the** **Emulation as a Service Infrastructure (EaaSI) which would help view documents in their legacy environment. What makes this project unique is the CCA’s collaboration with the AIA, and the considerable volume of the software collection.**

**Keywords – digital preservation, born digital archives, disk imaging, archival access, eaasi**

**Conference Topics – community, exchange**

# Background

# Founded in 1979, the Canadian Center for Architecture (CCA) is an international research institution and museum whose central premise is that architecture is a public concern. As a result, the CCA puts on exhibitions, produces publications, shares its’ collection, supports research, and offers public programs related to the advancement of architecture.

# In 2013, the CCA presented a series of expositions titled *Archaeology of the Digital* which focused on the development, use and impacts of digital technology in architecture. The project led to the acquisition of twenty-five archives with a significant born-digital component. In addition, a digital archives team of five was put in place to describe the archives, develop workflows, create specific digital forensic tools, and set up a digital lab.

# In connection, the American Institute of Architecture (AIA) has amassed a collection of over 700 architectural software from Oliver Witte; writer and reviewer of such software. These mostly came in formats that are now obsolete, such as floppy disks, CD’s, audio and VHS tapes. As a result, this led to an agreement in which the AIA would lend the collection to the CCA to stabilize the software and give access to the collection through SCOPE, a born-digital archives access interface built by the CCA and Artefactual Systems. In addition, the CCA aims to use Emulation as a Service Infrastructure (EaaSI), headed by Yale University, to access files in their legacy environment, instead of opening the files with modern software.

# Poster

The poster aims to provide an overview of the workflow, tools and best practices that were used throughout the AIA/ Oliver Witte project. A description of each tool would be summarized underneath an illustration that would represent the workflow and tools used for each task. The goal is to create learning opportunities and to exchange with other information science professionals on the different ways to use technology in digital preservation.