Beyond the Harvest: Long Term Preservation of the UK Web Archive

JISC, the DPC and the UK Web Archiving Consortium Workshop
Missing links: the enduring web

Maureen Pennock

Digital Preservation project manager, BL Web Archiving Programme

July 2009

The UK Web Archive: Some background

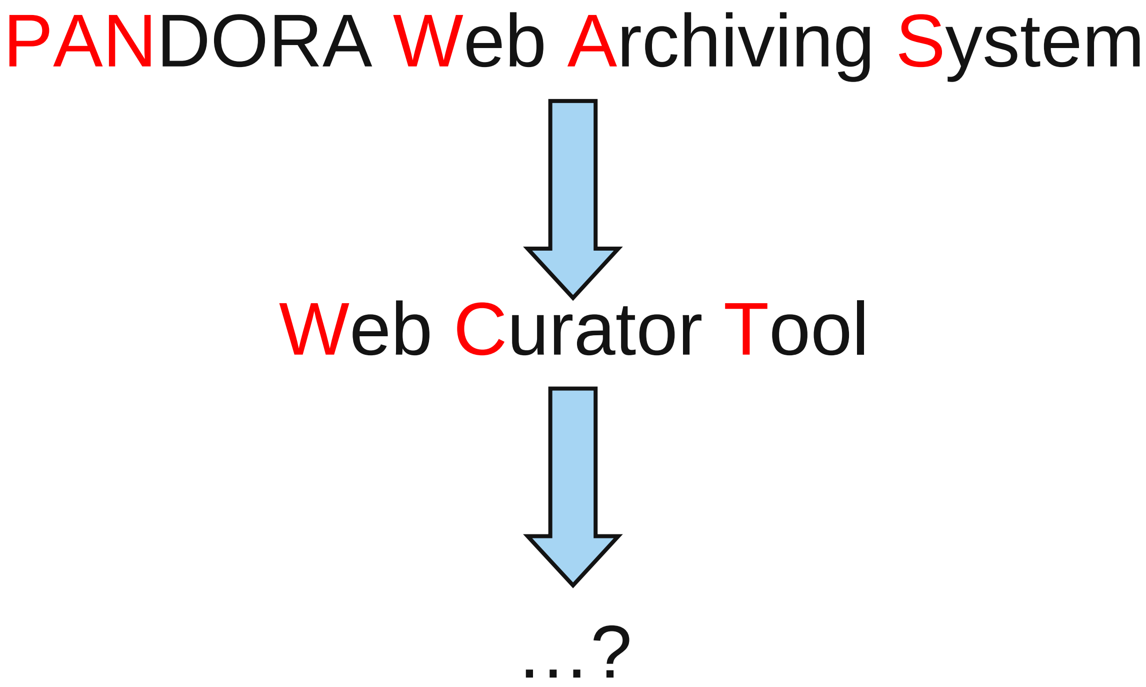
- JISC Feasibility study (2003) led to foundation of UKWAC
- UK Web Archive collection started in 2004
  - PANDAS software from the NLA
  - Web Curator Tool from BL & NLNZ
- Now contains almost 5,000 different titles
- Exclusively comprised of selectively harvested material
  - High quality control measures
- Over 4TB in size
  - Potentially unlimited range of file types

An Enduring Prospect?

- Objectives:
  - Build a comprehensive web archive as part of the British Library’s digital collection
  - Preserve the archive so that it remains accessible into the future
  - Put in place [the necessary] people, process and systems
- Challenge of digital preservation:
  - Managing changes in technology so that web archives remain reliably accessible over time
  - Size and structure of web archives make this a huge challenge
  - Most activity so far concentrated on harvesting process

A task of many parts…

1. Documenting System Dependencies



PANDORA Web Archiving System

Web Curator Tool

...?

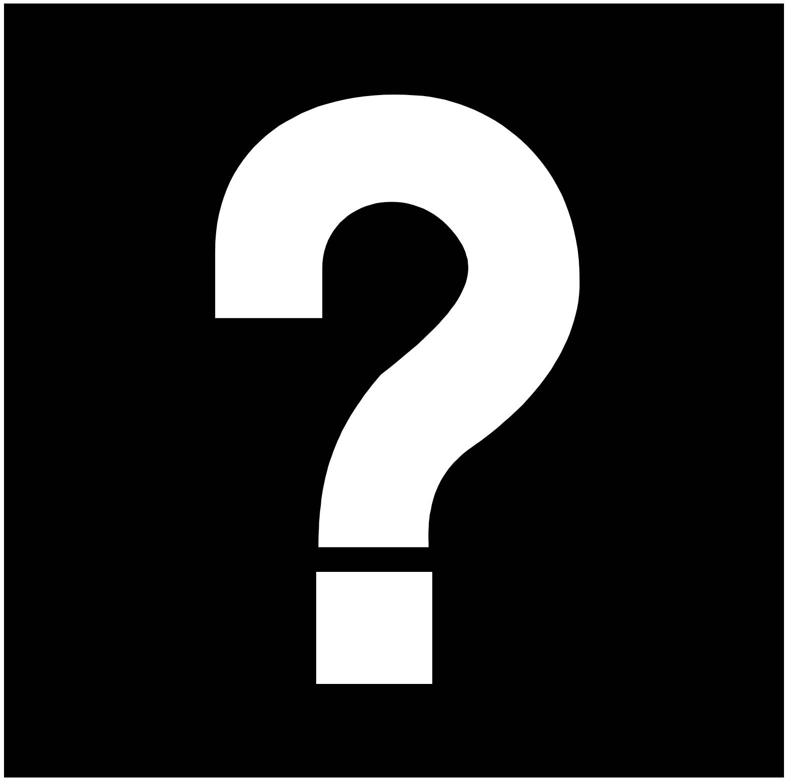
2. Containers & Metadata Standards

ARC

WARC

PREMIS

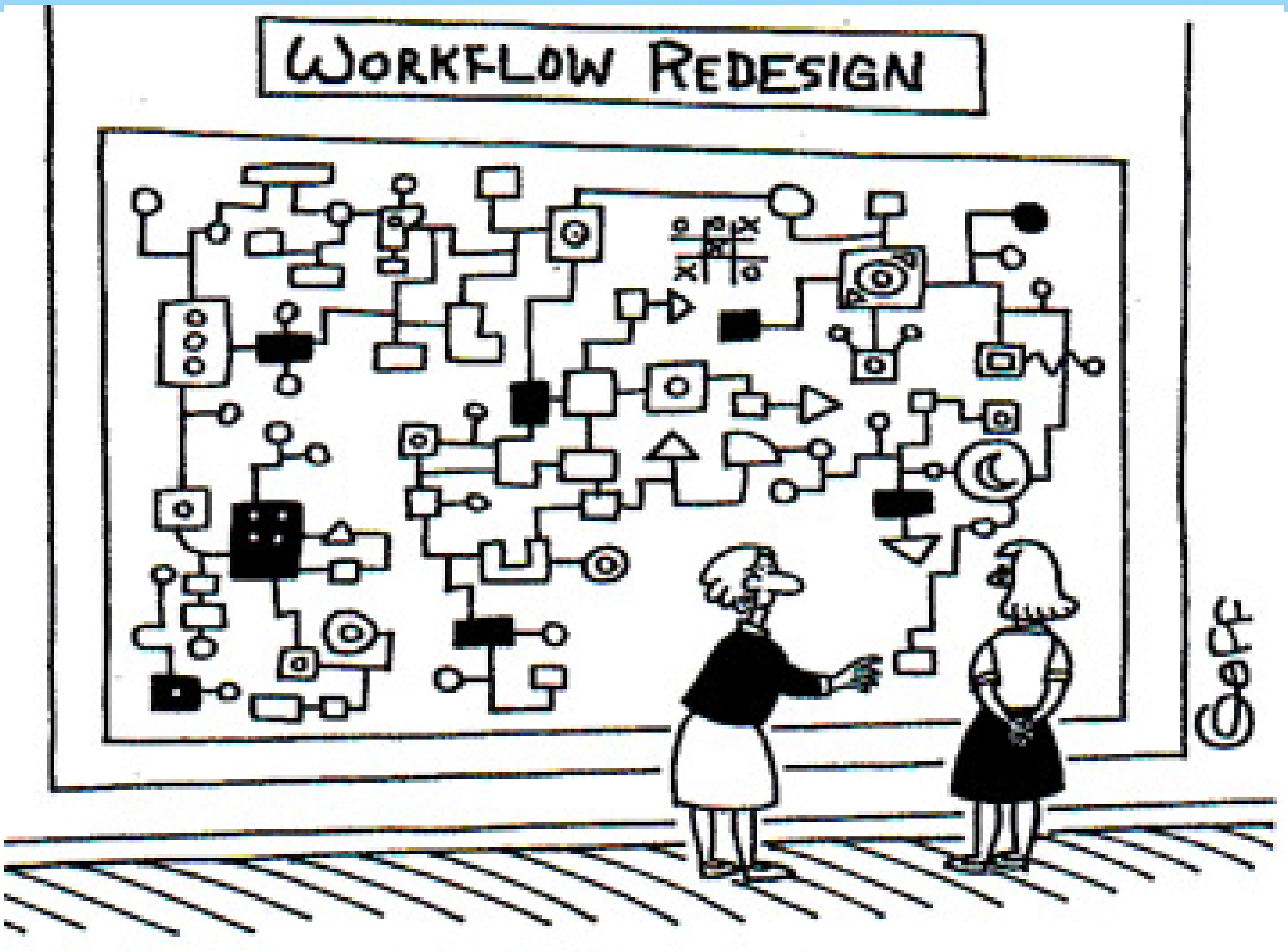
METS



3. Metadata for Archived Websites

- What are we describing?
- What is the document model?
- What about preservation?
- Variations for different information packages
- How can we support retrieval?

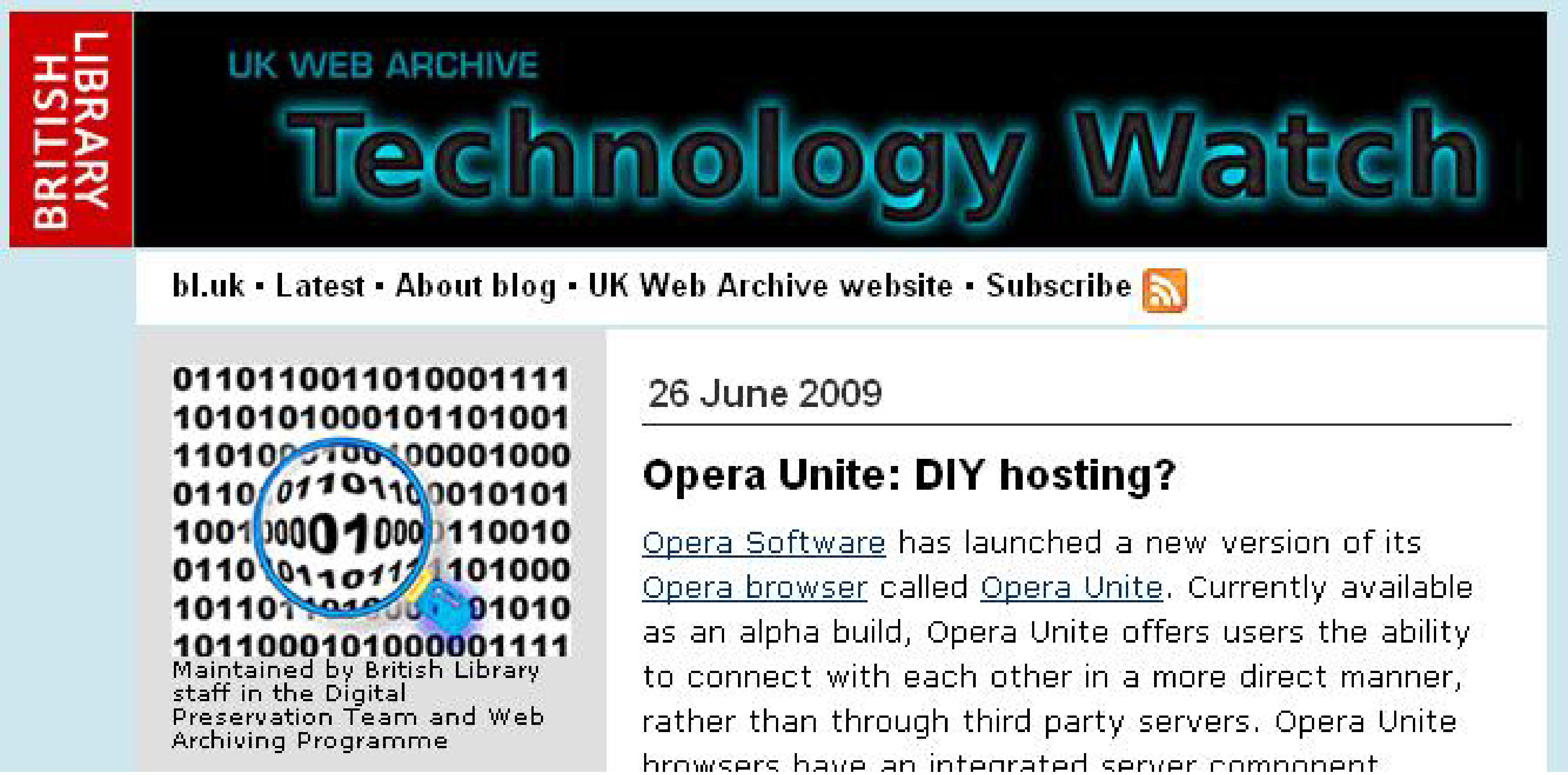
4. Preservation Workflow



"And this is where our ED workflow redesign team went insane."

Source: http://thoughtworker.in/2008/09/21/workflow-design/

5. Technology Watch Blog



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Maintained by British Library staff in the Digital Preservation Team and Web Archiving Programme

26 June 2009

Opera Unite: DIY hosting?

Opera Software has launched a new version of its Opera browser called Opera Unite. Currently available as an alpha build, Opera Unite offers users the ability to connect with each other in a more direct manner, rather than through third party servers. Opera Unite browsers have an integrated server component

6. Defining our Preservation Strategy

- A long term activity
  - Integrating and combining previous activities
  - Preservation planning
  - Significant properties research
  - Establishing a preservation workbench
  - Putting in place satisfactory virus protection
  - Revisiting established ‘best practice’ re – harvesting
  - Regular Risk Assessment
  - Preserving web archives in BL’s digital library system (DLS)
- Continued collaboration
- Consistency with BL’s wider digital preservation strategy

To infinity and beyond?

- But what of the future?
  - Growth of online, closed communities
  - Alternative means of access
  - Virtual online worlds
  - Personalisation and personalised browsing
  - Deep web (still)
  - Capturing transactions
  - Browser and plug-in development
  - Increases in size of web and websites
  - And then some…

Not the end, but the beginning of a long journey!

maureen.pennock@bl.uk

http://www.webarchive.org.uk/