



# What I wish I knew...

## 2016

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## Our Collection

8 million objects

3.5 million catalogued

2.2 million records online

1 million objects imaged



## It's scary out there...



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[Trade unions](#) Opinion

### My hero in 2015? The man with the plan to beat the cuts

## Aditya Chakraborty

Few will have heard of local union leader John Burgess, but he is now confronting the nightmare we will all face

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### New threat to City museum

A new threat has been posed to the future of Lancaster City Museum and also the Maritime and Cottage Museums.

Severe restrictions on local government funding could mean the City Council spending less on the three museums - or their closure.

The stark warning was issued by Chief Executive Mark Cullinan at the Museums Partnership Advisory Panel on January 6.

This follows speculation about the future of the Judges' Lodgings Museum after Lancashire County Council's decision to close it from March 31.

Mr Cullinan told the Panel "I do not believe the City Council can fund the Judges' Lodgings. I will be advising the council against being involved financially or organisationally in the Judges' Lodgings."

"I will also be advising that the council should be spending less on the museums they are responsible for and that the options are for the museums to continue or not."

The Panel had met on December 15 and called January's meeting as a result of the county's budget cuts to their museums in Lancashire.

Representatives of the newly-formed Friends of the Judges' Lodgings Museum were invited to put their case against closure.

Estimates for all five museums in Lancaster, including the Castle, covering the next two years and based on this year's actual figures, were presented by Councillor Darren Clifford, the City Council's Cabinet member for leisure, culture and tourism and chairman of the Panel.

Another meeting of the Panel has been scheduled for Friday February 26, the day after the full County Council fixes its budget for 2016-17.

The Friends of Lancaster City Museum (FOLCM) were formed after an earlier proposal to close the museum and a packed public protest meeting in the Town Hall.

Since 2003 the City Council has paid the County Council £500,000 a year to manage the city's museums and pay their staff.

A meeting of the full City Council is expected to settle its budget for the coming year on February 3.

Do you know savvy, local businesses, or heritage enthusiasts with lots of spare time? Lancashire County Council are appealing for serious, interested parties to come forward and take over the running of the museum service.

Please **get in touch with the council** if you know anyone or any group who could realistically run our local heritage sites.

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## There are enormous opportunities & challenges

More information created every two days than from the dawn of time to 2003\*

Not just volume but velocity of creation

This digital data needs to be curated – selected, stored, maintained, described, retrieved, disposed of, forgotten...

and sometimes preserved





# Value your training - but be open to change



Archivist

Records manager

Librarian

Information technologist

Digital humanities

Software programmer



## Get developers on side

# Understand open source

## Think about integrations with your legacy infrastructure

## Talk to vendors



## Develop your soft skills

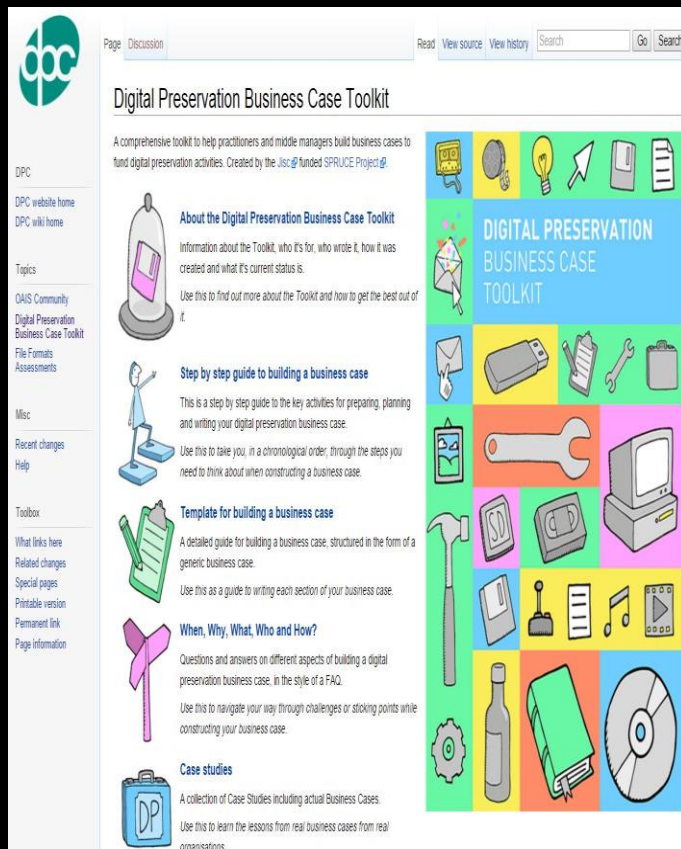
Essential to get buy in...

Especially from senior management  
and key decision makers

Engage with user communities

Ex: Broadcast





Build your business case

Think about the value of your assets

The cost of creating them

The cost of their replacement

Their reuse value

The reputational risk of losing them





Don't be afraid

No-one knows everything

Building up research questions  
for future digital technologists

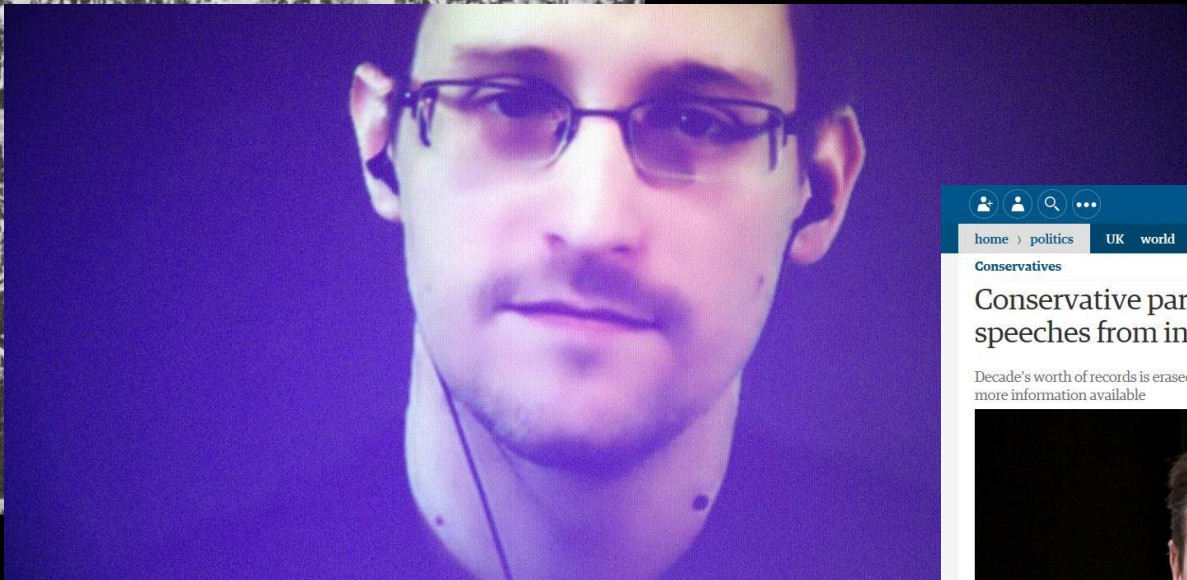
Fantastic support network

Digital Preservation Coalition



The British  
Museum

Don't take your charge lightly





The British  
Museum



Take the time to enjoy your collections



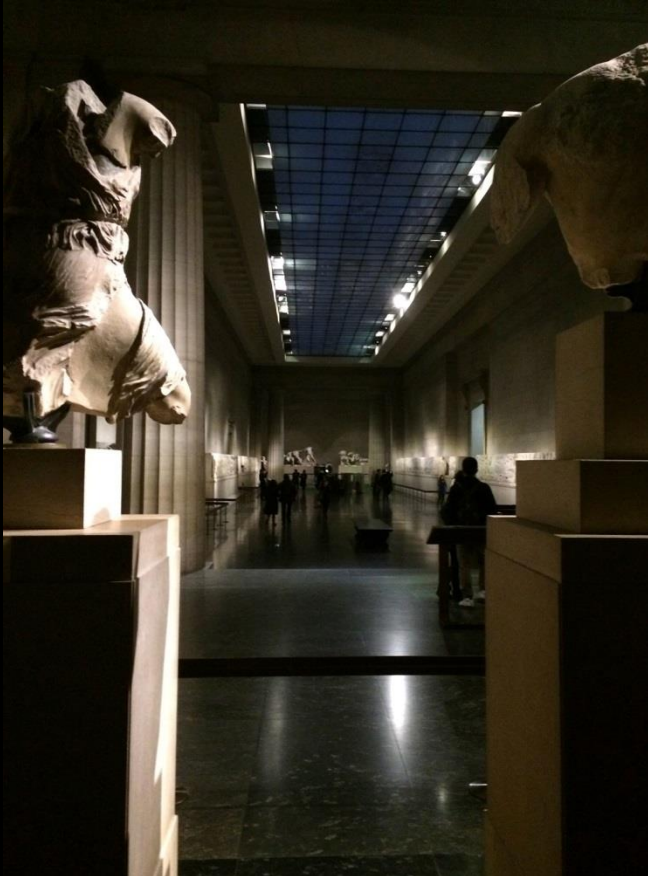


## Now what?

We are in a critical phase of developing an answer to the question that digital data poses us

An opportunity exists to build the human, technical and knowledge infrastructure that supports our important digital resources, assets and objects

You are the generation who will deliver on this promise





# The British Museum



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