Making Progress with Digital Preservation
Making Progress is Difficult.....

.....how do we move from basic steps to business as usual?

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Getting Started Questions

• Where are we now?
• How do we secure the bits?
• How can we capture information on the files we have?
• What risks does our data face?
• How can we record what we have?

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Maturity Modelling

Helps with:
- Identifying stress points/risks
- Setting objectives
- Prioritising developments
- Developing approach to advocacy

Options include:
- NDSA Levels of Digital Preservation
- Digital Preservation Capability Maturity Model

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Bit-Level Preservation

Addresses risks such as:
• Media obsolescence
• Media failure
• Natural / human-made disaster

As a minimum:
• Keep more than one copy
• Refresh storage media
• Integrity check your data (also called “Fixity”)

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Characterisation

- Understand your data so you can assess risks, plan, take action to preserve
- Characterisation:
  - How many files?
  - How big are the files?
  - What file formats?
  - Does it contain personal information?
  - Is it encrypted?
  - What risks are associated?
- Scale = automation = software tools
Risk Management

Identifying risks is a key stage in successful digital preservation

Useful for:
- Policy development
- Building a business case
- Identifying requirements
- Making preservation decisions
Digital Asset Registers

• gathers information about digital content in one place
• logs preservation risks
• coordinates digital preservation actions & promotes best practice
• supports negotiations with management
• retains valuable knowledge
Making Progress on 3 Fronts

- Resources
- Organisation
- Technology

http://dpworkshop.org/dpm-eng/conclusion.html
Resources

- What benefits will be accrued?
- How can we start to quantify costs?
- What should we put in our business case?

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Organisation

• What should we put in our digital preservation policy?
• What skills do we need?

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Technology

• What issues will affect our preservation decisions?
• What tools and methods can we consider using?

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