Digital Preservation: Next steps

DPC Activities and Publications
Other sources

Keep the conversation going after the event ...

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WHO: The Digital Preservation Coalition

...to make our digital memory accessible tomorrow...

Enabling Agenda-setting
... first and foremost a coalition...

Shared challenge
Cross-sector
Cross-discipline
Policy and practice
... Enabling Leadership Programme Handbook Case Notes FAQ What’s new in DP Technology Watch Reports Roadshow Training Invitational Workshops Conferences
Small steps: long view

Glasgow Museums

This is one of a series of case studies created to illustrate digital preservation in practice, sharing honestly the challenges of establishing digital continuity in practical environments. It provides key messages from institutions that are taking digital preservation seriously.

Introduction

Glasgow Museums has spent the past decade planning for the preservation of its collection through the completion of an extensive program of environmentally-controlled, bespoke stores in the south side of the city. The Glasgow Museums Resource Centre is dedicated to preserving the city's museum collection of around 1.2 million objects and a related archive which includes a significant collection of oral history interviews.

The Museums’ focus has very much been on conservation and access to the physical objects, but it has become increasingly aware of the importance which a growing body of digital resources play in interpreting and managing the physical collection – and thus the digital collection, is significant in its own right. This collection is diverse in form and function and managed by a range of different departments within the organization.

Where to start?

Much of the literature in digital preservation emphasizes the tools and technical requirements for long-term access. However, a team of technicians, curators and conservators across the Museums recognized that they could only justify the effort of securing the digital collection if they could also demonstrate the impact and value which it could have in the context of the Museums’ mission. So, rather than starting with tools, a digital preservation working group was established within Glasgow Museums in 2005 to look at what digital collections were most valued by each department and to report which ones were at greatest risk. A survey quickly established that four collection areas were deemed to be of greatest value and at greatest risk: digital images, audio-visual materials, digital archives and oral history recordings.

Of these four, it was noted that the oral history collection presented both the greatest opportunity and was at greatest risk. There was no single member of staff or section who knew after the collection which included a proliferation of media types some of which were already obsolete, containing material that was unique, local and directly relevant to the mission of the Museums. The collection was growing and most recording was taking place in digital form, but with no guidelines or standards for capturing or format. Even so it was recognized that, properly managed, the oral history collection could be very rewarding in support of research, interpretation and access. It is not hard to justify why a local museum service should prioritize care of a collection like this.

Key Messages:

- The benefits of digital preservation can be expressed in terms of new opportunities they create in the short and long term. Even relatively simple steps can bring early rewards if properly embedded within the mission of an organization.
DPC Leadership Programme
Funds members to attend specialist training events:

‘DPTP’ from ULCC

‘How to set up and run a data centre’ from UKDA

‘PLANETS way’ from OPF

(APARSEN, TIMBUS ...)

www.dpconline.org
DPC member briefing days

Preserving Digital Art, March 30th, London

Preserving digital sound and vision, April 7th, London

Digital Forensics (tbc)

Preserving Email (tbc)

File level metadata (tbc)
Agenda setting and Advocacy

DPC provides the following:

- Thematic Task Forces
- Public Policy Review
- Newsroom
- Digital Preservation Award
- Direct briefings for policy makers
- Knowledge base on ‘state of the art’
Public Policy Consultations...

Digital Britain
Legal Deposit Legislation
Archives for the 21st Century
NHSS
Copyright exceptions
Public records review

http://www.dpconline.org/advocacy/direct-advocacy
Specialist Task Forces:
• Web Archiving and Preservation
• Certification?
• E-publication supply chain?
• Curriculum?

http://www.dpconline.org/advocacy/knowledge-base
Knowledge Base

Mind the Gap
Local Government Archives
Review of JISC Digitization Programme
Join us!

• Full Members
• Associate Members
• Personal Members
(Many!) More sources of advice?
• British Library PAC
  www.bl.uk/blpac/
• Archives and Records Association
  www.archives.org.uk
• Digital Curation Centre
  www.dcc.ac.uk
• UKOLN
  www.ukoln.ac.uk
• Alliance for Permanent Access
  www.alliancepermanentaccess.org
• Open Planets Foundation
  www.openplanetsfoundation.org
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