AIA Honor Awards and the Design Record

Valerie Collins
National Digital Stewardship Resident,
The American Institute of Architects

valerie.collins@dal.ca
@valeriemcollins
AIA Honor Awards

Recognize architectural achievements to:

- elevate the general quality of architecture practice
- establish a standard of excellence against which all architects can measure performance
- inform the public of the breadth and value of their contributions.
How are these records used?

Members use the information in award submissions:

- As successful examples for future applications
- For evidence-based practice
- For post-occupancy evaluations of award-winning buildings
- To inform discussion on design trends in specialty areas
  - ex: Detention facilities over 5,000 square feet that are located in the Western US
Changing formats

- From slides and paper to PDFs and TIFFs
Practitioners driving change

- Committee on the Environment
- Design For Aging Review
- Justice Facilities Review
Extensive information gathering
- COTE Top 10 awards are still only capturing text/image to describe complex buildings and interactions.
Digital complications

- Search is limited and obscures many details about the buildings
- Online access to design plans and photos is not supported
- And what about preservation?