DSpace Institutional Repositories and Digital Preservation

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What I will cover

- Why institutional repositories?
- DSpace and digital preservation
- A word about DIAS
- A word about the DCC
- Why libraries?



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DSpace and digital preservation: two levels

DSpace identifies two levels of digital preservation: bit preservation, and functional preservation.

- **Bit preservation** ensures that a file remains exactly the same over time not a single bit is changed while the physical media evolve around it.
- Functional preservation goes further: the file does change over time so that the material continues to be immediately usable in the same way it was originally while the digital formats (and the physical media) evolve over time. Some file formats can be functionally preserved using straightforward format migration (e.g. TIFF images or XML documents). Other formats are proprietary, or for other reasons are much harder to preserve functionally.



DSpace and digital preservation: file format support

- **Supported:** We fully support the format and preserve it using either format migration or emulation techniques.
- **Known:** We can recognize the format, but cannot guarantee full support.
- **Unsupported:** We cannot recognize a format; these will be listed as "application/octet-stream", aka Unknown.





This slide is by MacKenzie Smith, Associate Director for Technology, MIT Libraries. Note the need for curation. The Preservation cycle shows format migration.



Paul Wheatley DSpace Futures Report (July 2003): Recommendations

- Allow migration on ingest or migration on request
- Accommodate loss quantification
- Record provenance
- Gather file format documentation (e.g. file specifications, descriptions and code samples)
- Create preservation action plans for particular formats













Figure 7.2 / Future rendering of digital objects in UVC-based Data Preservation

DCC

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The JISC and the eScience Core Programme have entrusted the task of establishing the Digital Curation Centre (DCC) to a consortium comprising four partner institutions: the <u>University of Edinburgh</u> (lead partner) and the <u>University of</u> <u>Glasgow</u>, which together host the NeSC; <u>UKOLN</u>, at the University of Bath; the Council for the <u>Central Laboratory of the</u> <u>Research Councils</u> (which operate the Rutherford and Daresbury Laboratories).

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Using the integrating ideas of collaboration, curation and continuing access for data held in institutional and national data repositories, we will be supporting a <u>Collaborative Associates Network of Data Organisations</u> in order that the DCC engages with and benefits from the progress being made by leaders within communities of practice across the wide range of scholarly and scientific disciplines, nationally and internationally.

We see our overriding purpose to be continuing improvement in the quality of data curation and digital preservation, recognising that data have importance as the evidential base for scholarly conclusions, and for the validation of those conclusions. In interests of securing consensus, we propose the term curation to cover the active management and appraisal of data over the corresponding lifecycle of scholarly and scientific interest: it is thus the key to reproducibility and reuse.

The DCC is not itself to be a digital repository, nor an attempt to impose policies and practices of one branch of scholarship upon another. Rather,

Libraries and the DCC

- Migration systems (e.g. TOM)
- Emulation systems (e.g. UVC)
- Representation Information systems (e.g. GDFR; PRONOM)
- Automated identification of file format
- Automatic extraction of file format metadata
- Automatic verification of format against an approved standard
- Automatic identification of dependencies
- Solutions for the content WE manage in our libraries
- There is a lot at stake ...



"I never think of the future. It comes soon enough."

Albert Einstein, 1930.



