What I Wish I Knew Before I Started
or
The (Hopefully!) Reassuring Reflections of a Recovering Archivist

Sharon McMeekin
Senior Project Officer
Digital Preservation Coalition
I actually got into this on purpose!
A Brief History of Me

1997-2008 - The University of Glasgow Years
• 1997-2001 - MA History of Art and Film & Television Studies
• 2002-2003 - MSc Information Technology
• 2002-2006 - Library Assistant, Glasgow University Library
• 2005-2008 - MSc Information Management and Preservation

2006-2011 - Digital Archivist, RCAHMS

2011-Now - Senior Project Officer, DPC
5 Years a Digital Archivist

• Almost didn’t go for the interview......

• Original job description:
  – Cataloguing, Accessions, Search room cover

• Soon expanded:
  – Creation of Digital Repository Programme
  – Working with Internal and External Stakeholders
  – Contributed to development of Collections section
A Different Direction

- Manage DPC Contribution to APARSEN project
- Focus on some of my interests
  - Develop and deliver training content
  - Communication and engagement
- Workforce Development and Capacity Building
  - Training and education
  - Professional development
  - Course accreditation
A few of my favourite things.....
Beautiful Things
Our digital memory accessible tomorrow

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Cutting Edge Technologies
Interesting People
Become a Digital Archivist: See the World!

- Lisbon
- Brussels
- Vienna
- Frascati
- Pisa
- Amsterdam
- Florence
- Frankfurt
- The Hague
- Dublin
- Belfast
Some lessons I’ve learned.....
It’s Not All About Digital Preservation

• Might only be one aspect of your job
• A wide range of skills are required
  – Project Management
  – Risk Management
  – Communication
  – User Analysis
• DigCurV Curriculum Framework
  – http://www.digcurv.gla.ac.uk/
Nobody Has All the Answers

• Collaboration is key
  – Lots of relevant disciplines
  – Learn to talk the talk

• Learn from others
  – Social media, especially Twitter
  – Ask to visit like-minded organisations
  – Networking at events
Get Your Hands Dirty

• Don’t be put off by job adverts
• Digital preservation is an active process
• There are no perfect solutions, they’re still evolving
• We learn as much from our failures as our successes
How to Find Me....

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