

DPC/PADI What's new in digital preservation

A joint service of the **Digital Preservation Coalition** and [PADI](#)

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This is a summary of selected recent activity in the field of digital preservation compiled from the [digital-preservation](#) and [padiforum-l](#) mailing lists and the Preserving Access to Digital Information ([PADI](#)) Gateway.

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1. Organisations

1.1 The Digital Preservation Coalition

The Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) launched its own web site on May 31, 2002. Formerly hosted by the Joint Information Systems Committee, the site provides an online edition of "Preservation Management of Digital Materials: A Handbook" by Maggie Jones and Neil Beagrie, developed by Neil Beagrie and Brett Scillitoe for the Digital Preservation Coalition and including Web Hotlinks and fully updated URLs. Also available is information about the DPC's missions, goals and principles, its program of work, and its membership and affiliations. Related links, contact information and a list of recent events and events in progress organised by the Digital Preservation Coalition are available.

Among the meeting reports and presentations are those from the DPC forum with industry "Future Research and Development for Digital Asset Preservation," held at Prospect House, London, on 5th June, 2002.

DPC Web Site: <http://www.dpconline.org/>

Events, reports and presentations: <http://www.dpconline.org/graphics/events/>

Handbook: <http://www.dpconline.org/graphics/handbook/>

1.2 OCLC/RLG Working Groups

Both joint OCLC/RLG Working Groups have produced final recommendations documents within the last two months.

The final report of the RLG/OCLC Digital Archive Attributes Working Group was released in May 2002. The Working Group's deliberations and report is in response to the perceived need for "a definition and consensus on the characteristics of a sustainable digital archives for large-scale, heterogeneous collections held by research repositories".

Available in PDF format and entitled "Trusted Digital Repositories: Attributes and Responsibilities" the report may be obtained from the RLG web site:

<http://www.rlg.org/longterm/repositories.pdf>

In June 2002, the OCLC/RLG Preservation Metadata Working Group produced a combined set of proposed metadata elements for OAIS-recommended "Content Information" and "Preservation Description Information" (PDI), sets which had been developed separately through the actions of the Working Group. Published in PDF format, the combined document is entitled "Preservation Metadata and the OAIS Information Model: A Metadata Framework to Support the Preservation of Digital Objects" and is available from the OCLC web site at:

http://www.oclc.org/research/pmwg/pm_framework.pdf

1.3 Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)

The Joint Information Systems Committee released a Consultation Draft for comment on their intended directions for 2002-2005 - "Towards A Continuing Access and Digital Preservation Strategy for the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) 2002-2005, Consultation Draft Version 1.1," 30 May 2002. While the deadline for comment (12 July 2002) has now passed, the document provides useful information regarding JISC's future key aims and objectives, implementation mechanisms, roles and responsibilities, and standards and models for preservation, retention and digital preservation. See: <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/dner/preservation/dpstrategy2002b.html>

2. Projects

2.1 The US National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP)

The NDIIPP recently launched its own web site at:

<http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/ndiipp/>. The site provides information about the program's mission, advisory board, funding and the Digital Strategy Oversight Group, as well as links to the program's strategic planning directions and a number of papers and reports.

Among the reports are a series of background environmental scans by recognised experts in six topic areas in which the Library of Congress "faces collection-management issues: large Web sites, electronic books, electronic journals, digitally recorded sound, digital film, and digital television."

The collected papers, including a summary by Amy Friedlander, are also available as a Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) publication, "Building a National Strategy for Preservation: Issues in Digital Media Archiving" at: <http://www.clir.org/pubs/abstract/pub106abst.html>

2.2 Testbed Digitale Bewaring (Digital Preservation Testbed)

Part of a wider Digitale Duurzaamheid (Digital Longevity) programme, the Digital Preservation Testbed was established by the Dutch Government to research approaches for retaining long-term accessibility to government information. The Testbed's research focuses on four document types (text

documents, email, spreadsheets and databases) using three preservation approaches (migration, emulation, XML) and aims to examine the effectiveness, limitations, costs and potential for application of each approach. Maureen Potter, Experiment Operator with the project, recently provided an update on the project's progress in RLG DigiNews, describing the work of the Testbed, outlining the aims, experimental methodology and expected deliverables of the project, as well as providing some preliminary findings for text documents and emails:

Maureen Potter, "Researching Long Term Digital Preservation Approaches in the Dutch Digital Preservation Testbed (Testbed Digitale Bewaring)." *RLG DigiNews*, 6 (3) June 2002. <http://www.rlg.org/preserv/diginews/diginews6-3.html#feature2>

The web site for the Testbed, in either Dutch or English, may be found by following the links from the parent programme site:

<http://www.digitaleduurzaamheid.nl/>

2.3 Kulturarw3: "New Decree for Kulturarw3"

A special decree by the Swedish government, accepted on May 8, 2002, authorises the Royal Library of Sweden to collect Swedish web sites from the Internet and to allow the public access to the archive within the Library premises.

The Royal Library has previously rejected all requests to access the material it has been collecting from the Swedish Web since 1996, as it considered any right to acquire, preserve and make the material available to be only indirectly approved by legislation. A challenge to the legitimacy of the project in 2001 led to the further support and authorisation of the Royal Library's web-archiving operation.

The press release is available at:

<http://www.kb.se/Info/Pressmed/Arkiv/2002/020605.htm> (Swedish)

http://www.kb.se/Info/Pressmed/Arkiv/2002/020605_eng.htm (English)

3. Events

3.1 Recent Events:

3.1.1 DLM-FORUM 2002 - Access and Preservation of Electronic Information: Best Practices and Solutions

held at Palacio de Congresos de Cataluña, Barcelona, Spain, 7-8 May 2002.

Links to PDF version of conference conclusions, summaries of six Industry White Papers and a speakers book and abstracts is available at:

<http://www.dlmforum2002.org/angles/programa.htm>

An event report by Rosilind Johnson was published in *Cultivate Interactive*, issue 7, July 2002: <http://www.cultivate-int.org/issue7/dlm/>

3.1.2 Multimedia Archive Preservation Workshop, London, 22-24 June, 2002.

An event report by Richard Wright (BBC) was published in *Cultivate Interactive*, issue 7, July 2002: <http://www.cultivate-int.org/issue7/prestows/>

3.1.3 Future Research and Development for Digital Asset Preservation

held at Prospect House, London, 5 June 2002.

A meeting report and presentations from the Digital Preservation Coalition's

forum with industry (as already noted in Section 1.1) is available from:
<http://www.dpconline.org/graphics/events/rdfuture.html>

3.2 Forthcoming Events:

3.2.1 Society of American Archivists Professional Education Offering: Archival Perspectives in Digital Preservation

19 Aug 2002 , Birmingham, Alabama (United States of America)

<http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=320>

3.2.2 ECDL 2002: 6th European Conference on Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries

16 - 18 Sep 2002, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome (Italy)

<http://www.ecdl2002.org/>

3.2.3 La Pérennisation et la Valorisation des Données Scientifiques et Techniques / Ensuring Long-Term Preservation and Adding Value to Scientific and Technical Data

5 - 7 Nov 2002, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), Toulouse (France)

<http://www.mediatec-dif.com/pvdst/pvdstfr.html>

3.2.4 European Expert Seminar on Methods of Digital Archival Description and Access

21 - 22 Nov 2002, Copenhagen (Denmark)

<http://www.sa.dk/sa/omarkiverne/english/activities/euseminar/default.htm>

3.2.5 The 5th International Conference on Asian Digital Libraries - ICADL2002

11 - 14 Dec 2002, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore)

<http://www.cais.ntu.edu.sg:8000/icadl2002/>

4. Other recent publications

4.1 NISO Z39.87-2002 AIIM 20-2002, *Data Dictionary - Technical Metadata for Digital Still Images*. Draft Standard for Trial Use. Bethesda, Md.: National Information Standards Organization; Silver Spring, Md.: AIIM International, 2002. http://www.niso.org/standards/resources/Z39_87_trial_use.pdf

Released as a Draft for Trial Use over the period 1 June 2002 to 31 December 2003, this NISO document (NISO Z39.87-2002 AIIM 20-2001) has been produced "to facilitate the development of applications to validate, manage, migrate and otherwise process images of enduring value" and "to facilitate interoperability between systems, services and software, as well as to support the long-term management of and continuing access to digital image collections". A corresponding XML schema to assist in implementation is available from the Library of Congress at:

<http://www.loc.gov/standards/mix/>

4.2 Stephen Pinfield, Michael Gardner and John MacColl "Setting Up an Institutional E-Print Archive," *Ariadne*, Issue 31, March-April 2002.

<http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue31/eprint-archives/>

Based on the experiences at the universities of Edinburgh and Nottingham in setting up pilot e-print servers, this article provides an account of several practical issues, including document types and formats, submission procedures, metadata standards and digital preservation issues, as well as

encouraging user participation in the archive. The archives were set up and operated using the principles and software tools of the Open Archives Initiative (OAI).

4.3 William LeFurgy, "Levels of Service for Digital Repositories," *D-Lib Magazine*, 8 (5), May 2002.

<http://www.dlib.org/dlib/may02/lefurgy/05lefurgy.html>

William LeFurgy of the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) outlines conditions governing persistence of digital objects, including system architecture and material specification, and suggests a model for future levels of service for digital repositories, considering three levels of tools and processes and three levels of persistence of materials.

4.4 Brewster Kahle, "The Internet Archive, An Interview with Brewster Kahle," *RLG DigiNews*, 6 (3), June 2002.

<http://www.rlg.org/preserv/diginews/diginews6-3.html#interview>

Brewster Kahle, founder and director of the Internet Archive, discusses the organisational infrastructure, policies and processes of the Internet Archive and the Wayback Machine and touches on various aspects of technical, financial and legal issues in digital archiving.

4.5 Jim McCue, "Can You Archive the Net?" *Times Online*, April 29, 2002.

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,7-281852,00.html>

A news article from the Times Online, describing the British Library's establishment of a pilot digital store for web-archiving of material of British interest. It sets the initiative in the context of similar efforts in other countries and the technical, economic and intellectual property issues raised by such activity.

4.6 Kyong-Ho Lee, Oliver Slattery, Richang Lu, Xiao Tang and Victor McCrary, "The State of the Art and Practice in Digital Preservation," *Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology*, 107 (1), 2002, 93-106. <http://nvl.nist.gov/pub/nistpubs/jres/107/1/cnt107-1.htm>

A team from the US National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has produced this recent survey of ideas and practice in digital preservation. It first elaborates the various proposed strategies for digital preservation (including emulation and migration) before introducing a number of projects and case studies from Australia, Europe and North America. This section also describes some of NIST's own digital preservation projects. A final section recommends the development of preservation standards based on XML, and outlines some critical issues that still need to be resolved.

4.7 Howard Besser, "The Next Stage: Moving from Isolated Digital Collections to Interoperable Digital Libraries," *First Monday*, 7 (3), 3rd June 2002.

http://www.firstmonday.dk/issues/issue7_6/besser/

In this paper, Howard Besser of UCLA notes that many existing digital library developments are primarily collection based and that they often lack service or preservation components. He then discusses various ways in which we may be able to move from these isolated digital collections to a network of interoperable digital libraries. In doing so, he emphasises that libraries are

not just collections but organisations that provide a variety of services (including their long-term stewardship over collections) and uphold ethical traditions (e.g. on privacy and equal access).

4.8 Clifford Lynch, "Digital Collections, Digital Libraries and the Digitization of Cultural Heritage Information," *First Monday*, 7 (5), 6th May 2002.

http://www.firstmonday.dk/issues/issue7_5/lynch/

Clifford Lynch is the Director of the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI) and this is a transcript of a keynote paper that he gave at the Web-Wise 2002 conference held in Baltimore on 20-22 March 2002. The paper is not uniquely concerned with digital preservation, but it provides a wide-ranging and thought-provoking look at the sustainability and reusability of digital content, the distinction between digital collections and digital libraries and many other issues.

4.9 Sarah Thomas, "From double fold to double bind," *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 28 (3), 2002, 104-108.

This paper by Sarah Thomas of Cornell University is a general introduction to digital preservation issues with special focus on recent US-based developments, e.g. Cornell's projects PRISM and Harvest.

4.10 Neil Beagrie and Philip Pothen, "Web-archiving: Managing and Archiving Online Documents and Records – Monday 25th March, 2002," *Ariadne*, 32, June-July 2002. <http://www.ariadne.ac.uk/issue32/web-archiving/>

A summary of the DPC forum on Web-archiving held in London.

5. Other links

5.1 DigiCULT.Info Newsletter

<http://www.digicult.info/pages/newsletter.html>

With its mix of news items, announcements and articles, this newsletter, produced by the Europe-based Digital Culture (DigiCULT) Forum, will provide a regular look into selected technology areas affecting the cultural domain, along with summarising the progress of DigiCULT Forum.

5.2 Creating and Managing Digital Content

http://www.chin.gc.ca/English/Digital_Content/index.html

Maintained by the Canadian Heritage Information Network, this web site provides guidance on creating and managing digital resources for heritage projects, including an overview of issues and resources in preservation of digital materials.

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