Digital Preservation and the Climate Emergency

Focus on Climate Action:
• DPC Climate Action Plan
• Climate Actions (not all good)

Focus on Emissions:
• DP and Emissions
• Emissions and DP

Focus on Everything:
• DP and Everything Else
• 2 Bland Conclusions
Climate Action Plan ...
“the series of managed activities necessary to ensure continued access to digital materials for as long as necessary... beyond the limits of media degradation, technical obsolescence or organizational change.”

(Digital Preservation Handbook)

DP is a sustainability challenge. We probably cannot address the climate emergency without (some) digital preservation.

William Kilbride
John McMillan
Climate Action Plan

... there is a growing demand for advice, standards and training which have always been core services within the DPC’s strategic plan. Moreover, by modelling good practice ... we are better positioned as advocates for change.

https://www.dpconline.org/about/dpcpolicies
Climate Actions (not all good)
Low emission zones

Bomb attack on Ulez camera ‘grotesquely irresponsible’, says London mayor

Blast in Sidcup not being treated as terrorism but counter-terror officers are leading investigation

OVO Energy apologises after telling customers to ‘cuddle pets’ to stay warm
DP and emissions ...
Focus on Emissions

CO₂ CH₄ N₂O HFCs PFCs SF₆
Calculating Emissions in DP

- **Scope 1:** Direct emissions from the combustion of fuel in assets that a company operates: company-owned cars, diesel generators, gas boilers and air-conditioning leaks.
- **Scope 2:** Indirect emissions from the generation of energy purchased from a utility provider, such as heating, cooling, steam, and electricity.
- **Scope 3:** All indirect greenhouse gas emissions that do not fall under scope 2 - upstream and downstream.
  - Upstream emissions from goods and services, business travel, utilities supplied but not purchased
  - Downstream emissions from goods or services which are sold
Focus on Scope Three

**Upstream**
- 1. Contracted Goods and services
- 2. Capital goods
- 3. Fuel or energy (not in scope 1 or 2)
- 4. Upstream shipping and distribution
- 5. Waste generated in operations
- 6. Business travel
- 7. Employee commuting
- 8. Upstream leased assets

**Downstream**
- 9. Downstream shipping and distribution
- 10. Processing of sold products
- 11. Use of sold products
- 12. End-of-life treatment of sold products
- 13. Downstream leased assets
- 14. Franchises
- 15. Investments

Digital Preservation Shows Up Here ★

William Kilbride
John McMillan

www.dpconline.org
Focus on Business Travel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Travel</th>
<th>Method</th>
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<td>Business Travel</td>
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Travel Carbon Calculator.

The Sustainable Climate Impact Fund (SCIF) prioritises projects that deliver health and socio-economic benefits to communities as well as tackling climate change. Use the SCIF Travel carbon calculator to work out your travel emissions in two simple steps. Then see how SCIF helps you offset unavoidable emissions in an ethical and responsible way.

Journey 1

Transport: Select your option

Departure: Where from?
Arrival: Where to?
Passengers: 1

Add journey

Results

Offset your carbon through SCIF

Emissions per 1000km

Transport:

Your travel emissions in 2 steps

1. Add journey(s)
2. Calculate emissions

Offset your carbon through SCIF
Whose emissions are they any way

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Point is: DP is mostly scope three

Scope 3 been a lower priority (so far)
Trickier to calculate
Harder to control
Boundaries less clear
Steady State Paradox in DP

Driving down emissions in the context of exponential growth (standing still is not net zero)

We own the emissions side of the equation. We don’t own the data growth side.
Emissions and DP ...
DP is about keeping data (and not)
DP Assumptions
Accessible
Authenticated
Normalized
Uncompressed
Trusted

What if we shake up these assumptions?
Point is: Climate Crisis is Global Scale

Will affect everyone, everywhere
Will affect every aspect of our lives
Will affect professional practice too
DP and Everything Else
Not just emissions

E-waste

Competition for Rare Earth Elements

Competition for Water

Exploitative Labour Practices
DP is a human project

Not just about emissions
Not just environment
Not different crises:
poverty, hunger, health, education,
gender, water, energy, growth,
industry, equality, communities,
consumption, climate, marine
ecologies, land, peace, partnership

Macroeconomic structures
create digital preservation
Social and economic forces and DP: From owning to renting

Buy-to-let example
Financialization
Housing crisis
Dislocation and displacement

Digital Rent-Seeking Behaviours
• IPR as license as rent
• Platform as a service
HAS KILBRIDE LOST THE RUN OF HIMSELF?
Here we are

DP Designed For
Structured and unstructured data
Born digital and digitised content
From Selfie stick to space probe

Office Documents
Digital Photographs
Digital Video and Audio
Grey literature
CAD Plans
Geo Mapping and GIS
Transactional Records
Spreadsheets
eBooks and eJournals
Email
Web pages
Laser Scans
MRI and CT scans
Databases
Financial data
Scientific outputs
SMS Text
WhatsApp
...

William Kilbride
John McMillan
Meanwhile in Silicon Valley ...

Nook                      EverAlbum
GoogleCode               Flickr (free)
GeoCities                Google Hangouts
GoogleWave               Duplex
knol                     BlipFoto
Yahoo 360                BEBO
Yahoo Mail Classic       MySpace
del.icio.us               Expeditions
MyBlogLog                Enhanced404
Flash                    JamBoard (soon)

Deprecated, Discontinued and Deleted
Cloud computing: Precarity as a Service
Two Bland Conclusions
Bland Conclusion 1

Digital preservation not just about ‘obsolescence’: it’s about people and opportunity.

Don’t start with the bits: start with the people.
Bland Conclusion 2

Digital Preservation cannot not be concerned with environmental change
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