

Digital Preservation: Next steps



DPC Activities and Publications
Other sources

Keep the conversation going
after the event ...

William Kilbride
william@dpconline.org

WHO: The Digital Preservation Coalition



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

Enabling
Agenda-setting



Glasgow University

OCLC
St Andrews University

Public Records Office
of Northern Ireland

National Library of Scotland
National Archives of Scotland
Digital Curation Centre
Creative Scotland
RCAHMS
UK LOCKSS Alliance

Trinity
College
Library
Dublin
NLI

British Library
Archaeology Data Service

Open University Library

Cambridge University Library

UK Data Archive

National Library
of Wales
RCAHMW

Wellcome Library
King's College London
Publishers Licensing Society
RLUK
The National Archives
Tate
Natural History Museum
MLA
ULCC
BBC
Parliamentary Archives
RIN
JISC
Met Police Service

Archives and
Records
Association

English Heritage
RCUK

Bodleian Libraries



Digital**Preservation**Coalition



... first and foremost a coalition...

Shared challenge
Cross-sector
Cross-discipline
Policy and practice



Digital**Preservation**Coalition



... Enabling
Leadership Programme
Handbook
Case Notes
FAQ
What's new in DP
Technology Watch Reports
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 expanse 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 that the digital collection is of significance 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' wider mission. So, rather than starting with tools, a digital preservation working group was established within Glasgow Museums in 2008 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 art and oral history recordings.

Family photograph donated by an interviewee during oral history project, 2000 Glasgow Lives.



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 to look after this 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 cataloguing 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 Message:

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.

Case notes Accessible Practical Key messages ...

Key Message:

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

'DPTP' from ULCC

'How to set up and run a data centre' from UKDA

'PLANETS way' from OPF

(APARSEN, TIMBUS ...)



DPC sponsorship





Digital**Preservation**Coalition



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)



Digital**Preservation**Coalition



Agenda setting and Advocacy

Public policy

Newsroom

Digital Preservation Award

Direct briefing

Knowledge base



Digital**Preservation**Coalition



Public Policy

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

4. Experience in digital preservation shows that normalization and adherence to standards in the creation of digital resources are advantageous to long term access. Therefore we have some **questions pertaining to the practicality of provisions regarding deposit of materials**, in particular those regulations that leave the medium and quality of electronic deposits at the discretion of publishers, and those regulations that pertain to adapting content for preservation. If poorly implemented, these provisions could have the inadvertent result of making preservation intractable or excessively complicated.
5. We recognise that recommendations from the DPC are best focussed on those topics where we can offer specialist commentary. Therefore it is not our intention to provide a detailed scrutiny of each element of these regulations. However it is our view that **preservation is only sensible within the context of access, and that preservation should be configured around the impact that comes with access**. Therefore we have commented on a small number of access issues that we believe have a bearing on the case for preservation.



Digital**Preservation**Coalition



Specialist Task Forces:

- Web Archiving and Preservation
- *Certification?*
- *E-publication supply chain?*
- *Curriculum?*

Knowledge Base



Mind the Gap
Local Government Archives
Review of JISC Digitization
Programme



Join us!

- Full Members
- Associate Members
- Personal Members



Digital**Preservation**Coalition

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

Digital Preservation: Next steps



DPC Activities and Publications
Other sources

Keep the conversation going
after the event ...

William Kilbride
william@dpconline.org