What’s new DPC CAT?
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The Postal Museum

- Based in central London
- Museum with miniature underground train ride
- Cares for the archives of Royal Mail and Post Office Limited
- Also has an archive of its own records
- Working on procuring and implementing Preservica
- Aiming to share workload across collections team
DPC CAT

- Companion to the Competency Framework
- Framework has 5 competency areas and 28 skills elements
- Practical, structured processes for assessing the skill levels of those undertaking digital preservation work
- Can assess at individual or organizational basis
- Map to DPC RAM to identify skills gaps and barriers to progression
Why?

• Wanted to assess the current position of The Postal Museum
• Needed to test assumptions around skills – both positive and negative
• Engage colleagues in digital preservation and the skills needed
• Needed baseline assessment of current position to plan future work
How?

- Discussion with Head of Collections
- 2 phase approach
- Emailed links to spreadsheet and supporting information on DPC website
- Reassured colleagues of confidentiality
- Drop in session for questions
Findings – Digital Preservation Group

01. No skills gap in most areas for current DPC RAM level

02. One level gap to current DPC RAM level metadata standards and implementation

03. There were several gaps between current skills level and target RAM level

04. Larger gaps in average skill levels – reflects how the skills are concentrated in a small number of staff
Findings – Collections

01. No skills gap for current DPC RAM level

02. There were several gaps between current skills level and target RAM level

03. Larger gaps in average skill levels – reflects how the skills are concentrated in a small number of staff
Reflections

• More clarity on how to complete
• Subjectivity
• Two phase approach?
• Meaning of terms
Next steps

• Share results internally and externally
• Monitor and share training opportunities with colleagues
• Repeat assessment 2024
• Explore whether The Postal Museum could use role description aspect of CAT
Conclusion

• Both the process and the results provided useful learning experience
• Need to use this to support staff development
• Activity descriptor words very useful at focusing thinking