Trusted Digital Repositories

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• **Attributes of Trusted Digital Repositories: Meeting the Needs of Research Resources**
  – Proposes a definition of a *trusted* digital repository
  – Identifies the primary attributes of a *trusted* digital repository
  – Articulates a framework for the development of a certification program
  – Identifies the responsibilities of an OAIS-compliant repository
Certification

• Key component of a *trusted* digital repository

• Self-assessment will not always be adequate
  – especially if institutions choose to use third-party services
  – though may have a role in the maintenance and enhancement of digital repositories
Certification Needs

• In past, certification practices have been informal and implicit
• Need to be formalized and made explicit
• The attributes to be measured in certification are easier to define than the process and infrastructure of certification
Types of Certification

• Two viable models in place in libraries and archives
  – audit model
  – standards model

• Four approaches suggested at AWIICS (1999)
  – Individual
  – Program
  – Process
  – Data
AWIICS

• Elements from four processes could form a certification program providing layers of trust
  – could carry a high degree of confidence
• Preliminary checklist for certification created
  – could serve as a further tool
Draft Report Findings

• Interested communities and experts can & should develop a program for certifying trusted digital repositories

• Checklist concept and certifiable elements provide a base for developing a certification framework
Framework for Certification Program

- Determine the need for an official certifying body
- Identify the attributes to be measured
- Specify the frequency or cycle of certification
- Define the conditions for revocation of certification
Questions in Need of Answers (1 of 2)

• What designated body will undertake digital repository certification?
• Who will designate this body?
• Who will be on the certification board?
• What stakeholders will that board represent?
• How will individuals be qualified to perform certifications?
Questions in Need of Answers (1 of 2)

• What role will libraries and archives have in developing and maintaining digital repositories certification?
• What attributes are to be assessed?
• What assessment tools will be developed, by whom, and how will these tools be integrated into the certification process?
• And many more . . .
More work ahead . . .

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