Challenges to digital preservation at LSHTM

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The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

• Postgraduate medical school teaching and undertaking research in public and global health
• One of the highest rated research institutions in the UK
• 4000 students from 100 plus countries following 22 taught masters courses (650 London based, 2700 distance learning and 400 research degree)
• 1300 staff
The Archives & Records Management Service

- Archives Service established in 2002
- Records Management Service established in 2004
- Responsibility for Freedom of Information and Data Protection
- Manage the School’s image database
- Staff of two Archivists three days a week and an Archives Assistant one day a week
Projects relating to digital preservation

Library & Archive Service Projects

• Archive projects
  – Map digitisation
  – Slide digitisation
• PhotoLibrary – image management database
• JISC funded survey of research data in 2003
• Six easy steps to managing information training
• Institutional repository
Projects relating to digital preservation

School-wide projects

• Information Management and Security Policy
• Email archiving
• Research data working group on making data accessible
Challenges to preservation

- Under-resourced
- Reactive not proactive
- Lack of skills
- Difficulty of getting the message across
- Academic/research culture
- New technology
- Need external influence or senior management buy-in
Next steps

• Build on current projects
• Build digital preservation into archive strategy
• Keep up to date with external projects and developments
• Apply for external funding for archival digital preservation projects
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