The Cedars Project

Digital Curation:
digital archives, libraries, and e-science.

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The Cedars Project

- CURL Exemplars in Digital Archives
- Part of eLib Phase 3
- April 1998 - March 2001
- Extension year funded by JISC April 2001 - March 2002
Cedars’ Objectives

- To explore issues relating to the long-term preservation and continued accessibility of digital materials for research libraries
  1. Promote awareness
  2. Identify, document, and disseminate strategic frameworks to develop collection management policies
  3. Investigate, document, and promote methods appropriate to the long-term preservation of different classes of digital resources
Defining Characteristics of Cedars

- Aimed primarily at university libraries

- Interested in a wide range of resources typically included in library collections

- Focus is on long-term preservation of these resources

- Aims to have practical outcomes
Major Deliverables to Date

- Cedars Demonstrator Archive
- Cedars Preservation Metadata outline specification
Objectives and Major Deliverables for Extension Year

- Focus on consolidation and dissemination
  - re-design the Cedars website
  - produce a series of guidance documents
  - host invitation-only workshop (February 2002)
Cedars Final Workshop

• Will include participation of Publishers

• Aims to focus on work Cedars has done and how that can be used

• Will consider what needs to happen post - Cedars
The Wider Context
The Wider Context, Related Work

RLG/OCLC

OAIS

JISC

PADI

Cedars
Preservation Metadata

Cedars Outline Specification

- Aimed:
  1. To provide the Cedars Demonstrator project with a basic set of metadata elements for its proof-of-concept archive
  2. To contribute to the international collaboration effort involved in developing a standard specification for preservation metadata
Preservation Metadata

- RLG/OCLC Working Group on Preservation Metadata

  ✴ Aimed to:

  1. develop a comprehensive metadata framework applicable to a broad range of digital preservation activity
Broad Lessons/Reflections

- Metadata is very important!!
- Digital Preservation is global
- Increasing consensus
- Communication is much improved
Lessons Specific to Cedars

- The OAIS model can be successfully implemented
- Representation networks are crucial for maintaining meaningful access
- There is still a need to be cautious
Lessons in Caution

- Digital Preservation requires thought
  ✴️ It is not safe to make assumptions

- Determine a resource’s significant properties
  ✴️ Know what you are preserving
  ✴️ Know what you are not preserving

- Preserve the original bytestream as well
  ✴️ Always have a fallback so that new decisions can be taken
  ✴️ Mistakes can then be rectified
The Final Lesson

- There is a lot still to be done

- but a lot has been achieved
Cedars is a collaborative project between three partners.

Cedars Phase 1 Test sites
- Six test sites demonstrated proof-of-concept distributed archive.

Cedars Phase 2 Test sites
- Working intensively with two main test sites, KB and BL.
- Input from a range of data services.
The Wider Context - related work

- The OAIS model
- The CAMiLEON project
- RLG/OCLC
  - Working Group on Preservation Metadata
  - Attributes of a Trusted Digital Repository
- PADI
- JISC Information Environment for HE/FE
- The Digital Preservation Coalition