

Lots of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe:

Examining the USDocs LOCKSS Network as a Socio-Technical System

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Introduction

LOCKSS is a “peer-to-peer network” that allows libraries to “collect and preserve content published on the Web” (Rosenthal & Vargas, 2013, p. 108).



<http://www.lockss.org/>



<http://library.ohio.gov/marketing/stateemps>

USDocs is a *private LOCKSS network* that *preserves digital content* produced by the Government Printing Office, similar to the way that the Federal Depository Library Program preserves physical collections (Jacobs & Reich, 2010).

Goals of USDocs (Cornwall & Jacobs, 2009):

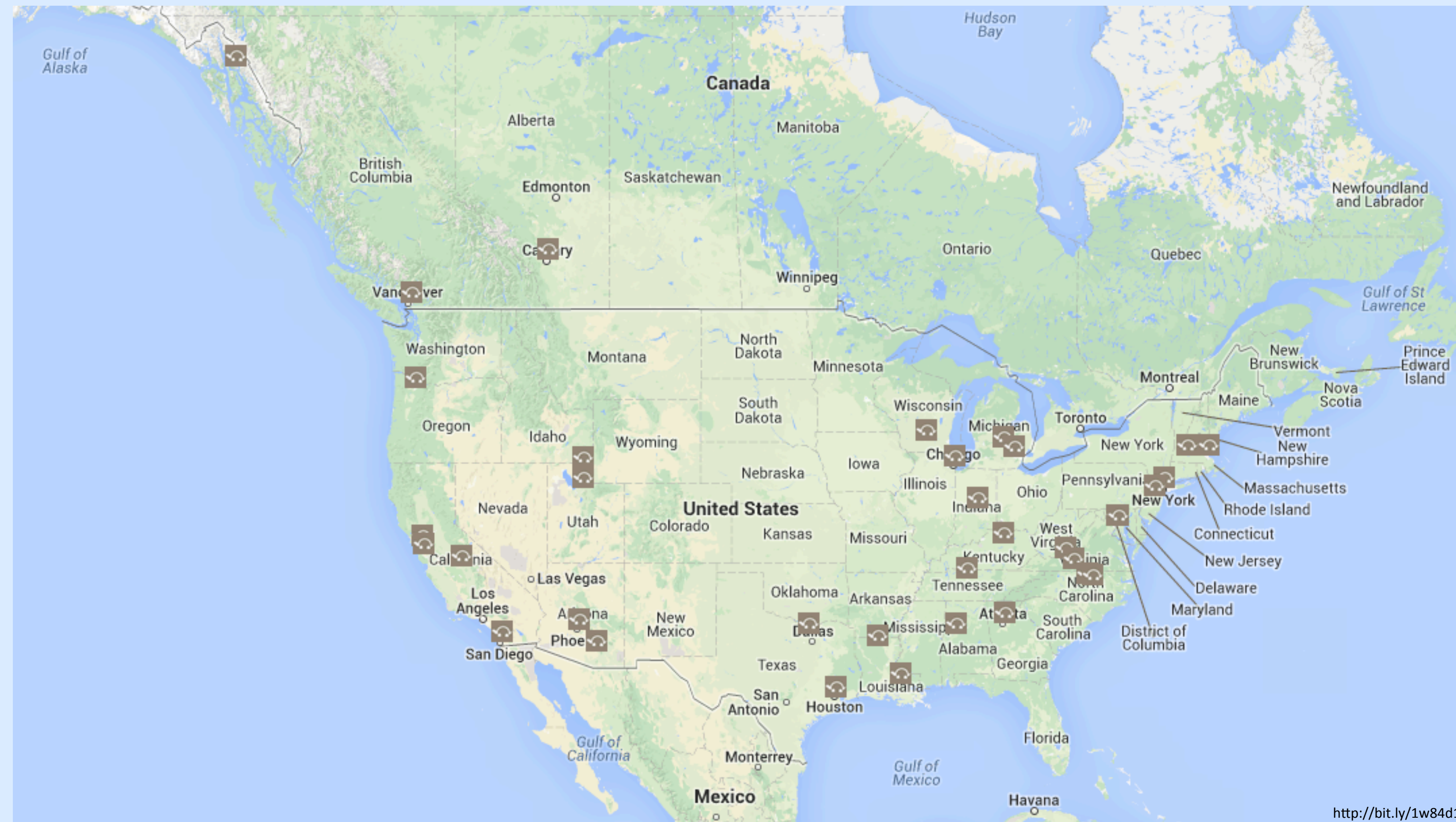
- Protect from disaster
- Assure authenticity
- Prevent surreptitious withdrawal or tampering
- Build local services

Theoretical Framework

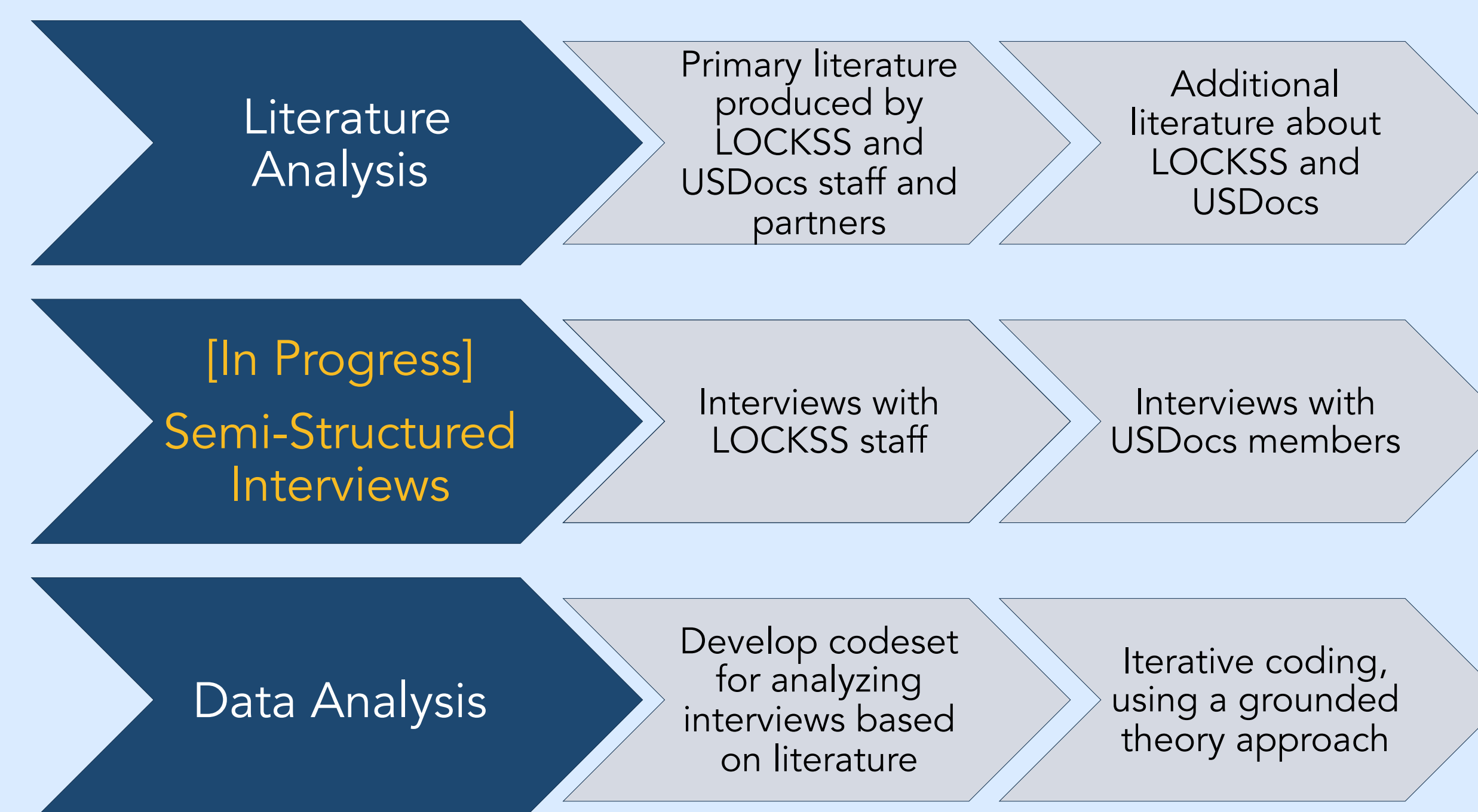
- **Infrastructure development**
 - Edwards, Jackson, Bowker, & Knobel, 2007; Ribes & Finholt, 2009
- **Socio-technical systems**
 - Hughes, 2012; Van der Vleuten, 2004
- **Risk and disaster studies**
 - Barateiro, Antunes, Freitas, & Borbinha, 2010; Douglas & Wildavsky, 1982; Hilgartner, 1992

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Next Steps: Data Collection & Analysis



Research Questions

- How did the USDocs network develop?
- Does the development of the USDocs network fit van der Vleuten's theory of about the development of second order technical systems?

Preliminary Findings

- **Crisis of control:** leveraging path dependencies to cope with the shift to Web-based publishing.
- **Inventor/Entrepreneur:** Understanding the work of LOCKSS founders and member organizations as enacting technology & organizing work.
- **USDocs as a technical system** that leverages one infrastructure (academic libraries) in order to *offset the negative effects* experienced as a result of not having control over another (digital government documents).

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