Persisting with Identifiers

Getting a handle on things from an archivist’s perspective…

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Introduction

I’m an archivist, not a repository manager!
LSE’s Digital Library

- Born-digital items, digitisation projects, e-theses, public lectures
- From the Library, the School, and beyond
- Developed by representatives from across the Library
Artful Moderate Ruse Exposed

Description

Progressive Party poster from the London County Council Election of 1907

This poster shows a court scene with a judge seated in the top left of the picture with London Public Opinion written behind him. Below him is a portly man with 'Vested Interests' written upon his sleeve. To the right, around a table, stand two policemen each holding up a jacket, and more jackets lay upon the table. The more central of the two policemen is saying 'This coat does not fit him your honour, and belongs to someone else.' Upon the coat he is holding is written 'Municipal Reform 1907.' The other policeman declares, 'This coat fits him like a glove your honour.' He is holding a coat marked 'Moderate'.
Reinventing the wheel?
PIDs to the rescue!

- Compliance with best practice
- Designing and using a schema delivers greater control over files
- They aid long term preservation by the fact that they do not change
- PIDs can be used to unify objects and metadata
What we needed

• PIDs that are:
  • Opaque (but not too opaque)
  • Long (but not too long)
“I didn’t get to where I am today by waffling”
Points In Discussion

- Practical in Discoverability: PID format, transparency and length
- Pinning it Down: What gets a PID and when
- Resolvers: ARK, DOI, Handle, URN, NOID and PURL.
Conclusions

- More complicated than you might think!
- Most important thing is persistence
And finally…

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