Frameworks for e-Content

Decoding the Digital Conference, DPC/Preservation Advisory Centre, BL, 27th July 2010

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What is JISC and what does it do?

JISC

Government

Funding Councils

Universities

UK Universities and Colleges

BIS

Department for Business Innovation & Skills

hefce

Higher Education Funding Council for England

hefcw

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

JISC

Scottish Funding Council

Department for Employment and Learning
Why does JISC work with organisations outside of HE/FE?

Universities need access to useful, informative, interesting and novel content
Which bits of JISC are most relevant to managing content?
The themes of the conference 1

To establish a shared understanding of preserving digital collections …

which might also be understood as:

Giving ‘preservation’ people a chance to swap notes with ‘collections’ people, because there is currently an insufficient level of mutual understanding of how people in these roles should work together?

Have we got to the point where we can actually talk about a ‘preservation person’.

Do we know what these roles are yet?

Maybe we’re starting to get there with emerging curricula?
What are the similarities and differences between preserving physical and digital collections?…

That’s a complicated question but at a high-level, there is a shared sense of anxiety that is common to both.

There is a common framework around selection, appraisal, managing risk, designing the right workflow, etc …

But we have the same problem now as we’ve always had …

“In any case, the costs of conserving the relatively small volume of records already held by state government archives exceeds the current social expenditure for the maintenance of these archival records by a factor of ten”

ARCHIVAL METHODS by David Bearman
Does use and access shape approaches to preservation or does technology shape approaches to preservation?...

Looks like the old debate of social versus technological determinism

There are some things that are best left to the theorists! …

Harold Innis’s Communication Theories – Time and space
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harold_Innis's_communications_theories

The significant properties of digital objects
‘The underlying abstract form’
M Hedstrom, CA Lee - Proceedings of the DLM-Forum, 2002 - ils.unc.edu

There is an intellectual framework around managing and preserving digital content.
Frameworks

Emotional Framework

Intellectual Framework
Frameworks

- Emotional Framework
- Intellectual Framework
- Policy Framework
- Social and Legal Framework
- Temporal Framework
- Technical Framework
- Strategic Framework
Policy Framework

What sort of procedures and processes do we need?
What do we need to keep?
What type of information is aligned with the stakeholder’s requirements?
What does our institutional remit allow us, or enable us to collect?

WHAT?

http://www.jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/programmes/preservation/jiscpolicy_p1finalreport.pdf

Open DOAR, Directory of Open Access Repositories, recorded preservation policies worldwide,
http://www.opendoar.org

ROARMAP, Registry of Open Access Repository Material Archiving Policies,
http://www.eprints.org/openaccess/policysignup/

Digital Curation Centre, Virtual Goody Bag, Policies for Digital Curation, Data Management planning, funders expectation for data management planning,
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/events/2010/04/jisc10/virtualgoodybag/dcc.aspx
Social and Legal Framework

Who needs the information?
Who owns it?
Where is it?
Who do we need to collaborate with?
Where can we make it available?

WHO? and WHERE?


UK Institutional Repository Search, http://irs.mimas.ac.uk/demonstrator/


Temporal Framework

When can the information be made available?
When will information be most useful?
How long should information be kept?
When will it be vulnerable to loss?

WHEN?

Open access to research outputs: embargo periods and knowledge as an international public good, (Sept 2008), Final Report to RCUK
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/topics/opentechnologies/openaccess/reports/rcuk.aspx

Web Archiving: a feasibility study for JISC and the Wellcome Trust,
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/preservation/webarchiving.aspx

JISC InfoNet Records Management InfoKit,
http://www.jiscinfonet.ac.uk/infokits/records-management

DCC Lifecycle Model, http://www.dcc.ac.uk/resources/curation-lifecycle-model

Digital Preservation Briefing Paper, November 2006
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/publications/briefingpapers/2006/pub_digipreservationbp.aspx
Technical Framework

How should information be managed and preserved?
How can we engage with the tools and methods that are available?
How do we identify, validate, migrate, check and verify information?
How do we emulate legacy and complex environments?
How do we keep up with emerging technology?

HOW?

Preserv and KeepIT projects, http://blogs.ecs.soton.ac.uk/keepit/
Technology and Standards Watch, http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/services/techwatch.aspx
DCC observatory/horizon scanning role, http://www.dcc.ac.uk/
Strategic Framework

Why are we doing this?
What are we trying to achieve?
What benefits accrue to the people we care about?
Why are we interested in certain types of information and not others?

WHY?

DRAMBORA, http://www.repositoryaudit.eu/
Greening Information Management Assessment Framework, http://www.greeningim.org.uk/
A basic framework for managing and preserving digital content …

With the first and most important question to establish being the WHY?

Do you or your organisation *really* need to take responsibility for long-term preservation of your content …?
Digitisation Programme Digital Preservation Study (2009)

In 2009, DPC with University of London Computer Centre and Portico carried out an extensive analysis for the JISC Digitisation Programme, examining the projects funded through this programme and assessing their plans for access beyond the existence of their project grants. A scaled down version of the report with analysis is published here and a number of case studies have also been produced.

Based on this assessment, the DPC ULCC and Portico made the following recommendations to JISC and JISC projects which are likely to be of immediate relevance to other funding agents. The recommendations fall into two groups. They are stated here, and explained in more detail in section 4 of the report.

Digitisation Programme Digital Preservation Study (2009)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DPC Preservation Planning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who:</strong> Identify the key players involved with long-term preservation of the targeted content.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>What:</strong> Describe or characterize the collection and content.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Where:</strong> Document the locations of all the copies of the content and metadata.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>When:</strong> Document the targeted preservation timeframe and impact of loss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>How:</strong> Document how the key content management and preservation tasks will occur.</td>
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Focused on the JISC Digitisation Phase II Programme (2007-2009)
http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/digitisation/projects.aspx

19th Century Pamphlets Online
Polemical voices from the past on the great debates of the 19th century

A Digital Library of Core e-Resources on Ireland
Visit a one stop shop for Irish studies e-resources

Archival Sound Recordings 2
A critical mass of rich audio material from all over the world, at your fingertips

British Cartoon Archive Digitisation (BCAD) project
Browse the largest online archive of cartoons in the UK

British Newspapers 1620-1900
Read the first three centuries of newspapers from all regions of the British Isles

Cabinet Papers, 1915-1977
In its own words: the British government at peace and war

Digitisation of the Independent Radio News Archive
From Callaghan to Thatcher, a contemporary audio archive from the only UK radio news archive outside the BBC

East London Theatre Archive
Putting the spotlight on East End music hall heritage
First World War Poetry Digital Archive
Preserving and sharing memories of the Great War through the words of its poets

Freeze Frame – Historic Polar Images 1845-1960
Making historic Polar exploration resources accessible to all

Historic Boundaries of Britain
Mapping the past: a digital library of Britain's borders

InView: Moving Images in the Public Sphere
Watch the key social, political and economic issues of our time unfold

John Johnson Collection: an Archive of Printed Ephemera
Discover hidden treasures of everyday life from the 16th century to the 20th

Pre-Raphaelite Resource Site
Trace a movement that changed the face of English art

UK Theses Digitisation project
Opening access to over 5,000 of the most popular British research theses

Welsh Journals Online
Free online access to the best Welsh periodicals – past, present and future
Digitisation Programme Digital Preservation Study (2009)

Recommendations

For institutions and projects:
1. Write and Implement a Preservation Policy for Each Digital Collection
2. Define Collection and Content Management Procedures
3. Preserve Content in a Suitable Digital Preservation Infrastructure
4. Identify How the Collection will be Sustained Over Time
5. Recognize that accepting funding for digitisation implies an institutional commitment which outlives the period of funding.
6. Be clear about retention periods for different types of created digital content

For funders:
1. Consider designating or establishing preservation services for content and use appropriate methods to confirm that conditions are being met
2. Articulate more clearly and enforce requirements for the retention of content
3. Make the long-term duty on institutions clearer
Digital Preservation Case Notes

Welsh Journals Online
The National Library of Wales | Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru

This is one of four case studies created to illustrate
digital preservation practices within digitization
projects, sharing honestly the challenges of establishing
digital continuity from a project of limited lifespan. It is
selected from 16 projects which were funded by the
JISC Digitisation Programme between 2004 and 2009.
This Programme has provided digital access to
collections of international significance that would
otherwise be inaccessible. In doing so it has also
generated an opportunity to learn about the critical
success factors in digitisation, such as ensuring long
term access from short term projects. Each case study
is based on an interview carried out on behalf of the
JISC by the Digitisation Preservation Project.

Digitisation technician at work, NLW
management skills as well as knowledge of data
standards, system development requirements.
Some Parting Thoughts

It may be confusing right now … but what an opportunity!!
Service providers will emerge

Preservation provided as part of the operating system toolset …?
An embedded characterisation & validation service
Easy default options

The current response would be around questions of trust
Thanks!

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