Archiving electronic records might be described as a 21st century enterprise. The steep decline in storage costs and the continuing innovation in content management and shopping cart applications among other processes utilizing the Internet make archiving digital records a much more doable thing. You have already heard this morning about Alaska's plans for archiving e-mail, the State Library's program for retrieving State publications from State websites, and the Department of Natural Resources' innovative combination of microfilm and digitization to provide new online resources for Alaskans.

As the State Archivist, I am obliged to take care of historically valuable State Records and, increasingly, this includes electronic records as well as those in other formats such as microform, paper, photographs, etc. At the Alaska State Archives we are responding to this trend toward electronic formats and away from paper by developing a plan for Alaska to have its own capacity to receive, store, preserve and make accessible the electronic records which are being born digital these days now. Our working title for this project is ASERA an acronym standing for Alaska State Electronic Records Archives. As part of the process necessary to win State approval for the project, we have arranged this meeting to discuss where the State is now with such records and where we would like to be in the near term.

In April of last year, Chris Letterman, Dean Dawson and I went down to Cheney, Washington to see Adam Jansen's Digital Archives and the new building in which it is housed. The facility in Cheney, is a two-story structure. The first floor would be familiar to any long-time Archivist. Like other such buildings, it has stacks for records, a reading room for patrons, offices and work spaces. The

second story is a whole new 21st century world for archivists. There are no stacks at al! The majority of the staff are programmers and computer technicians. There are conference rooms and class rooms, a computer lab and a scanner for oversized drawings and maps. His second floor facility may not grow physically; the growth will come in storage capability and increasingly robust servers and workstations. With the trend to more and more electronic storage space in less and less physical space, his facility can grow in capacity indefinitely.

Adam Jansen's operation is the foremost digital archives of any state in the country and to some degree he is ahead of the efforts of the National Archives and the European Union. Other states such as Kansas, Minnesota, Maryland, Georgia and South Carolina, among others are also developing new archival responses to the ubiquity of electronic records.

Before we hear from Adam about his innovative digital archives, let me share a little of the thinking and planning we have been doing at the Alaska State Archives.

There are several possible approaches that Alaska might take toward the preserving and making accessible electronic or digital records of enduring historical value. For our purposes here today let's think of these approaches in this way: a big state solution, such as that created and implemented in Washington State where its population is 10 times that of Alaska and a small state solution – small in terms of population and government size.

Adam will describe the Washington model for electronic records archiving, how it was conceived, designed and implemented. As the pre-eminent

state digital archivist today, he has a lot to teach every state about how to ingest (or take in) electronic records, how to preserve them as authentic records and how to make them accessible over the Internet through their web site. His operation might be described as a traditional archival model of custody where the Washington State Archives manages the entire digital archives process: hardware, software, storage environment, databases, all maintenance issues and their web interface.

Here in Alaska, it may make more sense to develop our digital archives by following a distributed custody model. This means that the Alaska State Archives would seek to leverage the expertise which presently exists in the Enterprise Technology Services division of the Department of Administration and to rely upon that expertise to maintain what might be called the externals of a digital archives system. ETS would provide the storage environment to house the hardware needed and maintain the software, databases and other technical means such as server operations and the Internet connection. The archivists would be responsible for designing the archival workflow required to meet professional standards for accessioning, appraising, processing and making the digital records accessible via the Web. Think of it in this manner: ETS would house and manage physical and technical aspects of the Digital Archives and the Alaska State Archives would apply professional methodology and standards to assure that the digital records which are preserved are authentic and trustworthy records and that they are available to State employees, researchers and the citizens of Alaska and the world. This distributed custodial model would seek to use a system like

Microsoft's Sharepoint to manage and provide access to Alaska's digital records while remaining flexible or scalable enough to grow as needed in the future.

Archivists here in Alaska will continue to look to Adam Jansen for the most innovative thinking and creative implementation of this 21st century enterprise – the digital archives.

Please welcome Adam Jansen.