

Digital Preservation Coalition

Prospectus 2012-2013



Enduring Digital Impact

Durable information brings enduring value and impact.

Pervasive, fluid and ubiquitous: digital technologies are a defining feature of our age. Data is an asset for industry, commerce and government. It is fundamental for research, the law and medicine. The creative industries, cultural heritage and the media depend on reliable access to digital data. But digital resources - and the opportunities they create - are fragile. If we seek to extend and embed opportunity then we need robust solutions for enduring digital resources. The greater the strategic importance, the greater the need for its preservation: digital preservation protects investment, captures potential and transmits opportunities to future generations and our own. It is a shared once-in-a-generation challenge.

Shared Challenge: Shared Vision

The **DPC is an agent for change**, enhancing capacity, policy and practice for an enduring information infrastructure. Protecting long term access can seem daunting. Collaboration is the fastest and most economical way to address this emerging challenge: the Digital Preservation Coalition provides a ready-made expert network that will help your organisation meet its goals more rapidly, keep you up-to-date with a fast moving field, and amplify your expertise to a community eager for solutions.

The DPC is an **advocate and catalyst** for digital preservation, enabling our members to deliver resilient long term access to content and services, and helping them derive enduring value from digital collections. We raise awareness of the importance of preservation of digital material and the attendant strategic, cultural and technological issues. We are a not for profit membership organisation and we support our members through knowledge exchange, capacity building, assurance, advocacy and partnership.

Our vision is to make our digital memory accessible tomorrow.

Greater Than the Sum of our Parts

The strength of the DPC is our breadth of membership. Members include national memory institutions, higher education institutions, cultural heritage institutions, broadcasters, publishers, strategic investors and funders. Each collects creates or commissions digital content: each has to ensure a digital legacy. Working together, the DPC's thirty nine members share their expertise, co-ordinate tools development, gain privileged access to advice and training and influence public policy. The DPC brokers research and consultation between members and facilitates access to the very best international research and development.

Action and Impact

The DPC addresses a common challenge. We commission specialist advice in strategically important areas of technology and we provide events and fora where members meet and influence leading technologists and policy makers. Our Technology Watch Reports series provides in-depth support and our monthly 'What's new?' keep us up to date with developments and opportunities. Our Leadership Programme helps members' access specialist training. Our task forces and working groups allow members to debate and discuss shared concerns. We sponsor the biannual Digital Preservation Award; we contribute to public and institutional policy; and we access the best international research and innovation.

Our Values

In everything we do, the DPC:

- operates as a neutral body.
- embraces a consultative, innovative and open approach.
- engages in a collaborative manner with all stakeholders to comprehend and respond to their needs.
- maintains sound stewardship of the Coalition's resources.
- shares best practice and knowledge transfer with our members to support their local priorities.
- maintains vendor neutrality.
- supports developments of standards and generic approaches to digital preservation.

Benefits for members

Membership

- helps you make your information more robust, more efficiently, more effectively and more economically than if you were working on your own.
- creates a unified voice, covering many types of organisations and different sectors.
- gives a sense of solidarity for practitioners, exchanging practical experience and best practice.
- draws on and provides access to world-class expertise in the field from many sectors.
- responds to calls from funding bodies on behalf of members.
- supports your own strategic aims in the management of digital assets.
- facilitates community wide participation in specialist projects and initiatives.

Members get direct benefits from

- an annual consultancy with the Coalition.
- attendance and priority registration at DPC events which are free or heavily discounted for members.
- attendance at member-only networking and thematic events.
- priority access to reports and papers with the ability to annotate and share your comments online.
- privileged access to the expertise and services of the Coalition and its members.
- targeting and guiding the expertise of the Coalition.
- initiating strategically important research.
- knowledge exchange between members with similar challenges.
- shared tool and policy development.
- shared and credible advocacy for digital preservation.
- joint applications to funding agencies.
- participation in international projects and initiatives

Indicative Programme 2012-2013

The DPC offers a programme of thematic invitational events and specialist publications throughout the year.

Task Forces and working parties provide independently moderated spaces for members to discuss, debate and resolve issues on highly targeted topics in an informal and – as the need arises - confidential way. These are open only to members. Members get priority registration (for free or with a large subsidy) to **our specialist events**. Non-members are sometimes invited but only after members have registered and only if additional sponsorship is available. The programme is approved by full members who can commission thematic events tied directly to their needs. Members get **priority access to publications** through the registered area of the website. The publication programme is overseen by full members who can commission research tied directly to their strategic needs. The Leadership Programme exists so that the DPC can provide **scholarships** to its members to attend specialist digital preservation training.

Specialist Events 2012-2013	Type of event or activity	Date
Links that Last: Robust Linked Data	Members-only briefing day	July 2012
SPRUCE Digital Preservation 'Mash-up' (London)	3-day JISC-sponsored hack-a-thon†	September 2012
Preservation Metadata: PREMIS and METS	Members-only briefing day	October / November 2012
What's the problem with File Formats?	Members-only briefing day	December 2012
Digital Preservation Awards and AGM	Invitational	December 2012
SPRUCE Digital Preservation 'Mash-up' (York)	3-day JISC-sponsored hack-a-thon†	January 2013
Digital Preservation: what I wish I knew before I started	Student conference	January 2013
Preserving Computer-Aided Design	Members-only briefing day	February 2013
Talking techie: writing and understanding requirements in digital preservation	Members-only briefing day	March 2013
SPRUCE Digital Preservation 'Mash-up' (TBC)	3-day JISC-sponsored hack-a-thon†	April/May 2013
DPC Planning Day	Members-only planning event	April/May 2013
Creating a Digital Preservation Plan	Members-only briefing day‡	April 2013
Director's Group	Full members networking event	June 2013
Virtualization and preservation: new directions	Members-only briefing day	June / July 2013
Certification and Audit: trends and direction*s	Members-only briefing day	TBC

Working Parties and Task Forces		
Web Archiving and Preservation Task Force	Policy and skills development forum	Ongoing
Peer Review, Capacity and Certification Task Force	Policy and skills development forum	Ongoing
'Bedern Group' Digital Preservation and Archaeology	Informal advisory group	Ongoing

Publications 2012-13	Type of publication	Expected date of release to members
What's new	News update and insight	Monthly throughout the year
Intellectual Property Rights and Preservation	Technology Watch Report	June 2012
Digital Forensics for Preservation	Technology Watch Report	August 2012
Preserving E-journal Content	Technology Watch Report	October 2012
Preservation Metadata (2 nd edition)	Technology Watch Report	December 2012
Web Archiving	Technology Watch Report	First Quarter 2013
Preserving Computer Aided Design**	Technology Watch Report	First Quarter 2013
Case Notes	Good practice example	occasional
Conference reports	Informal member briefings	Throughout the year
Survey of Digital Preservation Training Needs ***	Occasional Report	To be confirmed
Digital Preservation: Impacts and Markets ****	Occasional Report	To be confirmed
Leadership Programme		
Scholarships	Released throughout the year	Details to be announced
Sponsored events	To be confirmed	To be confirmed

† with the University of Leeds and sponsored by JISC, * with Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale, ‡ with ICON conference, **with Digital Curation Centre, ***with APARSEN, ****with TIMBUS This programme is indicative, published July 2012

Major Projects in 2012-13

DPC is a partner in two major international digital preservation research programmes called 'TIMBUS' and 'APARSEN', funded by the European Commission under their 7th framework programme. APARSEN is a Network of Excellence that brings together an extremely diverse set of practitioner organisations and researchers in order to bring coherence, cohesion and continuity to research into barriers to the long-term accessibility and usability of digital information and data.

TIMBUS is a research project that focuses on business processes, examining the dependencies on third-party services, information and capabilities that will be necessary to validate digital information in a future usage context, and making the execution contexts of data accessible over long periods. Both initiatives are scheduled to deliver significant benefits in the next 12 months, such as advanced training and specialist research reports. DPC plays an active part in these initiatives and our members will be invited to participate in them too. Details will follow throughout the year.

Join Us!

There are three routes to participation:

- **Full Membership:** extended access to the Coalition and its staff and the opportunity to target the Coalition's resources on specific thematic areas.
- **Associate Membership:** priority access to events, programmes and publications and the opportunity to develop innovative partnerships.
- **Personal Membership** for sole traders, consultants and recent students: priority access to events, programmes and publications.

The following table summarises the benefits that accrue to different classes of member.

Benefits	Full member	Associate	Personal
Mini-consultancy with DPC	✓	×	×
Attendance at Directors' Group	✓	×	×
Consulted on Advocacy Activities	Always	Ad hoc	Ad hoc
Establish cross sector task forces	✓	×	×
Commission events and publications	✓	×	×
Set strategy and approve work plan	✓	×	×
Set budgets and subscription rates	✓	×	×
Access to projects and initiatives	Priority	As available	As available
Attendance at thematic briefing days	Places guaranteed	Places reserved	Places reserved
Priority access to publications	✓	✓	✓
AGM	Voting	Voting	Observer
Support in procurement	✓	✓	✓
Invitation to planning day	✓	✓	✓
Eligible for Leadership Programme (scholarships and sponsored events)	✓	✓	✓
Participate in cross sector task forces	✓	✓	✓
Joint applications to funding bodies	✓	✓	✓

Consortial and membership organisations

We welcome applications from societies and consortia. Consortial membership is a cheaper option allowing groups of smaller agencies to participate in the Coalition but experience shows that this can dilute member benefits. For example, consortia may have to allocate space at our events from a fixed number of places. So consortia are invited to negotiate an extended subscription to extend their access to the Coalition.

Students and Institutions Teaching Archiving, Librarianship, Records Management and Cognate Subjects

We recognise the strategic importance in developing our student body, in supporting those institutions that teach information sciences, and we recognise that the needs of students and their institutions are distinctive. We already offer student travel grants to attend and support DPC meetings and we are exploring the creation of a new class of membership designed for students and their teachers. Details will be released in due course.

Commercial Members and IT Vendors

Applications are welcome from all sectors. Our values include vendor neutrality. This protects the impartiality of our advice but is not intended to put off businesses that want to use the DPC as a source of advice for their own digital data issues. We're keen to help our members procure digital preservation services and we want the market for such services to mature through informed dialogue and mutual understanding.

Discounted Fees

Organisations that commit to a three year subscription are entitled to a 10 percent reduction in their annual fee. They may choose to pay in one lump sum or in three annual instalments.

How to Join

Download an application pack, visit the DPC website www.dpconline.org, or to start a conversation about joining, email us at info@dpconline.org

Here's why some of our newer members have joined:

Richard Ferguson, Royal Museums Greenwich:

'The Royal Museums Greenwich is excited about joining the DPC. Having the opportunity to join a community of practice which has a focus on addressing and developing greater understanding of the challenges of digital preservation is most timely.' (May 2012)

Julie Allinson of the Information Directorate at the University of York said:

'Accessing and preserving digital information is one of the great challenges of the 21st century. The University of York recognises the importance and scale of the challenge, and is pleased to join the DPC, which is a key partnership that enables these difficult areas to be tackled for the benefit of all.' (January 2012)

Dr James Peters of the University of Manchester Library said:

'We see membership of the DPC as an important element of our digital preservation work as it provides us with opportunities to collaborate with a range of other organizations and to share knowledge and expertise. By joining the DPC we hope to play an active part in building up the UK's digital preservation community.' (May 2012)

Here's what people said about some of our events in 2011 and 2012:

Digital Preservation: What I Wish I knew Before I Started, Student Conference, January 2012:

'The speakers were very encouraging and approachable. They were obviously at the forefront of their fields, which was inspiring.'

The Future of the Past of the Web, October 2011:

'A well thought out structure of the day, allowing a complete newcomer to the field to follow with ease'

Digital Preservation and Business Continuity Management, May 2012:

'It was very useful for acquiring the language to re-approach management and bring up the need for resilience planning.' 'I understood Service oriented architecture for first time - an epiphany!'