

Objective – Archival preservation of Web sites

Steve Bordwell



National Archives of Scotland

Scottish Parliament Web Site

Our first attempt:

- snapshot
- second snapshot – too large
- size
- links
- become more selective



Suckler Cow Premium Scheme

- first SE site permitting data entry
- based on Oracle database
- uses active server pages, cannot preserve entire application
- Screen Cam to preserve the look and feel
- preserve the dataset



Technological advances makes preservation problematic

- Hypertext links, and volatility
- Complex underlying systems
- Issues of long term preservation
- Access
- Interoperability



The Web becomes the Grid -

...moving away from traditional websites where documents are posted, towards access portals through which databases etc can be interrogated interactively, and which different sets of people will have different views of the site depending on the software they use to access it, what they are accessing, even who they are.



Should we even try to preserve web sites?

- Focus on content
- Preserve documents, datasets – an RM approach
- Snapshots or web cam for ‘look and feel’

Main influences on developing the above thinking

- National Archives of Australia, *Archiving Web Resources: A Policy for Keeping Records of Web-based Activity in the Commonwealth Government* and *Archiving Web Resources: Guidelines for Keeping Records of Web-based Activity in the Commonwealth Government*.



National Archives of Scotland Contacts

Laura Mitchell – laura.mitchell@nas.gov.uk

Alison Horsburgh – alison.horsburgh@nas.gov.uk

Steve Bordwell – steve.bordwell@nas.gov.uk

