Archiving Websites

Introduction to the issues

Catherine Redfern

What is the problem?

➢ Problems with "us"

➢ Problems with "them"

2

Problems with us

- Convincing people that websites **are** records and deserve to be archived
- Focus on short-term
- New skills and knowledge needed
- Lack of electronic records management

Problems with them

- ➢ Machine dependent
- ➢ Variety of file formats used
- ➢ "Dynamic" sites
- ➢ The sheer size of it all
- ➢ How do we ensure accountability?

4

Basically…

Same problems as electronic and digital records…

…only more so!

Archiving – what?

- ➢ What are the boundaries

- ➢ Keep only "born digital"?

- ➢ Keep everything – or be selective?

Archiving – when?

➢ <u>When</u> in its "lifecycle" should it be archived?

➢ <u>How often</u> do we need to archive it?

Archiving – how?

- Print to paper?!
- A "snapshot"
- Other options?

How important is capturing the 'experience' of using the website?

Long-term preservation

- Media used to store is fragile

- Refreshing
- Migration
- Emulation

Conclusion

➤ The "one perfect solution" does not exist

➤ Importance of flexibility – different solutions for different websites