

 **The National Archives**

The image shows the exterior of The National Archives building. A prominent curved sign on the building's facade reads "The National Archives". The building features large glass windows and white columns. The sky is clear and blue.

The National Archives

Shared Service and Common Purpose

Digital Preservation as Infrastructure

Meg Venter | @mkventer

20 March 2018



Collaborative Development Networks

Supporting Small Archives

Meg Venter | @mkventer

20 March 2018

**ARCHIVES
UNLOCKED**
RELEASING
THE POTENTIAL

Trust

People and institutions trust in the authenticity of archive records, and how they are preserved and presented.

Enrichment

Archives enhance and enrich our society intellectually, culturally and economically.

Openness

Archives cultivate an open approach to knowledge and are accessible to all.

ARCHIVES
UNLOCKED
DELIVERING
THE VISION

Digital capacity

Resilience

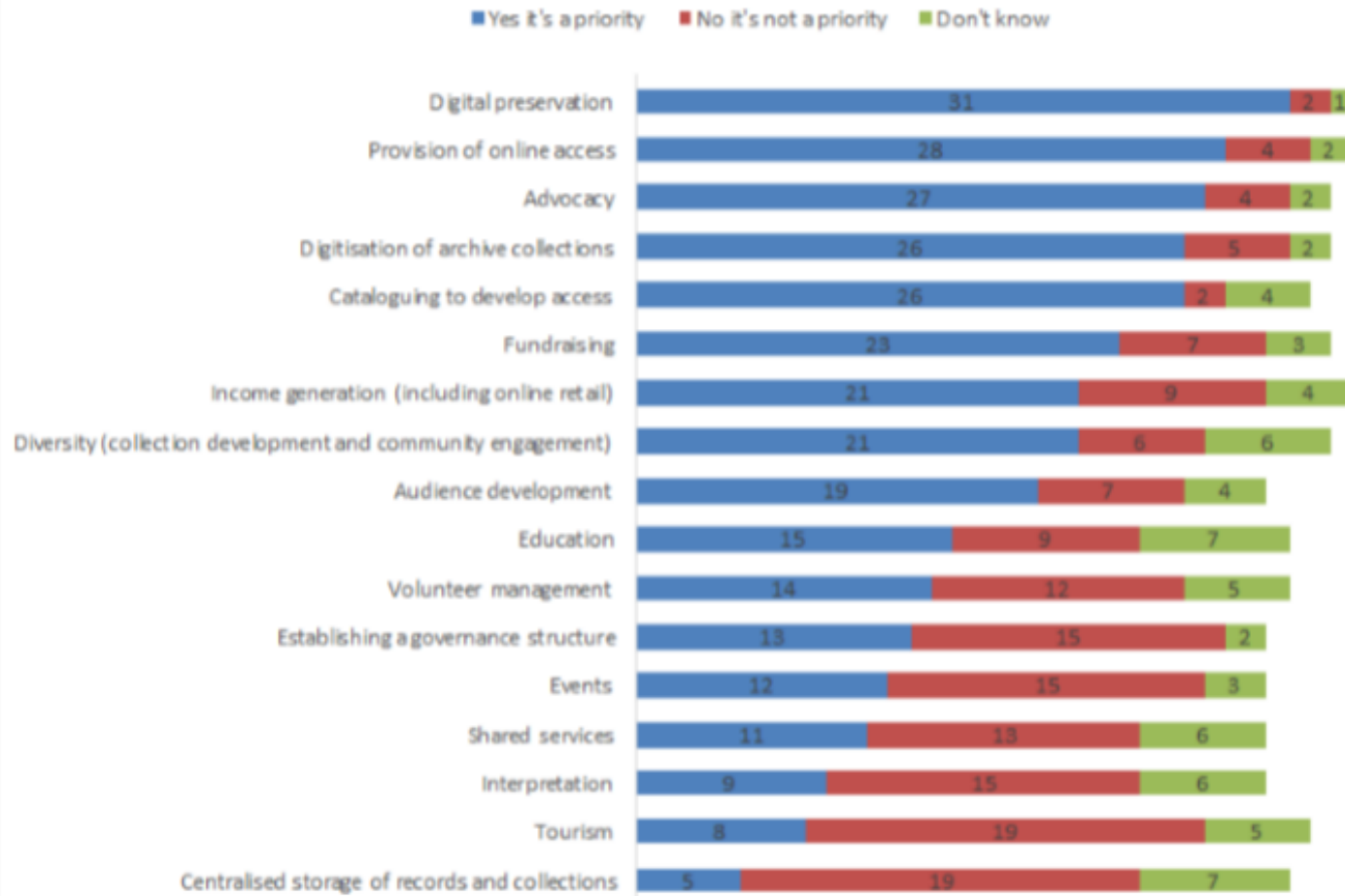
Impact

‘Include all archives: through sharing, co-location, collaborative networks and consortia, all archives will be able to access the skills and infrastructure they need to achieve their goals in the digital world’

Sector Sustainability Fund

- Established in 2013 to support collaborative networks
- ‘The National Archives hopes to build upon existing networks and partnerships, **to create sustainable collaborative service networks** that will help individual archives become more adaptable and resilient and enable them to focus on the needs of users and local communities and on producing best value for money’
- **12** networks funded
- Over **£140K** invested

Priority areas of work



CultureRunner [The National Archives Collaborative Development Networks Evaluation Report](#) (2017) p.24



Archives West Midlands

Archives West Midlands

Providing a confident and coherent voice for the region's archives

Archives & Collections, Library of Birmingham; British Motor Museum; Cadbury Research Library, University of Birmingham; Culture Coventry; Dudley Archives and Local History; Hereford Cathedral; Herefordshire Archive and Records Centre; Media Archive Central England; Sandwell Community History and Archives Service; Shakespeare Birthplace Trust; Shropshire Archives; Staffordshire Record Office; Warwickshire County Record Office; Wolverhampton City Archives; Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service

SSF project proposal:

- Analysing current activities, staff knowledge and capacity across the region
- 'By gathering a detailed overview of the current position of services we hope to explore approaches that will enable us to make significant progress together'

- C Taylor, *Archives West Midlands: Understanding digital preservation activities across the West Midlands region*, 2017, p.8

Archives West Midlands

Project findings:

- That the network should invest in a managed digital preservation system, such as Preservica or Archivematica to help facilitate many of the processes involved in preserving digital material
- Further investigation is required of platforms to provide secure access to digital records
- Templates of regional policies and guidance should be developed, across a range of digital archives management issues

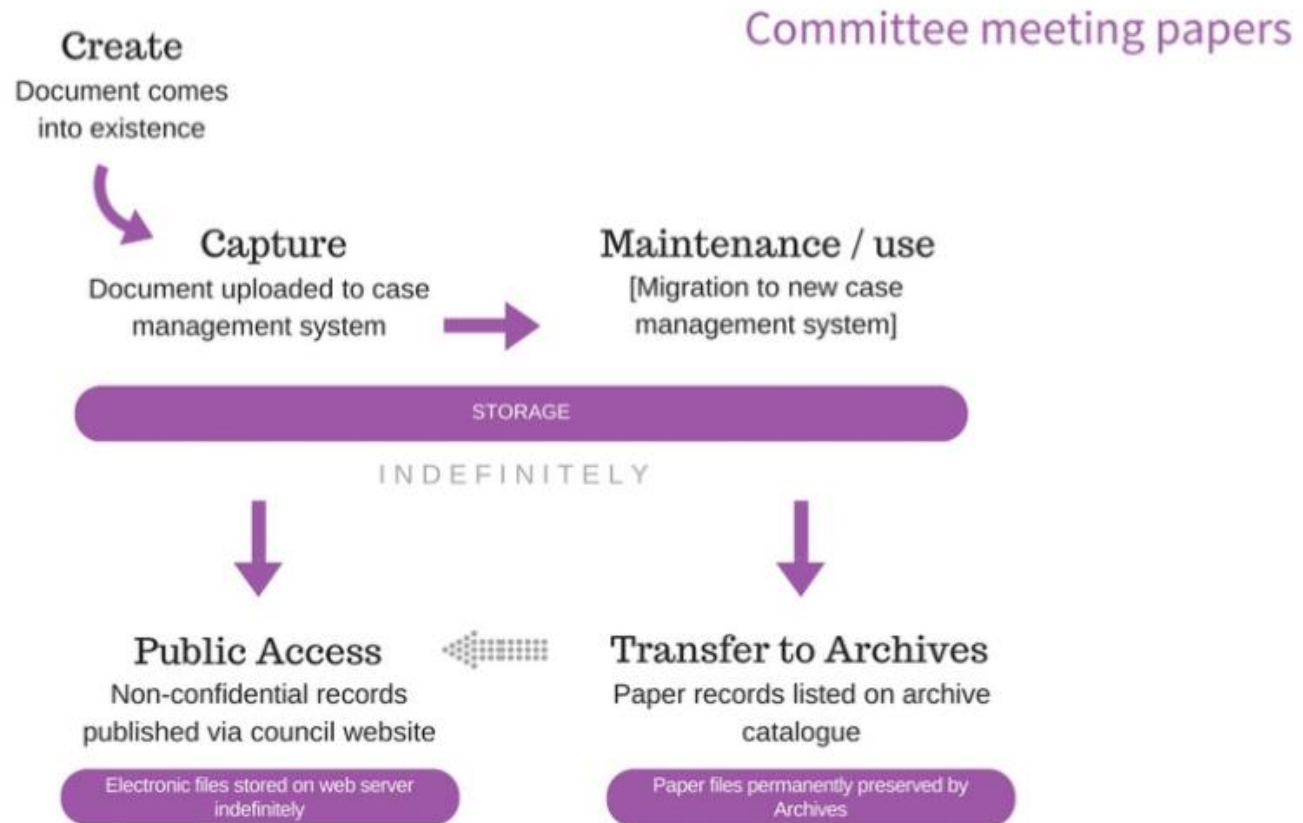
Archives First

Berkshire Record Office; [Dorset History Centre](#); East Sussex Record Office; [Gloucestershire Archives](#); Hampshire Record Office; [Isle of Wight Record Office](#); Portsmouth History Centre; [Southampton Archives](#); Surrey History Centre; [West Sussex Record Office](#); Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre

SSF proposal:

- To 'carry out a life-cycle analysis of so-called "born-digital" records from their creation through to their accession' [and] 'to understand how archivists can contribute to the long-term management of preserved digital material'
- Focus on key records classes – public records; key democratic service records – all which will be or already are created by computerised transaction processing systems

Archives First



V Cothey & C Pickavance [Archives First: Digital preservation project](#) (2017) p12

Archives First

Follow-up SSF proposal:

- To ‘investigate archival information package export specification and functionality in respect of’:
 - Liquidlogic Children’s Social Care System
 - Modern.gov
 - Mosaic
- To ‘determine the minimum requirements of a long-term storage system for archival information packages and identify options for local authorities’

East of England Regional Archive Council

Sharing Archivematica Pilot Project

Cambridgeshire Archives; Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies;
History of Advertising Trust; Norfolk Record Office; Peterborough Archives

SSF proposal:

To collect & extract digital records
irrespective of storage media

To appraise digital records in a timely
manner using efficient procedures

To collect & generate appropriate rights
and metadata during the pre-ingest
phase

To store digital archives in a 'trusted
digital repository' (ISO 16363)

To establish preservation, data
management and administrative
procedures compliant with the OAIS
reference model (ISO 14721)

To provide for the discovery & use of
digital archives from their catalogues

To develop staff skills to manage digital
archives and advise digital information
producers/suppliers

Digital Learning Set

- Foster and facilitate a partnership/network of interested services as a learning set
- Promote awareness across the archives sector of the different regional approaches to the digital challenge
- Inform TNA's understanding of sector need, and of opportunities for TNA leadership and/or support

Impact of collaborative working

- Delivering greater efficiencies and savings through working together, even in a climate of reduced resources
- Maximising staff expertise and knowledge
- Establishing standards of best practice regionally

“The possibilities of coming together to share knowledge and expertise are far greater than if archive services worked in isolation”

– Archives West Midlands