Preservation and People: understanding designated communities

Practical Preservation and People: a briefing about metadata

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Archived Information: Information, represented by digital data, that is being preserved for public access over the long (indefinite) term. The information is deemed to be understandable to one or more segments of the public.

Archived Data: Digital data that is being preserved for public access over the long (indefinite) term.
Reference Model for Archival Information Services, Version 3, 11/03/1996

- **Archive**: A repository that intends to preserve information for access and use by one or more designated communities.

- **Preserve Information**: The information is expected to be correctly and independently usable by the designated user community.
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<th>Document Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Digital-Archiving Information Services Reference Model</td>
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Avoid broader community
Designated information object
Knowledge Base
Further discussions
§ 3. Definition of Archives

We may now attempt a definition which shall cover all the possibilities mentioned above. First we have defined a document as covering for our purpose manuscript, type-script, and printed matter, with any other material evidence which forms part of it or is annexed to it. A document which may be said to belong to the class of Archives is one which was drawn up or used in the course of an administrative or executive transaction (whether public or private) of which itself formed a part; and subsequently preserved in their own custody for their own information by the person or persons responsible for that transaction and their legitimate successors.

To this Definition we may add a corollary. Archives were not drawn up in the interest or for the information of Posterity.
Archivists’ discussion

1. DC doesn’t fit for archives, which are open for all parts of society
2. DC is just an abstract concept with no relevance for the concrete tasks of the archives.
3. DC is subjective and speculative
Adequacy

Potential for automation

Authenticity

Financial Viability
Object related decisions

Objects, divided into Information Types

Designated Community

Designated Uses
Four abstract designated uses

- Perceiving the complete object
- Evaluating/obtaining information
- Further processing after extracting a DIP
- Running the object (software)
Sequence of decisions

1. Process start
   - Repository names information types
   - Parallelism
   - Name designated communities of information type
   - Specification of designated use of information type
   - Reassembly
   - Determine preservation groups
Possible Basic Information Types

- Text
- Image (two-dimensional)
- Audio
- Moving images
- Structured information (data bases)
- GIS data
- Software

- Complex information types contain more than one basic type
Possible DC für Text

• Readers, who are interested in consuming the whole object.
  – Those interested in literature and
  – Those interested in (book) art
• Academics, which specific questions
  – Historians
  – Social scientists, statisticians
  – Linguists and
  – Those interested in the history of paper, writing, printing or typography
• “Those interested in history”
  – Local historians
  – Genealogists
Designated Uses for Text (example)

N1: To perceive the entire object
    The information object should be perceived by the senses as a work of art in the broadest sense, but one with no intention of conveying information.
    N1.1: Direct perception of the visual impression of the text, text document (or parts thereof) as a work of art
    N1.2: Reading the text as a literary work

N2: To extract and analyse information
    Individual or multiple pieces of information are to be extracted from the information object.
    N2.1: Search for certain information units which can be defined and described in advance (e.g. a specific date)
    N2.2: Search for a new realisation which is obtained by analysing and combining a number of different information units
    N2.3: Search for evidence (e.g. way in which an author or an official body works)

N3: To process information
    A new information object is to be created from the information extracted from the information object through a process of selection, compilation and processing.
    N3.1: Calculation from the information of an information object (e.g. statistical analysis of rows of figures in a text document)
    N3.2: Compilation of information from multiple information objects (e.g. writing a chapter on the biography of an author on the basis of his or her correspondence)
    N3.3: Further use of part of or the entire information object for illustrative purposes outside the context of the archive (e.g. use of a certificate as illustration, see N1)
Designated Uses and significant properties of text (example)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>E1 Sequence</th>
<th>E2 Process-ability</th>
<th>E3 Markup</th>
<th>E4 Address-ability</th>
<th>E5 Other text layers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N1.1 Visual perception</td>
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<tr>
<td>N1.2 Literary enjoyment</td>
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<td>N2.1 Search for fragmented items of information</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>N2.2 Realisations obtained by combining information</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>N2.3 Search for evidence</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>N3.1 Calculation from information</td>
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<td>N3.2 Compilation of information</td>
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<td>N3.3 Re-use for illustrative purposes</td>
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X = The property should be fulfilled in full or in part for this designated use.
Questions?

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