"We're Working on It:"
Transferring the Sloan Digital Sky Survey from Laboratory to Library

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Sloan Digital Sky Survey
SDSS-I/II

SDSS-I  2000-2005
SDSS-II  2005-2008
SDSS-III  2008-2014
SDSS-IV?  2014-

Messier 51, The Whirlpool Galaxy
What does it mean to curate or preserve the SDSS-I/II data?

“Once you have data that's that large, it kind of rules your life. Everything you want to do is dictated by the size of the data… There are still a lot of things that we still have to do the hard way or manually just because it doesn't scale” (110-02).
Research Sites & Methods

- Sites:
  - Research Institution A
  - Library Y
  - Library Z

- Semi-Structured Interviews
  - 5 SDSS Sites
  - 38 interviews
  - 35 participants

- Participant Observation
  - 5 Weeks at Library Y

- Document Analysis
  - 2011 through 2013
Data Transfer

Institution A

Library Y

Library Z
Communication

SDSS Governing Body

Astronomy Dept. Y

Astronomy Dept. Z

*Institution A

Library Z

Library Y

Astronomy Dept. Y

Institution B

Astronomy Dept.
Library SDSS Missions

**Library Y**
- Preserve The Data
  - DAS
  - CAS
  - Software
  - Raw data
- Serve the Data
  - CAS mirror

**Library Z**
- Archive the Data
  - DAS
  - CAS
  - Administrative Records
- Serve the Data
  - DAS Mirror
  - CAS Mirror
  - Helpdesk
What *does* it mean to curate or preserve the SDSS-I/II data?
Thank You

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