Student Digital Preservation Day

How I spend my day defending the past.

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Everything is fine. Please do this. Everything is fine. Unexpected event. It works. Please change it. Everything is fine. Why does this happen? Everything is fine. Take a deep breath. Everything is fine. Everything is fine. Can you ask about this? Everything is fine! Can it do this? Everything is fine. It works. And relax. Everything is fine. Please change it. Everything is fine. What future plans? Everything is fine. Why does this happen? Everything is fine. Have a cup of tea. Unexpected event. Everything is fine. Please do this. Everything is fine! OMG IT'S BROKEN! Everything is fine. Unexpected event. Everything is fine. Can it do this? Don't be silly. Priorities have changed. Everything is fine. Everything is fine. Unexpected event. Everything is fine. Why does this happen? Everything is fine. Please change it. Everything is fine. Take a deep breath. *You want what!* Everything is fine. Can it do this? Please don't do that again. Everything *is* fine! What future plans? That thing happened again. Can you ask about this? It works. Please do this. Everything is fine. Why does this happen? New project. Everything is fine. Have a cup of tea. And relax…

Quick career round up

1. Neither an archivist or librarian.

2. Degree in history, masters in Library & Information Studies. (MLIS)

3. Career in information in the UK & New Zealand.

4. Developed information systems/processes for government.

5. National Library of New Zealand, web archiving, systems replacement, policy on born digital material.

6. Wellcome Trust since 2004. Born digital archives & digitisation.

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So, how do I spend my day…?

1. It's not all glamour, metadata & preservation events.

2. Responsible for 2 systems; #Goobi & Safety Deposit Box #sdb (read 'Snagging') & Library storage.

3. Planning. Planning. Planning. Meetings. Meetings. Meetings.

4. Proposals. Project management. Deadlines. Budgets. Objectives. Reporting. Evaluation.

5. Tiny, tiny, tiny part of my time spent on stuff like data recovery, migration, preservation events.
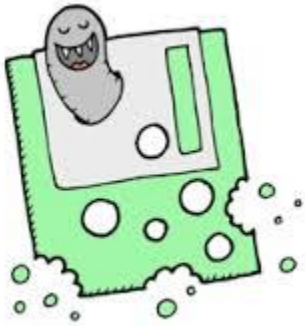
Is an information career fun…?

1. Introduced to 3 Prime Ministers.

2. Worked with Chief Executives & Cabinet Ministers.

3. Represented my country on UN project.

4. Created some of the first websites for government departments.

5. Independent consultant.

6. Published, travelled, spoken at conferences, reviewed peers work, invited onto external committees.

7. Is it fun…?

Fcuk, yes!

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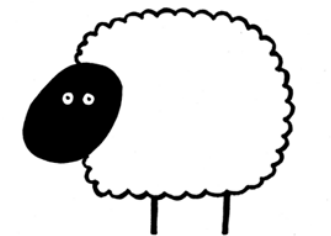So, I can think of five observations, in no particular order…

1. Nothing without imagination

1. The power of digital preservation can only be revealed if we can imagine the uses the data can be put to.

2. Digital preservation is not an exercise in technology for its own sake.

3. There is nothing that cannot be achieved, but it takes more than kit, tools, computers, software.

4. Digital preservation is about engaging with creators & consumers, with the data & with the future.

Logic will get you from **A to B** imagination will take you **everywhere**
- Albert Einstein

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2. No such thing as digital preservation

1. Only point of digital preservation is reuse of data. Nothing else

2. It's not the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff.

3. It's not about format migration & obsolete kit.

4. It's the little things that we do every day; backup, planning, IT infrastructure maintenance, policy, virus checking, integrity checking, working with creators, working with users, adding value to data.

Don't follow me
I haven't got a clue

3. Lets see how hard we can make this…

1. We say digital preservation is hard. We choose to do this.

2. Much is under our control or within our gift.

3. Unless we can make preservation an easy & sustainable activity it's not preservation.

4. We have to work in the real world.

5. Why choose to make it hard?

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4. It is a quest for world domination

1. I believe that one day archivists will rule the world.

2. Archivists have all the training to make decisions about selection, appraisal, arrangement, context, description & preservation.

3. Archivists understand preservation, copyright, access, privacy. Stuff that matters.

4. If the amount of personal data that Google holds scares you then the power of archivists to manage that data should scare you even more.

Apologies to the archivists, you can of course trust them completely.

Totally.
Totally trust them.

5. Its not a technical problem...

1. I wish I'd known that digital preservation is not a technical problem; it's a social problem.

2. Many technical issues already have solutions, e.g. PLANETS\PLATO addresses many of the issues of migration.

3. The challenge is to move digital data into the future not just intact but in context & retaining its significance as research material that can explain the past.

4. This makes it a social problem.

Get out there & start an argument!

1. Anyone can have 15mb of fame; and that's a good thing!

2. The power of influence is shifting & becoming democratized.

3. Have an opinion. Have a thought. Have an idea.

4. Share it. Tweet it. Blog it.

5. Not because you want to build a career, but because you give a damn.

So, what gets me out of bed on a frosty morning?

This does...

Juan Jacobo Vaz

So how do I spend my day…

1. Making opportunities to be creative & to use my imagination, but also to be challenged.

2. Building something that has value & worth.

3. Engaging with some astonishing people & even more astonishing material.

4. Being involved in the making of history.

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13 November 2013 Last updated at 15:59

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Conservatives purge old speeches from online archives

The Conservative Party has deleted speeches and press releases published on its website between 2000 and the 2010 general election.

The archive has also been hidden from search engines.

The move was **spotted by Computer Weekly**, a trade publication, which also said some records had been removed from the **Internet Archive**, which aims to make a permanent record of web content.

"By making more information available to more people, you're giving them more power," the PM said in 2006

The Conservatives said the move keeps their **revamped website** up-to-date.

Computer Weekly said the effect of the changes was "as alarming as sending Men in Black to strip history books from a public library and burn them in the car park".

"Prime minister David Cameron and Chancellor George Osborne campaigned on a promise to democratise information held by those in power, so people could hold them to account," it added.

'Broken promises'

Instead, they have overseen a change which has left Conservative speeches in a "secretive corner of the internet like those that shelter the military" and "gangsters", it concluded.

Archived pages on the Conservative Party website providing a record of evolving policy announcements were deleted "sometime after 5 October", Computer Weekly said.

In addition, a text file was added to the website, called "robots.txt". This is a standard way of telling search engines which parts of a website they should not try to index.

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On the UK Web Archive held by the BL…

"It's not a public archive. It's an archive for preservation and for research,"

Angela Mills Wade, who helped formulate the 2013 regulations as executive director of the European Publishers Council, said it was not necessarily in the public interest that the internet archive should be made generally available.

http://www.computerweekly.com/news/2240210795/UK-prepares-to-launch-internet-archive-without-internet-access

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Don't get mad.

Just do your job.

Doing your job without fear or favour is what the future will thank you for.

Thank you

Questions now, questions later…?

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