This is a summary of selected recent activity in the field of digital preservation compiled from a number of resources including the digital-preservation and padiforum-l mailing lists. Additional or related items of interest may also be included.

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1. News from organisations and initiatives

1.1 Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC)

January saw the commencement of a year of collaborative work between the DPC and the six partners of the UK Web Archiving Consortium to raise awareness of issues pertaining to long term access to the World Wide Web. Six leading UK institutions, all members of the DPC, including the British Library, the National Archives, National Library of Wales, National Library of Scotland, JISC and the Wellcome Trust, funded this unique collaboration to address the technical and curatorial issues related to web archiving. More information on UKWAC and a forthcoming conference can be found at the DPC website. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: 

http://www.dpconline.org/graphics/about/ukwac.html

In February Dr William Kilbride took up the role of DPC Executive Director. Formerly the Research Manager at Glasgow Museums, William was involved in a large number of digital preservation activities, tutored on the Digital Preservation Training Programme (DPTP) and was a judge on the DPC 2007 Digital Preservation Award. A second office was opened by the DPC at the University of Glasgow where William is based.

March saw the DPC welcome a new government consultation and submit a response to Digital Britain: The Interim Report, a national strategy to secure Britain’s place at the forefront of the global digital economy. Published by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the interim report underlines the importance of the communications sector, its contribution to the economy and its role in building Britain’s industrial future. The full DPC response can be found online at the DPC website. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: 


http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/broadcasting/5631.aspx

In April the DPC was pleased to offer two scholarships to attend the DPTP at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, May 18th-20th 2009. Applications were welcomed from DPC members. The scholarship covers all tuition fees, course materials, access to online resources, lunch and refreshments. Eligibility criteria included: The role that DPTP will play in the applicant’s career development; the benefit to the affiliated organization; and how the applicant’s job role relates to Digital Preservation. Announcement of the winners and more information is available from the DPC. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: 

http://www.dpconline.org/graphics/training/0905Leadership.html

A series of Roadshows organised by the Society of Archives and sponsored by Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC), The National Archives (TNA), Planets and Cymal are being held across the UK to raise awareness of digital preservation tools and techniques. The events aim to raise awareness of the issues, to demonstrate that there are solutions that don’t involve spending large amounts of money, and to show how to take the first, small, incremental steps in this field. The first event was held in Gloucester in April. Presentations from the day are available on the DPC website along with details for forthcoming Roadshows. Retrieved 11 May 2009
The DPC led project to study preservation planning within the JISC Digitisation Programme came to a close at the end of April with a final report submitted to the JISC for its consideration. The project was delivered by a consortium comprising the ULCC, Portico and the DPC. The study investigated the preservation plans and processes of projects funded through the JISC’s digitisation programme and to identify possible areas of risk. The report offers recommendations, at both an individual project level and for JISC as a whole. The identification of risks and good practices is a benefit to the broader community so it is hoped that a summary report for wider dissemination will follow. For more information see the project website. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://digipressurvey.jiscinvolve.org/

During the last four months the DPC was represented at a number of events and various presentations were given. These include: DCC Evaluation Event, February 2009; UKRDS Conference, ‘An International Conference on the UK Research Data Service Feasibility Study’ February 2009; JISC Conference, ‘Opening Digital Doors’ March 2009; The KB hosted International workshop on digital preservation ‘Curating Research: e-Merging New Roles and Responsibilities in the European Landscape’ April 2009 (discussion available to DPC members in the members area of the DPC website). Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://www.dpconline.org/graphics/reports/index.html#curatingresearch

The DPC continues to grow, and currently has 31 members, 14 of which are full members and 17 associate members.

### 1.2 Digital Curation Centre (DCC)

A DCC Curation Policy Report Examines the UK research councils existing preservation polices. The report identifies gaps in the curation infrastructure which are needed to support such policies. It also looks at research council mandates and HE provision. Key recommendations are provided for future policy development.


In recent months the DCC has published a new curation manual chapter with the release of two new standards watch papers, two new briefing papers and a legal watch paper. See below for further details of these papers.

An article in D-Lib offers a good overview of the IDEA workshop which focused on the future of the digital curation profession.

1.3 JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee)

The JISC Repositories and Preservation Programme formally came to a close at the end of March 2009 and various strands of that programme are now taking stock of the outcomes and outputs of the various projects involved. In the preservation area, the relevant projects that have just finished are, SHERPA DP2, INSPECT, SOAPI, PRESERV 2, REMAP, AIDA and Preserving Software. Final reports and other outputs will be made available on the JISC preservation web pages. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://www.jisc.ac.uk/preservation

Recent reports that are currently available (from the link above) include the National Data Infrastructures study which takes a look at the arrangements and policies that are in place in a number of OECD countries to enable the sharing of research data. Also available is a study that looks at attitudes towards the preservation of learning materials.

Also getting underway is another phase of work by Charles Beagrie Ltd. and partners to supplement the 'Keeping Research Data Safe' report, an influential report from last year which looked at how the cost of curating research data might be calculated. Keeping Research Data Safe 2 (KRDS2) will examine long-lived datasets and associated cost information held by several data centres to try and further determine methods of costing long-term data storage. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://blog.beagrie.com/2009/04/09/new-project-keeping-research-data-safe-2/

Another major new initiative that builds on previous work is a third phase of the LIFE project. Jointly funded by JISC and the Research Information Network (RIN), LIFE3 will develop a costing tool that uses the framework already established during previous phases of work to help organisations calculate the cost of preserving a range of digital materials. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://www.life.ac.uk/

A new programme is also getting underway that will feature 4 new 'Preservation Exemplar' projects. The JISC Information Environment Programme 2009-2011 is now up and running. The programme home page is at the JISC website. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/inf11.aspx. Further information about the preservation strand will be available as soon as possible.

1.4 The British Library

UCL and the British Library have been awarded funding by JISC for a third phase of the LIFE Project. The Project will enhance our ability to estimate digital preservation costs, building on the existing Generic Preservation Model created in the previous iterations of the Project and adding new predictive models for the other lifecycle stages. The year long Project will produce a predictive costing tool which will support organisations in the financial aspects of collection management and preservation planning activities.
1.5 PLANETS (Preservation and Long-term Access through Networked Services)

The Planets Community: The Planets project has launched a user community and e-bulletin service to help subscribers to the community stay informed about the progress of Planets and its contribution in the field of digital preservation. To register for the Planets Community, visit the PLANETS website. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://www.planets-project.eu/community

The Planets Testbed: this is an environment for testing the performance and capabilities of tools for digital preservation and for aggregating meaningful information on these tools. The Testbed is currently in Beta version and available to Planets project partners only. However after summer 2009, the Testbed will be made available to a larger group of external users. To register interest in Planets testing, please visit the PLANETS website. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://www.planets-project.eu/community

Planets Long-Term Management of Information Survey: Planets has conducted what is believed to be one of the largest international studies into the status of preservation of digital assets. During February and March 2009, over 200 organisations from around the world took part in the survey. A report on the study's findings will be published on the Planets website (Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://www.planets-project.eu/publications) from summer 2009, and an analysis of the results is to be included in the next issue of the Planets newsletter, which will be available via the same link.

Planets and its partner, the Swiss Federal Archives, has developed SIARD (Software-Independent Archiving of Relational Databases), an open storage format for relational databases based on ISO standards (SQL:1999 and XML) as well as a software tool, the SIARD Suite, to handle database content. SIARD became the official Planets format for archiving relational databases in May 2008. Since then it has been deployed by the Swiss Federal Archives to archive relational databases of government agencies. For more information on SIARD, please visit the DPE website. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://www.digitalpreservationeurope.eu/publications/briefs/database_preservation.pdf

Papers on Preservation Planning with Plato, Dioscuri and UVC were presented at DigCCurr 2009: Digital Curation Practice, Promise and Prospects, 1-3 April 2009, Chapel Hill, NC USA. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://www.ils.unc.edu/digccurr2009/. A couple of other papers relating to the PLANETS project have also been published:


1.6 CASPAR (Cultural, Artistic and Scientific knowledge for Preservation, Access and Retrieval)

Of particular interest to a project such as CASPAR is the question of long term preservation of the digitally encoded information. For more than a decade there have been demands for some way to certify digital repositories. As a result RLG and NARA organised a Task Force which produced the Trusted Repository Audit Checklist (TRAC). TRAC has been used as the basis of the new draft standard which will be submitted to ISO soon. Details are available from the TRAC website. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from:

http://www.crl.edu/content.asp?l1=13&l2=58&l3=162&l4=91

It is hoped that an international accreditation and certification organisation will be created to issue ISO accreditation of repositories following this standard. CASPAR are working closely with the standards group and firmly believe that use of CASPAR components and toolkits will put repositories in a better position to be certified.

Science Data Infrastructure Roadmap: On the CASPAR website is the workflow picture which shows some of the various interactions between key components and key players (users, curators and producers). Retrieved 11 May 2009 from:

http://www.casparpreserves.eu CASPAR believes there is a need for a broader level of support – just as there is for network connectivity and computer and storage resources as provided by things like GEANT and the GRID.

OAIS version open for public examination: Many comments and ideas for clarifications and improvements for OAIS were received as part of its 5 year review process. This draft version of OAIS contains these and many other improvements and is the candidate for submission to ISO for review. At this stage we are seeking primarily to identify errors rather than further ideas. Please send corrections to oais-support@oais.info by 15 June 2009. Shortly after this date the corrected OAIS update will be sent to ISO and in due course this will be released for international review at which point further comments may be submitted. The PDF file is available online. Retrieved 11 May 2009 from: http://cwe.ccsds.org/moims/docs/MOIMS-DAI/Draft%20Documents/OAIS-candidate-V2-markup.pdf

1.7 Wellcome Library

Preserving digital objects for future use: The Wellcome Library acknowledges that increasingly knowledge is produced only in digital form. Despite the challenges the Library is certain that born digital materials will be a significant part of its future collections. The Library is actively engaged in a program to seek out digital archives for its collections from both its current and new donor communities.

To ensure that future users will be able to access the digital archives the Wellcome are building, the Library has procured a digital archiving application, known as Safety Deposit Box (SDB). Developed jointly by Tessella and The National Archives of the UK (TNA) SDB acts as a repository within which material is safely stored and actively managed to ensure that it does not suffer unauthorised modification or deletion or is allowed to fall into obsolescence. This system will allow today’s computer files to be viewed in the future. The Library is actively engaged in a program to seek out digital archives for its collections from both its current and new donor communities. Despite the challenges the Wellcome Library is certain that born digital materials will be a significant part of its future collections.
1.8 Library of Congress and the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program (NDIIPP)

The Library of Congress released software tools that cultural heritage organizations can use to send and receive digital data. The tools are available through SourceForge, the technology community’s hub for open source software distribution and services, under the Library of Congress Transfer Tools project. The project is based on use of the BagIt specification, which is a hierarchical file packaging format for the exchange of digital content. The Library’s Repository Development Group worked with the California Digital Library to jointly develop the specification. Retrieved 28 April 2009 from: [http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/news/2009/20090109news_article_Sourceforge.html](http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/news/2009/20090109news_article_Sourceforge.html).


The NDIIPP-supported MetaArchive Project helped sponsor “Community Approaches to Digital Preservation 2009”, a conference focusing on collaborative approaches to digital preservation services. The event featured speakers from a number of digital preservation efforts, including the Echo-DEPository Project, DataPASS and LOCKSS, all of which are NDIIPP partners. A highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Sarah Higgins of the Digital Curation Centre, who provided an abbreviated workshop outlining the DCC Curation Lifecycle Model. Retrieved 28 April 2009 from: [http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/news/2009/20090326news_article_metaarchive.html](http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/news/2009/20090326news_article_metaarchive.html).

NDIIPP was well represented at the “Indo-US Workshop on International Trends in Digital Preservation” held in Pune, India. Workshop objectives included learning from the experiences of other nations and developing a strategy for implementing the Indian National Digital Preservation Programme. The program included presentations from Indian and international speakers. The latter included several individuals who spoke about NDIIPP-related activities, including Joseph JaJa (who served as the lead U.S. Principal Investigator for the Workshop), Victoria Reich, Keith Johnson, Micah Altman, Sayeed Choudhury, Steven Morris, and Reagan Moore. Bill LeFurgy represented the Library of Congress. Retrieved 28 April 2009.
1.9 The National Archives (UK)

The National Archives’ web continuity project is continuing to work with Central Government departments to ensure that web links on their sites work over time. Their innovative solution involves a combination of improved and regular web archiving, the installation of redirection software to keep links live, and a community of practice, where departments can find documentation and guidance, and share best practice. By the end of March 2009, all central government departments should all have plans in place to install the redirection component on their sites, with implementation by the end of September 2009. The timetable for agencies and NDPBs is slightly longer: plans for installing the redirection component should be in place by March 2010, with implementation by the end of September 2010.

The National Archives’ digital continuity project is progressing a flexible shared service for government that will ensure the long-term survival of digital information, for government’s business purposes. This service combines guidance, standards, and technical tools and services, which departments can tailor to address their specific requirements. The project will start to roll out the service in 2010, when guidance will be completed and the Framework of tools and services available. It will be fully operational and embedded within The National Archives by early 2011. The service has been designed to deliver maximum efficiencies for government, and many actions to mitigate loss of continuity can be carried out at little, or no, cost. The National Archives is piloting a risk assessment process with two departments, starting May 2009: their aim is to ensure that the service works for a core number of government departments before being made available to all central government and the wider public sector. Some guidance is already available online at TNA website. Retrieved 7 May 2009 from: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/digitalcontinuity](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/digitalcontinuity).

1.10 nestor (Network of Expertise in Long-Term Storage of Digital Resources)

The Nestor Newsletter from January can be found (in English) on the nestor website. Retrieved 7 May 2009 from: [http://nestor.sub.uni-goettingen.de/newsletter/index.php](http://nestor.sub.uni-goettingen.de/newsletter/index.php)

The nestor/DPE Spring School 2009 took place from 16th to 20th of March. The five-day training event was organised together with representatives from several FE and HE institutions in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The event covered two main areas: creating a digital archive and preserving research data, with several sessions on each. Around 40 participants used the opportunity to exchange their knowledge in the field of digital preservation and to consult with their peers.

Nestor have published (in German) the second version of its criteria for trusted digital repositories, revised since comments on the first version were made.


1.11 National Library of Scotland (NLS)

The National Library of Scotland has been working on a number of new resource discovery initiatives over recent months, in order to provide a route for users to access the growing body of content managed by the Library.

Just prior to Christmas 2008, a new Aquabrowser discovery system was launched, which is progressively integrating the many catalogues that the library maintains into one user friendly search interface. As of April 2009, this now amounts to well in excess of 4 million records, covering the main catalogue, the Scottish Screen archive, the Scottish Bibliographies online as well as all NLS website content, and soon to include resources from our Business information network, Scotbis.

Additionally, in February the Library made available to the public the beta version of its Digital Archive. This archive is a new images resource and offers online access to printed, written and illustrative material from National Library of Scotland collections.

Still at an early stage of development, the resource features a small selection of image groups such as:

- Official photographs from the First World War
- Robert Burns's 'Poems chiefly in the Scottish dialect'
- Soviet posters, 1919-1930.

We will be adding more images during the year. The Digital Archive is destined to become a significant image source for NLS site visitors. The Digital Archive is accessible via the NLS site. Retrieved 7 May 2009 from: http://digital.nls.uk/

1.12 National Library of Australia (NLA)
The NLA's Digital Preservation section has developed a collaborative web-based resource to enable the physical identification of various physical media carrier types. The Mediapedia is intended as a community sustained resource and the NLA is seeking specialist individuals and organisations to contribute content. Potential contributors should send an email to digitalpres@nla.gov.au. More information is available from the NLA’s website. Retrieved 18 May 2009 from: http://www.nla.gov.au/mediapedia/.

2. Specific themes

2.1 Research Data

The UK Research Data Service (UKRDS) have now published their final report, “UK Research Data Feasibility Study, Report and Recommendations to HEFCE”, 2008. The study was commissioned to explore models for management of key research data, and the feasibility of a shared service. The report has decided that a future UKRDS is possible, and recommends a ‘co-operative’ service as a solution, where key stakeholders work together. Sufficient building blocks are already in place and a shared service would benefit from cost-effectiveness. A two-year preliminary project is recommended. The report can be downloaded via the UKRDS website. Retrieved 7 May 2009 from: http://www.ukrds.ac.uk/

The International Society for Biocuration has recently been established. The aims of this not-for profit organisation are to recognise the value of biological datasets and their long term accessibility. Among the mission aims of the organisation is to help define the profession of biocuration, as well as to share documentation on standards and annotation procedures. Retrieved 7 May 2009 from: http://biocurator.org/home.shtml

The PARSE.Insight project, (Retrieved 7 May 2009 from: http://www.parse-insight.eu/), has released a draft roadmap report, detailing infrastructure components for long term access to scientific information. At present, the project is carrying out a survey to see how raw scientific data is actually being archived within the nine PARSE.Insight communities. The report looks at current gaps within the community and suggests areas of shared infrastructure, both technical and non-technical to supplement these missing areas. A short article outlining some of the aims of the project are to be found in January’s edition of D-Lib. The draft roadmap can be found via the PARSE.Insight website.

Two briefing papers from Digital Preservation Europe (DPE) look at the role of digital preservation within scientific data and how to full preserve and harness this hugely important research material.


A recent report by Research Data Canada has been published which looked at the role of research data in Canada and the gaps that exist in terms of their long term preservation. The report focused on international indicators, such as costs, skills and training and follows a data lifecycle approach to its analysis; data production, dissemination, management and repurposing. It concludes with the need to build a national strategy for data preservation. The report can be found via the organisation's website.


The Data Audit Framework pilot implementations run at Imperial College London and the University of Edinburgh have now reported their findings. Audits were found to provide useful insights into data management practices and helped identify areas in which staff require support, for example on data management plans. Both projects call for more researcher training and sharing of best practice. DAF audits have also been completed at the Universities of Oxford and Southampton as part of the DataShare project. The reports from all these studies are available online. Retrieved 7 May 2009 from: http://www.data-audit.eu/findings.html

2.2 Copyright and IPR

Converting sound recording to digital form is bound to have complicated copyright issues attached to it and a recent paper addresses just this issue within the United States. This article is also of interest to non-US readers as it sets out exactly what issues are at stake when digitising sound recordings, and provides guidance to libraries who are thinking of undertaking such digitisation activities.

2.3 Web archiving

A new DCC Digital Curation Manual chapter gives a very comprehensive overview of web archiving. It touches on the main issues involved such as an overview of current international activities and neatly summarises the state of play and key web archives. The chapter covers tools, rights issues, legal deposit, cost, and automation. It also contains a useful annotated bibliography.

The LiWA Living Web Archives project issued their first newsletter LiWA News in January 2009 which summarizes progress and goals of LiWA research partners. Retrieved 18 May 2009 from: http://liwa-project.eu/index.php/newsletters/

Some interesting blogs on the ULCC da blog are also worth pointing out. They deal with archiving web based information such as blogs, wikis, and experience of working with the Web Curator Tool. A DPE paper also looks at the archiving of blogs, and how the special attributes of this medium can impact on digital preservation.


Some recent conference papers of interest address questions in relation to the value, use and accessibility of web archives for research and by researchers. They consider the value of whole domain harvests compared to selective archiving
approaches, and the requirements for tools which will improve accessibility for researchers.


A new blog, the UK Web Archive Technology Watch which will record changes in technology that the web archive stores or utilises and is expected to assist in addressing pending obsolescence or loss of access problems, has been started by the British Library. Retrieved 18 May 2009 from : http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/ukwebarchive_techwatch/

2.4 Digital preservation life cycle

Preservation metadata

Two documents have recently been published which clarify PREMIS as a digital preservation metadata standard. PREMIS have issued a help manual to assist in understanding the PREMIS Data Dictionary for Preservation Metadata. The paper includes further clarification of the Semantic units, PREMIS in practical use, as well as a working example. The Repositories Support Project (RSP) have also issued an briefing paper on PREMIS, which outlines its benefits and how it should be implemented.


Transfer of data

An article in D-Lib describes activities involved in the transfer of data at the Library of Congress (LC), outlining the life-cycle process of how the LC receives digital content, through to ingesting into the digital library. The paper highlights what constitutes the transfer process and how the ‘Inventory Service’ facilitates preservation by keeping track of the object, and how automated process can assist preservation by decreasing the risk of human-related error in data migration.
Interoperability

The DCC has released a briefing paper on interoperability which clarifies how it plays an important role in digital curation. It discusses the different levels of interoperability, areas of conflict within interoperability standards and sets out the benefits of using interoperable data set as opposed to independent ones.


Persistent linking

The Unique Material Identifier is the subject of a DPE briefing paper. It is used in audiovisual systems and, while somewhat different from other unique identifiers, assists in efficient retrieval of information and can bind together clips of material. How URLs are used in eGovernment to manage public sector information is the subject of another DPE paper. An article in D-Lib looks at a checklist created to integrate identifiers into an information management system. This will act as a useful resource to those seeking to incorporate critical unique IDs to a preservation system.


Formats registry

An interesting development in the formats registry domain is that PRONOM and GDFR are to join forces to create the Unified Digital Formats Registry (UDFR). The rationale for this is that both projects have different strengths that will complement each other well when combined. PRONOM’s database is more populated, while GDFR has more use cases. The idea arose out of the fact that it made little sense that the digital preservation community support two format registries. The UDFR is still in its infancy, and GDFR members are interested in hearing from interested parties willing to be involved in its development. More information can be found at the GDFR website. Retrieved 7 May 2009 from: http://www.gdfr.info/ A paper which clarifies this joining up of efforts can also be found via the GDFR website.
2.5 Function specific

Multimedia

Digital photos are the subject of two DPE briefing papers, one which looks at the general challenges involved in preserving this growing medium, and the other which concentrates on a specific imaging technique. The PrestoSpace model is also discussed in another DPE paper and how its data model improves access to large audiovisual collections.


e-Journals

In January JSTOR and Ithaka announced their merger into a new institution, called Ithaka. Both organisations have worked closely together in the past, JSTOR hosts a vast array of e-materials for the scholarly community, and Ithaka, which started Portico hosts e-journals. More information can be found at the JSTOR website. Retrieved 7 May 2009 from: http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/news/announcements/2009.jsp#JanB

An analysis of e-journal rights for a Serials Review article discovers that most library contracts do not have perpetual rights clauses. The article provides a good overview of e-journal rights activities in New Zealand libraries. A pilot study to archive e-journals is the subject of another article. The needs of UK library communities are highlighted and whether a registry service would offer the best solution.

The Directory of Open Access journals (DOAJ) - Lund University Libraries and the e-Depot of the National Library of the Netherlands (KB) announced cooperation to secure the long-term preservation of open access journals. More information can be found at the DOAJ website. Retrieved 18 May 2009: http://www.doaj.org/doaj?func=loadTempl&templ=090401

Database preservation
Two separate briefing papers have been released on database archiving. A DCC paper defines the terms of database archiving, and the differences in terminology by different communities; be it a finite activity or a continuous archiving process. It also contains some important issues to consider when archiving databases, and useful links. The DPE paper on database archiving looks at the methodology involved as well as some current archiving projects.


2.6 Tools and standards

To ensure that data is secure and unaltered, it is recommended that it is stored in an effective Information Security Management Systems (ISMS). A DCC Standards Watch Paper clarifies an ISO which specifies how to implement a successful ISMS. It outlines the benefits of the ISO and mentions implementation. The paper also provides a good appendix of the development many other security ISOs of the same standard.


Data has been made available from a survey of staff usage of JPEG 2000, which helps towards understanding the reasons for the file format's somewhat limited
uptake among implementers. The study examines current users’ concerns, educating the community about the advantages of using the file format, and highlights current disadvantages, such as limited software compatibility. The results are available as a spreadsheet or standalone HTML.


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### 2.7 Institutional Repositories

A whole issue of Library Trends Journal has been devoted to Institutional Repositories. Some of them deal with digital curation and repositories and their future. Dorothea Salo looks at slow faculty take up of institutional repositories, despite their preservation advantages. Other articles look at repositories specifically in the context of their own HE institutions. Bryan Heidorn looks at ‘dark data’ and how important it is that it is preserved. Sayeed Choudhury looks at the role of the library in the academic community and the development of ‘data scientists’.


(please note, restricted access to subscribers of this journal only.)

The use of OAI-ORE technology in digital repositories is explored in a recent journal article. OAI-ORE is a protocol for expressing objects so that they can be exchange and re-used. The paper looks in detail at the OAI-ORE specification and its benefits
for interoperability within institutional repositories. The specification assists the preservation process by restricting the reliance of a digital object on the software and enables sharing content across repositories.


The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) have published the results of a Digital Repositories task force convened in 2008. The report touches on digital preservation, such as collaborative preservation ventures. It highlights some common issues and concerns within repository services community. It then goes onto evaluate the issues, look at common strategies and put forward a set of recommendations. The report is available from the ARL website.


The PEER (Publishing and the Ecology of European Research) project works with publishers, repositories and the research community to look at the effects of open access deposit. It has released a report looking at deposit procedures and it touches on long term access issues, such as file format and the advantages of using PDF/A for full text document delivery.


2.8 Legal Issues

A legal watch paper by the DCC explores the importance of science data interoperability and the legal restrictions can at times prevent reuse. Science Commons is an initiative that prevents barriers to science research. The article looks at the copyright implications of a structured database and also touches on international copyright differences, as well as other new initiatives in the Science Commons field.

Another paper looks at the importance of digitally produced legal information. It exposes the limitations of preserving digitally-born legal materials and the barriers faced by libraries to ensure long-term access. However, collaborative ventures could provide a possible archiving solution, and the article presents a useful case-study.


*(please note, restricted access to subscribers of this journal only.)*

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### 2.9 Audit and certification

The Centre for Research Libraries is carrying out a Certification and Assessment of two repositories; Portico and HathiTrust. They will work together to gain a deeper understanding of how repositories function and how to gain trust as a trusted digital repository, especially in a shared archiving environment. Tools used in the study will be TRAC, Trustworthy Repositories Audit and Certification checklist and a well-established certification panel will be involved. More information can be found via the CRL website. Retrieved 7 May 2009 from: [http://www.crl.edu/content.asp?l1=13&l2=58&l3=181](http://www.crl.edu/content.asp?l1=13&l2=58&l3=181)

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### 3. Events

#### 3.1 Recent events

**2009**

**January**

CASPAR Training Day for the Cultural and Scientific Domains. 12-13 January 2009, Rome, Italy.

Presentations available for the CASPAR website: Retrieved 18 May 2009 from: [http://www.casparpreserves.eu/training/Members/metaware/Events/caspar-training-day-for-the-cultural-domain](http://www.casparpreserves.eu/training/Members/metaware/Events/caspar-training-day-for-the-cultural-domain)


**February**


Supporting the Data Lifecycle Symposium. 11 February 2009, University of Sydney, Australia.


National Research Data Service for the UK?: An International Conference on the UK Research Data Service Feasibility Study. 26 February 2009.


March


April

DigCCurr 2009: Digital Curation Practice, Promise and Prospects. April 1-3 2009, Chapel Hill, USA


3.2 Current and Forthcoming events

2009

May


Open Repositories 2009: The 4th International Conference on Open Repositories. 18-21 May 2009, Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Retrieved 18 May 2009 from: https://or09.library.gatech.edu/


June


July


August


September


October


November


December


3.3 Training Events

May

June


August
European Summer School in Information Retrieval (ESSIR) 2009. 31 August