

If you've ever appeared in online porn, I need to say Thank you. If you've ever stood behind the camera or marketed or distributed or sold pornography online, I need to say Thank You. When I look at online porn, I really cannot imagine what it was like to have to wait for Drummer to arrive every month .. oh who am I kidding, every other month, every third month .. am I getting closer? I try to imagine what it would be like if I had to buy a postage stamp every time I wanted to send an Instant Message to a guy I was cruising plus a dollar to the magazine publisher for processing. OMG if I had to do that every time I sent an IM I would have been broke years ago. So, it's very simple to understand that the way we communicate and the way we watch porn have changed drastically over the past few decades. What is complicated ... what is incredibly complicated .. is figuring out how to save this. How do you make a Windows Media Player clip last for 300 years, 30 years or even 3 years. I can hear you Mac people .. "umm...how about 3 months?". The Tony DeBlase papers, one of the most important and highest profile collections of the Leather Archives, contains 5 ¼ floppy discs of programs that are opened with programs like WordPro and Lotus. These discs are marked "archival". Tony, help! Oh right .. money!

No charitable organizations are funded so well that they can be on the front of technological innovation. Well, Americans For Truth seems to have such a budget, given that they can afford to send people to our events to keep tabs on us, when we can barely afford to come ourselves. But I assure you the Leather Archives does not have such a budget. Having said that, we're using our resources to do what we can. If

you visit our LiveJournal page or better yet our videos hosted on YouTube, or even better our website .. you'll see some modest but quality attempts at providing digital access to our past. For you Sally Struthers fans and I know you're out there... let me put it like this ... for just 14 cents a day .. you can become a supporting member and feed a hungry volunteer that is starving to immerse the LA&M collections in technology. For just 55 cents a day or \$16.67 a month, you can feed two hungry staff members. They don't want food, they don't want shelter, they don't want clothes, they don't want sex ... well they do (hello!) but that's not what your membership is about. They want the funding to make sure our history and technology make really good fuck buddies.

This issue really boils down to funding. It's more than a row of volunteers sitting in front of a row of scanners putting in page after page and pressing the button .. issues like deterioration of CDs, DVDs, obsolescence, contextual information, intellectual property rights, proprietary software and authenticity are important and expensive to deal with. So I commit to do our part and work passionately and hard and fast and to make sure we get our share of the grant funding that's available, but that part is not enough. If the thought of digital access to our history is exciting to you, if you want to make sure all of our history is accessible .. both paper and digital .. then do your part and become a member. Stop by our silent auction tonight or visit our booth tomorrow or go to 6418 N. Greenview this weekend or do it online at leatherarchives.org. Let's DO this! We owe it to the kinky folks who will be in the audience of IML 50 years from

now. When they ask about IML 30, let's make sure they have access to more than a paper program book and a leather sash. Thank you for your support, thank you for your time and goodnight.