It is my great pleasure to present the DPC Annual Report for 2010-11. In my last report I mused that the energetic pursuit of our strategic goals meant that the DPC was growing in spite of a very challenging financial climate which affects the vast majority of our membership: ‘our best times are yet to come’. 2010-11 has proven me right, the Coalition continues to grow and develop despite the challenges which surround us.

Looking at the plan for the year I assumed that this year’s high spots would come early on – associated with the Digital Preservation Award. In fact, a great deal of effort behind the scenes meant that probably the most significant development came in the last few months, allowing us to double the staff complement and embark on a major new series of activities to support our members.

The reporting year kicked off with the Digital Preservation Award. Offered every two years, it is given to the project or initiative which has done the most to ensure that our digital memory is accessible tomorrow. The deadline for proposals – 30th July – meant that the first few weeks of August were very busy in sifting through the record number of applications. The judges identified thirteen viable winners, and the fact that several of the applications which did not make the shortlist would have been clear winners in previous years is evidence that the Digital Preservation Award is now a much sought-after accolade within our community. If nothing else, this illustrates the really rapid expansion of the digital preservation community and the increasing quality of research and development.

The nominees were announced at the iPRES Conference in Vienna in late September and it’s worth putting on record the names of all the nominees:

- PLATO 3: Preservation Planning Made Simple – Vienna University of Technology & the PLANETS Project
- The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access
- Preserving Virtual Worlds – University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA
- The MEMENTO Project: Time Travel for the Web – Old Dominion University & the Los Alamos National Lab, USA
CHAIRMAN’S INTRODUCTION

FEEDBACK FROM PAST EVENTS AND CONSULTATION WITH MEMBERS SHOWS THAT OUR EXPERT BRIEFINGS ARE HIGHLY VALUED

The judges had the happy but difficult task of scrutinising the shortlist, assisted this time by votes cast from the entire membership of the Coalition. Nominees were invited to discuss their projects with the judges and were asked to justify their claim to the prize.

Moments of genuine excitement are rare in digital preservation; even rarer are the times when our research is celebrated and applauded: so it was a real pleasure to announce the winner of the Digital Preservation Award at the Royal Institution in London on the 1st December. Herbert van der Sompel of Los Alamos National Laboratory accepted the prize – and the applause of the invited audience – on behalf of the MEMENTO Project. Herbert and colleagues took the trophy to the US for the first time, along with a cash prize. But all of the nominees have received certificates of merit and all who participated deserve to be congratulated for the innovation and commitment demonstrated in their work. These words of encouragement from the DPC are intended to raise their spirits, while evidence of their ingenuity and effort gives substance to our own advocacy.

The Digital Preservation Award was by far the most high profile activity early in the year, but our more specialist programme of events and publications has intensified over the year. Feedback from past events and consultation with members shows that our expert briefings are highly valued for the specialist content and networking opportunities they offer. In the past a number of practical problems have constrained the Coalition’s capacity to deliver these events. A concerted effort to break this log-jam resulted in the introduction of a more flexible and much less labour-intensive online booking system which builds on the website redevelopment reported last year. The result is a significantly increased capacity to offer events such as expert briefings.

The DPC organised four specialist events for members in 2010-11: Preserving Digital Art, Preserving Digital Sound and Vision, Digital Forensics for Preservation, and Preserving Email. Feedback from the events was encouraging and it’s pleasing to have been asked already if we might consider running two of them again in the near future. We introduced two new innovations that help participation in the events – we now offer small travel grants so that a student volunteer can attend each event, and in return for this we ask them to provide a short narrative report which is published in the member area of the website. We’ve also introduced a policy of charging non-members who may be keen to attend. This helps to offset the costs and it adds to the quality of the discussion and debate – but members have priority access and at least one event was completely booked up before we could advertise it more widely.
we also greatly increased the number of co-hosted events this year to deliver specialised training and analysis of themes relevant to members. In November we worked with the Wellcome Library to offer an event on the JPEG 2000 standard; in May we worked with the DATUM project at the University of Northumbria to offer specialist training in digital preservation for health sciences; and in June we partnered with the AIMS project at the University of Hull to discuss the impact of digital preservation on archival principles.

The specialist programme was supplemented by a new programme of introductory workshops organised in partnership with the British Library Preservation Advisory Centre. This ‘Getting Started in Digital Preservation’ road show had stops in London, Glasgow, Cardiff and York. Participants undertook practical exercises which would help them ‘get started’ and by the end of each workshop they had drafted a rudimentary preservation plan and risk assessment which they could use on their return home. The feedback was very pleasing and the need for such a programme was amply demonstrated at the London event which was so heavily booked that we needed to find a larger venue and double the number of places available.

The Leadership Programme – which provides grants so that members can attend specialist training – has remained popular. We provided three scholarships to attend the UK Data Archive’s ‘How to set up and run a data centre’ training event in November, and eleven grants to attend the ever popular Digital Preservation Training Programme in London and Glasgow. We beefed up the requirements for these grants so in future years we’ll be able to publish short cases studies of how these grants have benefited the staff that receive them.

The year has also seen significant developments behind the scenes in terms of our publication programme. The Technology Watch Reports series – which are widely cited and referred to among researchers and practitioners – have become increasingly hard to manage in the last few years while the list of topics has continued to grow. In December we agreed a new approach whereby we offered a large single research grant in return for a set of reports. Neil Beagrie, one of the ‘founding fathers’ of the DPC was successful in winning a tender, and is now making progress on a new batch of reports, ably supported by a team of expert authors and researchers. Topics include Preserving Email, Preserving Digital Sound and Vision, Digital Forensics, Intellectual Property Rights for Digital Preservation and Trust in Post-Cancellation Access for E-journals. Although still in production, several have been previewed at our expert briefing days and outlines have been circulated for comments and corrections from the membership before being finalised. A new editorial board is overseeing the production of these and is already scanning the horizon for what might be next. The New Year is set to bring quite a flurry of authoritative and concise advice as this series of Reports is published.

We welcomed four new members in 2010/11, strengthening and extending the reach of the already very active member base.

The UK LOCKSS Alliance was the first new member, joining in December 2010. The UK LOCKSS Alliance is a co-operative organisation which ensures continuing access to scholarly work over the long term. Its focus is on ensuring preservation and continuing access to electronic journals, but has interests and current research work on the preservation of all library collections, thus making it a natural fit within the DPC family. In February we welcomed the Metropolitan Police Service and in March the National Library of Ireland. The National Library’s strategic aims include the development of a digital collections policy with preservation and access infrastructure to match. By putting in place the necessary policy and infrastructure, they can maximise access to resources, enhance and expand the services they offer, and enable users to work with the Library and Library collections in new
and innovative ways. In April we welcomed the ‘Future Proof Computing’ group at the University of Portsmouth, an active research group tackling issues around emulation and software preservation. They have joined precisely to help amplify and disseminate their own research.

This growth in membership and the diversity of institutions which it represents underlines the DPC’s own growth as a strategic partner for organisations and agencies in all sectors, and the benefits which membership brings.

Members remain directly involved in setting the direction of the Coalition. As well as three face to face Board Meetings through the year and a well-attended AGM hosted by the Tate in December, our Planning Day in January saw a lively debate on issues such as certification and accreditation. This has resulted in the launch of two new working parties which will meet in late 2011 and it also allowed members direct input into a new strategic plan for 2012 onwards. The ‘Director’s Group’ allowed junior staff of our full members to meet and refine the plan and included a lively debate on how to engage with standards in preservation. The networking that this permits was an immediate hit while the subtle steering of our plans ensures our continuing relevance: the list of events for 2011-2012 was largely written by members present at the Director’s Group.

I would like to offer my thanks to the various committee members and board directors who have supported the DPC throughout the year. In particular I wish to thank our outgoing Vice-Chair, Bruno Longmore of the National Records of Scotland. He has served the DPC diligently and genially for several years, most noticeably when our previous Chairman, Ronald Milne moved to take up his new post in New Zealand. Bruno stood down as Vice-Chair in December in order to oversee the implementation of new public records legislation. The role of Vice-Chair was briefly filled by Patricia Kernaghan of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland who has since taken early retirement from her post in Belfast.

The core programme for 2010-11 has therefore been highly successful and it has encouraged continued growth for our organisation. DPC has not been content with simply delivering the core programme of activities for members. Alert to the need to deepen our role in innovation within the digital preservation community, and the benefits from wider collaboration with other organisations, William Kilbride has worked tirelessly to deliver not one but two major successes which signal a step-change for our activities in the next three years.
IT WAS IMMENSELY SATISFYING, IF NOT A LITTLE TERRIFYING, TO HEAR THAT BOTH PROPOSALS HAD BEEN FUNDED

There are three elements to this breakthrough. Firstly, and most obscurely, the DPC has now been validated as a fit organisation to receive funding from the European Commission. This may sound abstruse, but anyone who has undertaken this complicated process will recognise that it’s a remarkable achievement considering the intricacy of the work it requires, and the fact that it was delivered while maintaining the core programme and without hiring an expensive consultant to ease the pain. It means that the DPC can now apply for and lead research and development projects with funding from the European Commission. Moreover, as a membership organisation the DPC can act as an agent on behalf of its members. Given the scale of the investment which the EC is making in digital preservation, this creates many new opportunities for us in the coming years.

The second part of the story is more tangible and all the more remarkable. Having been validated the DPC was delighted to be invited to join the ‘APARSEN’ and ‘TIMBUS’ proposals, and perhaps naively thought it wise to participate in two proposals in the hope that one might be funded. We set three tests for the proposals: that involvement should be consistent with our strategic plan; that they should deliver demonstrable benefits to members; and that they should have a minimal financial risk to the Coalition.

The details are described elsewhere in this report but in both cases our efforts concentrate on training and capacity building as well as elements of research and dissemination in line with our existing plans. It was immensely satisfying, if not a little terrifying, to hear that both proposals had been funded.

The third part of the story and the most obvious benefits, are in human form. Project funding has allowed us to employ two new senior project officers for three years to ensure that DPC can fulfil its commitments to the projects and to ensure that members benefit from the work. In one stroke we have doubled our staffing and in so doing we have considerably extended the range of benefits we will soon be able to offer to members.

The Directors’ Group allowed us to introduce our new staff – Angela Dappert and Sharon McMeekin. Angela joined us from the British Library and brings considerable experience of European Commission funded research via the SCAPE and PLANETS projects. She is now overseeing our relationship to TIMBUS, a three year research project which is strengthening the relationship between digital preservation and the field of computing known as ‘business continuity management’. Sharon joined us from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland where as digital archivist she was responsible for delivering policies and procedures for the preservation of a diverse, growing and technically complicated digital archive. She is now overseeing our relationship with APARSEN – a network of excellence which is seeking to resolve issues of fragmentation in digital preservation research. I am delighted to add my own warm welcome to them both and hope that you will be as excited about working with them as I. They join William Kilbride and Carol Jackson who form the heart of the DPC. They have both brought their usual blend of enthusiasm, intelligence, and dynamism to our organisation, ensuring that members realise the benefits of being in our Coalition, but making it a pleasure to be part of our community. I am sure you will all join me in thanking them for their efforts over the past year.

2010-11 ended with an expert briefing on ‘Preserving Email’ – an appropriately popular, focused and practical note on which to close another busy year. In my last report I noted that ‘a high profile and energetic programme is valued by our members and is attractive to new members and funders alike.’ This has remained true in 2010-11. We have not only grown and delivered more benefits to our members but we have done this while building a solid base for ever more ambitious plans in the years ahead.
JPEG 2000 for the Practitioner

Sponsored by the DPC, the Wellcome Trust and the JPEG 2000 Implementation group this free seminar explored the use of JPEG 2000 in the cultural heritage industry. It examined technical issues that have an impact on practical implementation of the format, and explored the context of how and why organisations have chosen to use JPEG 2000. Although the seminar had an emphasis on digitisation and digital libraries, the papers are relevant to a range of research and creative industries. Papers and a synopsis report of the event are available online.

16 November 2010

See a short report of the event written by Christy Henshaw of the Wellcome Library here

http://www.dpconline.org/events/previous-events/688-jpeg-2000-for-the-practitioner

Digital Preservation Road Shows

Following on from last years’ Road Shows a second series was held to raise awareness of digital preservation tools and techniques. Run by the British Library Preservation Advisory Centre (BLPAC) and the Society of Archivists in partnership with the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) they were held across the UK to raise awareness of digital preservation issues, increase involvement with digital preservation activities and sign-post the support and resources available to help delegates.

• London – 4 February 2011
• Glasgow – 28 February 2011
• Cardiff – 21 March 2011
• York – 15 April 2011

These popular events, attended by over 170 delegates, have raised awareness of the issues associated with digital preservation and demonstrated that there are solutions that don’t involve spending large amounts of money, and have shown how to take the first, incremental steps in this field. More information and the slides can be viewed online at:

http://www.dpconline.org/events/previous-events
DPC Planning Day

Invitations were extended to full and associate members for the 2010-11 DPC planning day in York. The purpose of the day was to consult on and start drafting the new strategic plan for the Coalition to be adopted from January 2012 and to initiate an evaluation for the period 2009-2012. 23 members attended the main day of lively productive discussions.

16-17 January 2010

Preserving Digital Art: Directions and Perspectives

Hosted by the Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London, this DPC event provided a forum for nearly 50 attendees to review and debate the latest developments in the preservation of digital art. Innovations in contemporary art mean that the traditional skills of the conservator need to be supplemented, and in some cases radically changed, to take account of new and sophisticated forms of digital creativity. Based on commentary and case studies from leaders in the field, participants were presented with emerging tools and technologies and encouraged to propose and debate new directions for research.

30 March 2011


With a newly developed DPC online registration system in place we have been able to facilitate the busiest year ever in our events programme. A 100% increase in events have been attended by over 500 delegates.

Carol Jackson,
DPC Administration and Events Manager
Data for Life: Digital Preservation for Health Studies

Part of the DATUM for Health project, conducted by Northumbria University and funded by JISC, this DPC event was organised to introduce key concepts of digital preservation to students and information managers working in the health and wellbeing sectors. It provided a platform to review and debate the latest developments in the preservation of digital qualitative research data in the health field and initiate a discussion on how necessary skills can most effectively be developed in the future. Key topics addressed on the day were:

- Effective management of qualitative data in health
- Emerging tools and services for long term access to research data
- Research data management: policy and practice
- Practical research data management skills for health professionals

25 May 2011
http://www.dpconline.org/events/previous-events/730-data4life

Revisiting Archival Principles from a digital preservation viewpoint

This joint event between the DPC and the AIMS Project brought together the Universities of Hull, Virginia, Stanford, and Yale. Partners in the AIMS project are processing and preserving a total of 13 born-digital collections, and in doing so hope to develop a common framework and good practice guidelines that can, in the future, be adopted and applied by other organisations. Whilst introducing the AIMS model the day also facilitated discussions around three core subjects:

- Collection management
- Arrangement and description
- Discovery and access

10 June 2011
http://www.dpconline.org/events/previous-events/733-revisitingarchivalprinciples
Directors’ Group 2011
The Directors’ Group, held in Oxford, provided an extended and informal networking opportunity at which junior staff of DPC full members were invited to input into the development of the 2012 strategic plan. It allowed 30 staff, colleagues and supporters of the DPC – who might not normally attend Board meetings – to contribute to the Coalition’s work plan for the coming year.

27 June 2011
http://www.dpconline.org/events/previous-events/732-dg2011

Digital Forensics for Preservation
Archivists, collections managers and researchers are increasingly turning to the tools and methods originally developed for the detection and detention of criminals to provide a basis for a new kind of analytical collection management. This one day event provided a forum for members to review and debate the latest developments in the use of digital forensics for preservation.

29 June 2011
http://www.dpconline.org/events/previous-events/731-forensics

Preserving Email: Directions and Perspectives
This briefing day brought together members and a number of experts in the field to debate the latest developments in the preservation of email. Discussions ranged from the relatively simple proposition of how preserving our collected digital correspondence can be blighted by interminable wrangling over procedure, policy and technology, to debating new directions for research.

29 July 2011

I’m going to go back and feel like I know where to start, which I didn’t before! Need to go back and look at risk assessment and a digital preservation policy

Digital Preservation Roadshow attendee
ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR
The DPC response to the consultation on the Public Records Review represents an opportunity to build capacity for digital preservation in a diverse range of authorities

William Kilbride, Executive Director of the DPC

August 2010

DPC Response to Public Records Review Consultation

The DPC responded to the consultation on the Public Records Review, welcoming the explicit statement that digitised and ‘born digital’ materials constitute a public record, noting and supporting the focus on informational content and the consequent need for ‘technology proofing’ and the management of formats.

October 2010

Case Note Release: Practical Preservation at the West Yorkshire Archive Service

The DPC, JISC and the West Yorkshire Archive Service released a new digital preservation case note which examines the practical problems of digital preservation faced by the archive service as they negotiated for and received their first large digital collection. They concluded that although digital preservation can seem daunting and although nobody has the perfect answer to digital preservation for every case, that if we try we may fail, but if we do nothing we certainly will.

December 2010

DPC Response to DCMS’s Consultation on Legal Deposit

In January 2010 the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) consulted on draft regulations for the legal deposit of ‘free of charge’ electronic publications – the ‘free web’. This consultation was intended to be the first part of a two part process and the DPC responded arguing inter alia that the second phase of proposals be presented without delay as arguably the ‘paid web’ includes material of lasting value and that until regulations were introduced this element of our collected digital memory would be at risk.

January 2011

DPC Comments on DCMS Regulations for Electronic Legal Deposit in the UK

The DPC published a response to the second phase of consultation on electronic legal deposit which was submitted to the Department for Culture Media and Sport at the end of December. It noted the essential relationship between preservation and access and welcomed the proposal to extend legal deposit to include charged content as well as content to which access is restricted. This will create the conditions where a more rounded and more valuable national archive can be created.

February 2011

DPC and DigCurV: A new Framework for Vocational Education

The DPC joined, as an associate partner, an EU-sponsored initiative seeking to build a new framework for vocational education in digital preservation. The DigCurV project is a 30 month project that aims to address the availability of vocational education and training needed by curators in the library, archive, museum and cultural heritage sectors to develop the new skills that are essential for the long-term management of digital collections. For more information about DigCurV, see http://www.dpconline.org/newsroom/not-so-new/676-dpc-and-digcurv-a-new-frameworkfor-vocational-education
March 2011

Case Note Release: Assessing Long-Term Access from Short-Term Digitisation Projects

The DPC and ULCC with the assistance of Portico and funding from JISC announced the release of a new Case Note in digital preservation: ‘Assessing Long-Term Access from Short-Term Digitization Projects’. This new case note, written by Patricia Sleeman of University of London Computer Centre provides a simple set of questions to which were used to evaluate the long term prospects of 16 digitisation projects funded by JISC. The survey questions will be useful to any funder wanting to test the durability of digital content that they are creating, and any digitisation project manager keen to ensure that their work is robust.

June 2011

DPC Recruitment of Two Senior Project Officers for Digital Preservation EU Projects – APARSEN and TIMBUS

The DPC partnered in two projects funded by the European Commission. Both projects will influence and extend the work of the Coalition in the next three years and the DPC were delighted to announce the recruitment of Angela Dappert and Sharon McMeekin as Senior Project Officers. Angela Dappert joins the DPC from the British Library where for 5 years she has worked as a requirements manager, project manager and researcher. She has participated in the EC-funded digital preservation projects SCAPE and PLANETS, the development of the British Library’s Digital Library System and has implemented digital preservation actions for the British Library collections. She has published and contributed to digital preservation research and training and has contributed to standards development. She is a graduate of the Universities of Heidelberg and Texas at Austin.

Sharon McMeekin joins the DPC from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland where she was digital archives curator and digital archivist. In this role she led the development of a digital repository for a diverse range of geospatial, architectural and archaeological data sets. She managed a large scale catalogue enhancement project which included a significant training role. She is a graduate of the University of Glasgow.
The APARSEN Project

The APARSEN project seeks the establishment of a ‘network of excellence’ based loosely on the existing Alliance for Permanent Access but with a large number of new members and a series of specific work packages. The core concept of APARSEN is to provide a check against potential fragmentation of digital preservation research and development by seeking to establish a shared vision and forum for the exchange of ideas from the many partners and agencies involved in this interdisciplinary activity. The proposal includes 28 separate work packages delivered over a four year period, ending in 2014.

Along with involvement in a number of other work packages the DPC is leading work on ‘Staff and Experience Exchange’ and on ‘Training Courses’. Together, these packages aim to encourage the development of a well-connected and highly-skilled generation of professional leaders. They open the work of the APARSEN to junior staff by establishing a programme that will allow them to spend time working with colleagues in other institutions.


TIMBUS

TIMBUS is designed to offer ‘timeless business processes and services’, filling a gap within existing preservation solutions. Migration tools now exist to provide long term management of data, and emulation approaches and services are in development for long term access to software so that information objects can be rendered. However, business processes rely on increasingly complicated networks of responsibility in which services and data are shared. The dependencies associated with a ‘web of services’ are seldom properly documented and the risk management required to assess and resolve these risks becomes increasingly complicated as the interdependence of services grows. If the execution context of business processes assumes that services and data are available, then digital preservation services will also need to provide mechanisms that describe and where necessary exhume defunct processes.

The DPC is leading on the dissemination and training work package within TIMBUS, aligning closely with part of its role within APARSEN and providing opportunities for DPC members to get early access to these new and emerging tools and services.

http://timbusproject.net

June 2010

DigCurV Project Survey: Digital Preservation Training in Europe

Vilnius University Library carried out a survey of training opportunities in digital curation and long-term preservation within Europe and internationally as part of the DigCurV (Digital Curator Vocational Education Europe) project. The DigCurV project plans to use the information gathered about the training opportunities available for digital curators in libraries, archives, museums and cultural heritage sector along with information gathered through other activities to develop a curriculum framework for vocational training.

Appointing two new staff means a 100% increase in staff and a radical expansion in the benefits we can deliver to members

Richard Ovenden,
Chairman of the DPC
Digital Preservation Training Programme Scholarships

The Digital Preservation Training Programme (DPTP) is designed for all those working in institutional information management who are grappling with fundamental issues of digital preservation. It provides the skills and knowledge necessary for institutions to combine organisational and technological perspectives, and devise an appropriate response to the challenges that digital preservation needs present. DPTP is operated and organised by the University of London Computer Centre in collaboration with the DPC. To date the DPC has offered 24 scholarships so that its members can attend the course.

4 – 6 October 2010

The DPC was pleased to offer five scholarships so that DPC members could participate in the Digital Preservation Training Programme in London in October 2010. The following were selected by a small panel of judges which met to review the unexpectedly large number of applications submitted:

- Dr Anna Buelow of The National Archives
- Akiko Kimura of the British Library
- John Langdon of Tate
- Laura Molloy of HATII, University of Glasgow
- James Peters of the Archives and Records Association

Evidence shows that there is a real skills gap when it comes to digital preservation and that training can be hard to find and expensive. The scholarships are great news for the individuals concerned, but the real beneficiaries will be the member institutions who need to maintain and develop their workforces, often with new roles and new working patterns.

William Kilbride, Executive Director of the DPC
Six scholarships were awarded so that DPC members could participate in the DPTP in Glasgow:

- Ginevra House of the University of York who is a student with the Arts and Humanities Research Council
- Nicola Johnson of the British Library
- Neil Miller of the National Records of Scotland
- Meadhbh Murphy of Trinity College Dublin Library
- Hannah Smith of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
- Heather Stanley of the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland

Applicants were judged against three main criteria: the role that DPTP would play in career development; the benefits to their organisation from attendance and the extent to which the applicant’s job profile within the organisation pertains to digital preservation. Applications were open to DPC members and associates.

For more information on the DPC programme of scholarships including interviews with participants on the course see:

http://www.dpconline.org/training/leadership-programme

November 2010

How to set up and run a data service – Colchester

DPC funded three places on a new course from the University of Essex UK Data Archive. Feedback from the students and tutors alike was positive: participants would recommend the course to colleagues and the UK Data Archive has confirmed they will run the course again.

Ellis McCarthy from King’s College London

Sarah Jones from HATII at the University of Glasgow

Birgit Plietzsch from University of St Andrews

http://www.dpconline.org/training/leadership-programme

What’s New in Digital Preservation

What’s New is a summary of selected recent activity in the field of digital preservation commissioned and published by the DPC in collaboration with the DCC. This year nine issues of What’s New have been produced:

- Issue 36, May 2011
- Issue 35, April 2011
- Issue 34, March 2011
- Issue 33, February 2011
- Issue 32, December 2010
- Issue 31, November 2010
- Issue 30, October 2010
- Issue 29, September 2010
- Issue 28, August 2010

Each month, publications featured snapshots of what’s on and what’s new, a topical discussion paper, a practitioner profile and an update from one of our partners overseas. In addition, readers are invited to share comments and debate current issues.

http://www.dpconline.org/newsroom/whats-new
Digital preservation has made tremendous progress in the last decade, but expertise tends to be concentrated in a small number of expert groups. Training events like DPTP are essential if we are to make more rapid progress in securing our long term memory.

Richard Ovenden, Chairman of the DPC and Deputy Librarian of the Bodleian Libraries at Oxford University as well as Chair of the DPC

Technology Watch Reports

The Digital Preservation Coalition and Charles Beagrie Limited were delighted in May 2011 to announce a collaboration to produce 5 new DPC Technology Watch Reports. The collaboration follows a DPC call for proposals issued in December 2010 and the selection of Charles Beagrie Limited as the preferred bidder.

The collaboration will produce a series of 5 Technology Watch Reports over the next 12 months under the general supervision of an editorial board and Neil Beagrie as principal investigator and commissioning editor. The 5 proposed reports and their authors are as follows:

- Preserving Email, Chris Prom
- Preserving Moving Picture and Sound, Richard Wright
- Intellectual Property Rights for Preservation, Andrew Charlesworth
- Digital Forensics and Preservation, Jeremy Leighton John
- Trust in Post Cancellation Access Services, Neil Beagrie

DPC Technology Watch reports can be found on the DPC website at:

http://www.dpconline.org/publications/technology-watch-reports

The Digital Preservation and DPC – Discussion email lists

The digital preservation email list facilitates information on digital preservation activities, management of digital materials and online discussions. The list now has over 1351 subscribers.

The DPC also has a private DPC discussion list for members and allies which is used to disseminate DPC activity and information. The list currently has almost 153 subscribers.

[1] digital-preservation@jiscmail.ac.uk
[3] dpc-discussion@jiscmail.ac.uk
The winner of the 2010 Digital Preservation Awards was announced by Richard Ovenden, Chair of the DPC, at a presentations ceremony at The Royal Institution on the 1st of December 2010. The award was presented to Old Dominion University and the Los Alamos National Lab, USA for their MEMENTO Project: Time Travel for the Web.

The fourth Digital Preservation Award celebrated the excellence and innovation that will help to ensure our digital memory is accessible tomorrow. It is one of a set of five awards which are collectively called the Conservation Awards. Sponsored by Sir Paul McCartney and key organisations in conservation and collection care, the Conservation Awards began in 1993 and their presentation is coordinated by a working party of the Institute for Conservation (Icon). This year the DPC Administration and Events Manager provided a key role overseeing the administration process of the collective Awards on behalf of Icon. The DPC sponsored Digital Preservation Award has been run three times (2004, 2005 and 2007). This has been a major commitment for the staff of the Coalition and has benefitted from the support of a committed group of judges.

The awards enjoy an unusually high profile and are therefore invaluable for the advocacy of digital preservation. The 2010 judges had the difficult task of selecting the following shortlist of five applications:

- PLATO 3: Preservation Planning Made Simple – Vienna University of Technology & the PLANETS Project
- The Blue Ribbon Task Force on Sustainable Digital Preservation and Access
- Preserving Virtual Worlds – University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, USA
- The MEMENTO Project: Time Travel for the Web – Old Dominion University & the Los Alamos National Lab, USA

**DP Award 2010 judges:**

Kevin Ashley, Director, Digital Curation Centre; Adrian Brown, Assistant Clerk of the Record, Parliamentary Archives and previous winner; William Kilbride, Executive Director, Digital Preservation Coalition; Pip Laurenson, Head of Time-based Media Conservation, Tate; Zoe Lock, Lead Technologist for ICT, The Technology Strategy Board; Eefke Smit, Director for Standards and Technology, Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers; Dave Thompson, Digital Curator, The Wellcome Library; Matthew Woollard, Director Designate, the UK Data Archive; and Richard Wright, Senior Research Engineer, BBC

Full details in the Digital Preservation Award are available from:

http://www.dpconline.org/advocacy/awards

Herbert van der Sompel of Los Alamos National Laboratory accepts the DP Award 2010 on behalf of the MEMENTO Project

Images courtesy of the Wellcome Trust
National Library of Scotland (NLS)

The National Library of Scotland is in the middle of updating its digital preservation strategy and will complete this work in the autumn of 2011. The specification of a more efficient and integrated file integrity checking tool has been completed and NLS has allocated dedicated developer time to create the tool by March 2012.

Funding has been secured to digitize and preserve video cassettes in partnership with Glasgow University and the project is well underway.

NLS continue to harvest content from the web to preserve it for the long-term, currently with the Internet Archive, while undertaking a strategic review of this activity. A partnership between the National Library of Scotland, the British Library and the National Library of Wales has implemented shared infrastructure for the long-term preservation of electronic legal deposit material in advance of legislation. The National Library of Scotland is working closely with the National Records of Scotland and the Registers of Scotland to develop a shared approach to care for public digital assets.

Cambridge University Library

Digital preservation activities at Cambridge University Library continued to focus on research data management in 2010-11, building on the Incremental project which ran in collaboration with HATII until March 2011. Incremental’s work centred on investigating researchers’ practices with respect to organising, storing, and sharing their data, and providing them with guidance and support on improving their practice. Outcomes included web resources and workshops and seminars addressing key data management topics.

In collaboration with Cambridge academic departments and the ADS, the DataTrain project scoped specific requirements for data management in the disciplines of archaeology and social anthropology, developed modular training materials around them, and piloted training modules for postgraduates which will be embedded in future research methods training. The EPIC project investigated ways of improving DSpace@Cambridge preservation services by exploring the feasibility of using Plato and Planets tools. It reviewed risk levels of deposited collections and used Plato to investigate preservation options for selected text formats and to develop preservation plans for them. EPIC also captured information on significant properties for content through interviews with depositors.

Anna Collins joined the DSpace@Cambridge team as Research Data and Digital Curation Officer, sustaining and developing the work of the above JISC-funded projects.
Joint Information Systems Committee of the Higher and Further Education Funding Councils (JISC)

The general thrust of JISC’s core (grant) funded activity for the period 2010/11 was focused on encouraging the uptake and implementation of existing digital preservation tools. The purpose of this work was to try and realise some of the benefit of earlier research and development investment and to highlight the breadth and depth of existing digital preservation resources. Five ‘Tools’ projects were funded. [1]

JISC also commissioned the POCOS project [2] to examine issues to do with the preservation of complex digital visual materials.

Support for the preservation of e-journals continued in the form of further funding for the PEPRS project [3] and a group called JARVIG was convened to devise a plan to implement a national infrastructure for e-journal archiving.

New phases of work were started in relation to the costs and sustainability of digital preservation with projects working on the concept of both a ‘costs observatory’ and an ‘economic sustainability reference model’.

In the realm of partnership working, JISC became a charter member of the ‘Open Planets Foundation’ and actively participated in the ‘Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation’ initiative.

The National Archives (TNA)

The National Archives is gearing up for new responsibilities, including a leadership role for archives in England, as the Museum Libraries and Archives Council is wound up.

We won the prestigious Queen’s Award for Enterprise: Innovation jointly with private company Tessella, for developing a system for preserving digital information (Safety Deposit Box) which has since been adopted around the world.

Through ongoing collaboration with the Archaeological Data Service, the Georgia Tech Research Institute and National Archives and Records Administration in the United States, the number of internal signatures we use to identify digital file formats in the PRONOM database has increased by almost a quarter. A new version of DROID, 6.0, was launched and is faster and more accurate than previous versions.

In May 2011, the community disc archive collated 25 years ago for the BBC Domesday project, was republished on the BBC’s website. We have been working with BBC Learning to ensure this valuable resource will be available for generations to come.

The National Archives has received over a billion hits in the past year to its UK Government Web Archive. To complement our central government activities, The National Archives is also piloting a web archiving model with local authority archives services.

In August, we launched a digital preservation FAQ to help explain some basics and point archives to further information resources.

In March, we published guidance for archives on digital preservation policies which is now in the top five TNA guidance products measured by frequency of download.

We also launched the Digital Continuity Service, comprising guidance, risk assessment, training and a catalogue of commercial tools and services which can help ensure valuable digital information remains usable over time.

We are increasingly turning our minds towards the issues of scale and speed of transfer, which we believe to be the major challenges of digital preservation.

Public Record Office Northern Ireland (PRONI)

PRONI’s plans for digital preservation gathered pace in 2010-2011. The business case commissioned to examine options available to us for establishing a digital repository was completed and approved in October 2010.

After much discussion with a wide variety of colleagues, the business case recommended that PRONI adopt a cost effective solution to the challenge and we believe our preferred option provides us with a secure, stable platform to build the repository upon. Due to the relatively low cost of the project our bid for funding was successful and work began in earnest in January 2011.

This work has included a complete re-evaluation of how PRONI receives archives, as well as beginning the mind-boggling process of developing systems that will preserve the records and give users access to them. The project is currently scheduled for completion in mid-2013.
**Oxford University Library Services – Bodleian Libraries**

FutureArch [1] continued its innovative work supporting curatorial staff in bringing born-digital material into the Library. In 2010-11, we began a 12 month web-archiving pilot study, to help us devise appropriate policies, procedures, and business models. This work was complemented by the development and initial testing of the Bodleian Electronic Archives & Manuscripts (BEAM) [2] researcher interface – which will provide scholars with direct and secure access to our digital archives.

This year also saw the holdings of the Bodleian’s Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) exceed 100TB. We initiated the automated ingest and validation of more than 400,000 books digitized as part of our ground-breaking collaboration with Google [3] as well as securing the outputs of several major research projects led by academics at the University of Oxford.

The Bodleian’s research in digital forensics, funded by the Mellon Foundation and working with the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities and the Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin, resulted in the publication of a major CLIR report “Digital Forensics and Born-Digital Content in Cultural Heritage Collections”. [4]

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The National Records of Scotland (NRS)

On 1 April 2011, the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) merged with the General Register Office for Scotland to create a new body called the National Records of Scotland.

NRS combines all the functions of the two former bodies, including the selection and preservation of electronic material of historical significance, the secure handling and preservation of all Scottish Census data, the National Health Service Central Register, the production of population statistics, and the preservation of images of historical records.

NRS’s role advising public bodies on record keeping has been strengthened by the Public Records (Scotland) Act 2011, obliging named authorities to have proper arrangements for the management of their records, including electronic records. As well being subject to the Act, NRS is responsible for advising bodies and monitoring compliance with it.

An Electronic Records Unit has been established to develop the NRS’s existing Digital Data Archive and support staff dealing with depositors of electronic data. It will also help to identify an EDRMS solution for the NRS, and collaborate with other public bodies under Scotland’s Digital Future: A Strategy for Scotland.

http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk
Research Councils UK (RCUK)

Data policy has been a high priority. RCUK released a new set of Common Principles on Data Policy covering preservation and access to publically funded research data [1]. These underpin the specific policies and guidance of individual research councils, several of which have also been recently updated.

The Research Councils are also involved in some significant European projects. STFC is leading the PaNdata collaboration which will be building an Open Data Infrastructure across 11 major European Research Infrastructures [2] and continues to work closely with the Alliance Permanent Access [3]. STFC and NERC are both partners in the European project SCIDIP-ES (SCIence Data Infrastructure for Preservation – with focus on Earth Science) which is about delivering long-term preservation services as part of the data infrastructure.

STFC are a major partner in the EUDAT project which is building a European Collaborative Data Infrastructure, including a trusted domain for the long term data preservation. ESRC has redeveloped its website and Research Catalogue (repository). The new catalogue improves the user experience and enhances search functionality. A new website archiving system was also introduced. This allows ESRC to take snapshots of websites produced by its research investments and preserve them for future reference.

University of London Computer Centre (ULCC)

The Digital Archives & Repositories Team at ULCC continues to work on a wide range of projects in the field. During the year we enjoyed helping the Parliamentary Archives develop metadata schemas for their new repository and The Women’s Library devise a digital preservation strategy.

Web archiving work for the JISC went on apace, and we began work on the EU FP7-funded BlogForever project, coordinating a multilingual international survey on blogs and preservation over the summer.

The Transcribe Bentham project at UCL, which we developed and host, received an award at the annual Prix Ars Electronica.

The EPrints-based Repository Service has added new repositories for several educational institutions, and enhanced repositories for existing customers. JISC-supported explorations in text-mining for repositories (MERLIN, with UCL) and linked/open data for archival catalogues (with AIM25 and King’s College) came to an end: we look forward to doing more.
Archaeology Data Service (ADS)

During 2010-11 the ADS completed installation of its Fedora-based repository, worked with Cambridge University Library to develop digital preservation training materials as part of the DataTrain project [1] and collaborated with UKOLN and others on the Keeping Research Data Safe 2 Digital Preservation Benefits Tools. Accreditation of our digital preservation policies and procedures led to ADS being awarded the Data Seal of Approval 2010. At European level ADS produced a report on sustainability for CARARE, a Europeana aggregator.

During the year ADS also worked with DataCite at the British Library to implement Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for each project archive in its collections. This includes every unpublished fieldwork report in the ADS Grey Literature Library, which over the last year has exceeded the 10,000 threshold. We have also worked with Southampton City Council to provide digital archiving for all archaeological fieldwork carried out within the city: (e.g. doi:10.5284/1000318). The pilot uses project metadata captured via the OASIS online recording form to populate the ADS collections management database. The same data can be viewed by Southampton Arts and Heritage and can be used in their role as repository for the project physical archive.

Archives & Records Association (ARA)

The Archives and Records Association (ARA) is the principal professional body for Archivists, Archive Conservators and Records Managers in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The ARA: represents the record-keeping professions’ interests; sets professional conduct standards; provides, monitors and develops professional training; promotes the exchange of expertise and experience; and markets its members skills.

The ARA Data Standards Group (DSG) coordinates DPC liaison, and collaborates, on digital preservation issues across the Association. During 2010-2011 associate membership of the DPC has continued to act as a focus to raise awareness and provide solutions for digital preservation issues through the group’s bi-annual meetings and provision of appropriate training. DSG members have: participated in international standards development; published expert articles; and spoken at relevant events. Formal representation is made on: Archives for 21 Century Digital Preservation Working Group; Guidelines for Managing Digital Material Steering Group (Collections Trust); UK Archives Discovery Network; and the DPC’s Technology Watch editorial board. ARA members have benefited from participation in a number of DPC training events, with a competitive scholarship awarded for the October 2010 Digital Preservation Training Programme (DPTP).

The BBC has re-located its, 4 million plus, Radio and Television programme collections to the new Archive Centre in Perivale, West London. The new centre has individually air and climate conditioned vaults suitable for the wide range of media within the collections, you can learn more via this url. [1]

Digitisation of the television collection has continued at a rate of 30,000+ programmes per year, with ingest of uncompressed files wrapped with MXF and incorporating legacy metadata describing the programme and original source material. The programme files are stored on LTO4 data tapes, which act as a resilient master copy, with duplicate files planned for migration to our new LTO5 data tape robotic facility within the Archive Centre.

The in-house encoding solution, Archive INGEX, is having its code case updated to handle the Beta family broadcast standard videotapes and a Hi-Def version is in development.

Our Research and Development department are finalising design and build of automated quality control solutions that will ensure greater process efficiency and reduce the need for human intervention.

The objective of these developments is to provide an enhanced ingest factory capable of servicing fast turnaround on demand requests for play-out and productions who will be working primarily in the file domain.

Centre for e-Research (CeRch)

Applied research is central to the operation of the Centre for e-Research (CeRch), informing the development of its teaching programme and other services. Research activities have emphasised the value of collaborative approaches, bringing together diverse disciplines to enhance existing working practices.

The FIDO project [1] explored the value of digital forensics as a technique to identify, acquire and analyse disparate data held upon digital media. The tools and techniques were subsequently embedded within the operations at KCL Archives & Information Management service, enabling them to handle a broad range of digital media types and content.

Complementary work performed by BRIL [2] adopted a ‘sheer curation’ approach, introducing tools into the day-to-day work practices of scientists in the KCL Randall Division of Cell and Molecular Biophysics that would allow a digital repository to capture content and, equally important, the context of its creation.

Finally, the Kindura project [3] a collaboration between CeRch and STFC, is piloting a cloud infrastructure, built upon FedoraCommons and DuraCloud, that will enable researchers to evaluate a diverse range of in-house/external cloud services and select one that fits their data management needs.


The National Library of Ireland (NLI)

The NLI joined the Digital Preservation Coalition earlier this year. The NLI is in the process of developing its digital collections policy, while putting in place a digital preservation and access infrastructure. In so doing, we will maximise access to our resources, enhance and expand the services we offer, and enable users to work with the NLI and NLI collections, in new and innovative ways.

We hope to do this through an iterative process of using pilot projects looking at the collection, storing and dissemination of digital material, to inform and help document policy development in this area. This will include work programmes in the areas of digitisation, ingest of e-legal deposit material, and development and implementation of a Digital Repository.

Earlier this year we conducted a pilot themed web archiving project around the Irish General Election which was held in February of 2011. Our partner on this project was the Internet Memory Foundation, and the project should go live in September 2011.
HATII (Humanities Advanced Technology & Information Institute), Glasgow University

This year has been very active for HATII, and we’ve continued to expand our knowledge management and curation research and teaching programme, integrating with our post-graduate masters and research degrees.

HATII has a wide-ranging portfolio of projects in the sphere of digital preservation. Among the recent initiatives are:

• JISC funded Integrated Data Management Planning and Support and Incremental projects – helping HEIs assess and improve their data curation infrastructure and support;

• JISC and RIN funded DaMSSI – helping researchers plan their data curation skills development;

• Digital Curation Centre (DCC) – now in its third phase, the DCC continues to provide data curation guidance and support to HEIs. We’re also supporting the University Modernisation Fund (UMF) projects who are developing shared curation services in the cloud;

• DigCurV – this European Commission funded, multi-partner project will establish a digital curation curriculum framework for vocational training;

• BlogForever – this FP7 project will create a software platform capable of aggregating, preserving, managing and disseminating blogs.

For more on HATII and our research programmes, please visit:

http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/hatii/research/digitalcuration
The National Library of Wales (NLW)

This year saw the successful completion of the first two years of the National Library of Wales’s ambitious plan to digitise all of its holdings of historical newspapers and journals, see [1].

The decision of the Welsh Assembly Government to invest £2 million from the Strategic Capital Investment Fund has enabled the Library to build the robust technical infrastructure required to support such large-scale digitisation. This year has also seen the development and implementation of a new workflow management system to manage and monitor the end-to-end process of digitisation from the capture of initial structural metadata, through to scanning and the subsequent ingest of objects into the Vital DAMS. Over 1.4 million pages have been scanned to date and processed in-house for OCR.

In order to ensure the sustainability of its digital data, the NLW is currently working on its third digital preservation strategy. This strategy aligns with the NLW’s overall strategy The Responsive Library, 2011-2014, which places an emphasis upon unlocking the potential of the Library through the application of efficient business processes and focuses on institutional flexibility, content use and external relationships.


Natural History Museum (NHM)

The Museum is continuing work on the implementation of a Digital Asset Management System, using the Open Text Media Manager software. The challenge has been to design and build a system that meets the Museum’s very complex needs, not only now but going forwards. Despite some delays in the project schedule the intention is still to go live in 2011.

The Open Repository, where published material by Museum scientists is made available, continues to be supported at [1].

The Museum is also a major contributor to the Biodiversity Heritage Library. [2] BHL is a consortium of natural history and botanical libraries working in partnership with the Internet Archive to provide access to literature formerly only available by visiting the libraries in person. Sites are being set up around the world (in the US, UK, Egypt, China and Australia so far) which are manually synchronised via disks of data sent to each repository. In due course the sites will be synchronised automatically in order to support the preservation of the millions of pages of scanned books and journals that are now available to the public.

Towards the end of the reporting year the Museum was preparing to sign up to the LOCKSS alliance (Lots Of Copies Keeps Stuff Safe). [3]

The Museum will be setting up its own service node to participate in this, and hopes to be operational by the end of 2011.

Among the digitisation activities supported by the OCLC Research Library Partnership are Born-Digital Special Collections, focusing on enhancing the effective management of born-digital materials as they intersect with special collections and archives practices in research libraries, and Streamlining Photography and Scanning, a working group addressing workflow and policy issues arising from digitising (and copying) materials from special collections.

The OCLC Research Library Partnership has published several important documents over the year. Ricky Erway’s report, Rapid Capture: Faster Output in Digitization of Special Materials, provides examples of how to simplify and streamline digital capture of non-book collections. Jennifer Schaffner and two other non-OCLC colleagues published Scan and Deliver: Managing User-initiated Digitization in Special Collections and Archives, a report that presents strategies for providing efficient and economical delivery of digital copies of materials in special collections.

From OCLC Research Program Office, Jackie Dooley was elected Vice President/President Elect of the Society of American Archivists. Jackie is also the primary author of Taking Our Pulse: The OCLC Research Survey of Special Collections and Archives. [1]

The OCLC Library has been digitising the complete back files of regional network newsletters, some of which date to the early 1970s, with CONTENTdm software. The Library is also digitally converting the OCLC Newsletter from 1977 to the present, with the goal of mounting it on the OCLC web site. Finally, the Library obtained permission to convert from microfiche to digital eight titles, mostly in the library science arena, covering two to three decades of content.

The Library also regularly archives digital copies of all OCLC publications, selected websites, and news updates for permanent retention in the Digital Archive. [2]

The Parliamentary Archives

The Parliamentary Archives made substantial progress in developing facilities to ensure the long-term preservation of Parliament’s valuable digital resources. We finalised the requirements for our digital repository, and began procurement of the IT systems we will need. The first iteration of the repository is due to be operational by mid-2012, with further phases of development planned in the following years. We undertook a detailed analysis of the information we will require to catalogue and manage digital records. We also established an interim solution to store digital records in advance of the digital repository, and undertook pre-emptive preservation of vulnerable records.

Following a successful pilot in 2009-10, we set-up a contract to archive Parliament’s websites, capturing three snapshots each year. This is enabling us to preserve a record of Parliament’s evolving use of the Web, and this year we captured 18 million pages in our web archive. The resultant 140 GB of data has now been transferred to secure storage prior to being ingested into the digital repository. The Parliamentary Web Archive is now available at:

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/parliamentary-archives/web-archive

The Open University

Our 3 year Access to Video Assets (AVA) project concluded in July 2011. It successfully raised the digital preservation agenda within the University and delivered a video repository prototype using Fedora with a customised interface supporting in-video search. The prototype supports linked data and is preservation standards compliant.

AVA also launched the Videofinder and digitisation-on-demand service for staff to help find and re-use valuable archive assets for teaching, learning and research. These services are now a significant part of the University Archive offering.

May-July 2011 saw a major push on digitising known archive formats at risk. In the last three years we have digitised 1830 items.

The University Archive has used AVA recommendations to inform new University wide policy and practice on digital preservation and digital continuity. Skills training has been a top priority to ensure staff have the confidence to manage digital and analogue time based media collections.

Digital Preservation Coalition promotional material was well received by OU staff when presented at the annual Learn about Fair in March 2011.

Digital preservation will feature as a key strand of the Library’s new two year digital library project, commencing August 2011.
MEMBERS’ ACTIVITIES

Portico

Portico [1] is a not-for-profit digital preservation service and is among the largest community-supported digital archives in the world. In 2010, Portico became the first preservation service to be independently audited by the Center for Research Libraries (CRL) and certified as a trusted, reliable digital preservation solution that serves the needs of the library community. Over the course of 2010, Portico focused on scale and implemented a major migration of every preservation metadata file in the archive to a new format. In addition, by December 2010, Portico had ingested nearly 10 Tb of content from Gale’s digitised historical collections [2] doubling the size of the Portico archive. The addition of digitised historical collections to the archive also brought about a greater diversity of content, as did the addition of an e-book preservation service in 2011. [3]

Currently, thirteen publishers have committed more than 100,000 e-books to preservation in the archive.


Research Information Network (RIN)

In July, RIN – working in partnership with JISC – completed a major study in the use, value and impact of research data centres in the UK.

The report from this work, drawing from an investigation of eight such establishments covering a spectrum of academic fields, concluded that data centres play an important part in the modern research infrastructure, and offer benefits not just to researchers, but also to wider society and the economy. These benefits emerge because the centres are large, centralised and offer a range of services beyond the provision of access to data. They are recognised to be important both for reference purposes and for novel research. Their staff are skilled at manipulating, interpreting and supporting the use of data sets, and this is highly valued by researchers. Data centres are therefore a success story for their users, and funders and policy-makers should continue to promote and support them as an essential part of the UK’s digital infrastructure. However, it is recognised that they are just one part of a broader landscape for data curation and storage, and further work needs to be done to investigate how they can function more effectively with local, national and international services.
University of St Andrews, IT Services

As part of our ongoing Digital Archiving Project work has continued over the past year on the setup of a digital archive, initially for Arts and Humanities research data that is produced within the University of St Andrews. At the centre of last year’s work stood an evaluation of various file validation tools and the development of the OAIS access function for our Fedora-based archive.

We are now evaluating the Planets software suite for our preservation planning function. In addition, we are currently investigating the long-term data storage needs for digital audio and video content that is held by the University with a view to putting a suitable solution in place.

One member of IT Services staff was awarded a DPC scholarship to attend the training event “How to set up and run a data service” at the UK Data Archive in November 2010.

Shared Web Information Systems for Heritage (SWISH) Partnership: Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)

In 2003 RCAHMS and RCAHMW established the SWISH partnership as a joint venture to share maintenance and development costs for our Information Systems and to create a shared vision for future enhancements for our online resources.

The recent work of the SWISH partnership has focused on the delivery of the ‘Collections Enhancement’ project which aims to redevelop the organisations’ cataloguing systems in line with international standards. The Collections Enhancement project has improved capabilities for capturing information on copyright, locations of material and conservation. Additionally, having robust cataloguing systems will aid future developments in digital curation.

The database development has now been successfully completed, and work is progressing on developing web services to provide improved access to collections information for users. This work took priority over the year and therefore developments for a ‘Trusted Digital Repository’ for RCAHMS and RCAHMW focused on project planning and the DRAMBRORA toolkit will be used to help with this. In addition the digital archivist delivered a range of papers and worked closely with a number of key external contributors to look at and assess issues for donors and in particular for architectural and archaeological archives.
Tate continues its work on long term preservation of software-based artworks. In tandem with this is Matters in Media Art, now in its third phase and focused on the care and management of software-based art as well as the storage and documentation of digital art. Matters in Media Art was created in 2003 by a consortium of curators, conservators, registrars and media technical managers from the New Art Trust, MoMA, San Francisco MoMA and Tate. It aims to provide guidelines for the care of time-based media artworks. The time-based media conservation team at Tate is also currently trialling the use of the BBC’s Ingex system for archiving and migrating our collection of video-based artworks, which are standard definition with PAL encoding. Use of this technology is also being explored for NTSC and High Definition video.

Following the appointment of an archive curator with responsibility for digital preservation, Tate Archive has agreed a digital preservation policy and is developing its resource of specialist equipment to enable the acquisition of born digital material. The Archive has also opened an audio digitisation studio as part of a two-year project, funded by the Rootstein Hopkins Foundation, to catalogue and digitise the archive of Audio Arts magazine.

Tate’s Photography and Online departments have been collaborating with the Archive on a major funding bid to digitise 50,000 items from Tate Archive and integrate them with 65,000 digitised artworks already available on our website.

The Digital Asset Management project, led by Tate’s Information Systems department, has reached the end of the research phase and is moving on to the implementation of preservation actions on those assets identified most at risk.
UK Data Archive, Essex University (UKDA)

Digital preservation, information security and data management remain key areas of activity for the UK Data Archive. After achieving accreditation against ISO27001 for Information Security and earning a Data Seal of Approval the Archive has undergone a successful test audit against ISO16363 for Audit and Certification of Trustworthy Digital Repositories as part of our contribution to the APARSEN Project. During 2011 our implementation of Digital Object Identifiers (DOI) in co-operation with DataCite and the British Library will simplify citation of our data collections and increase the visibility of research that cites our data.

We are continuing to promote appropriate access to data collections and the Secure Data Service pilot is now extended into a full service providing researchers with secure remote access to data considered too detailed, confidential or potentially disclosive to be made available through standard licenses. Promotion of good data management is further supported by the release of a new collection of modular training resources to support the successful Managing and Sharing Data: A Best Practice Guide for Researchers.

To learn more about the UK Data Archive, its services and projects:

http://www.data-archive.ac.uk

UK LOCKSS Alliance

The UK LOCKSS Alliance (UKLA) is a co-operative membership organisation whose goal is to ensure continuing access to scholarly work in ways that are sustainable over the long term. It represents collaborative activity of UK libraries that are interested in building national ‘network-level’ infrastructure and coordinating the preservation of electronic material of local and UK interest.

Endorsed by the UK LOCKSS Alliance Steering Committee, a strategic plan was made available in January 2011. This was an early outcome of the JISC-funded UK LOCKSS Alliance Community Development Activities project. The three-year vision for this project proposes the following three outcomes:

- The UK LOCKSS Alliance will be a self-sustaining membership organisation, operating as a specialist library group.

- The UK LOCKSS Alliance will work to introduce a stable process for comprehensive e-journal preservation in the UK. It will operate with and alongside other relevant initiatives, such as PEPRS, PECAN, and other preservation initiatives.

- The UK LOCKSS Alliance Steering Committee will assess with members the usage of LOCKSS for other types of content of shared interest, with the goal of introducing a UK-specific Private LOCKSS Network.

To learn more about the UK LOCKSS Alliance visit their website


UK LOCKSS Alliance

UK LOCKSS Alliance

UK LOCKSS Alliance

UK LOCKSS Alliance
University of Portsmouth

The Future Proof Computing Group in the faculty of Creative and Cultural Industries was delighted to join the DPC in April 2011. Digital Preservation Theory and Practice is at the stage where emulation is starting to be taken seriously as a mainstream strategy alongside migration, to ensure maintainable long-term preservation, especially for those who store complex digital objects. The group led by David Anderson and Janet Delve is playing a key technical role in creating the tools and techniques needed to bring this about including: data modelling for databases and RDF; GUI development and identifying salient legal issues. This work is particularly important for complex digital objects, the creation of whose definitions the group are facilitating in the areas of simulation, visualisations, digital art and computer games. Current projects include:

- KEEP (Keeping Emulation Environments Portable) February 2009 – February 2012 with Joguin sas and major memory institutions;
- POCOS (Preservation of Complex Objects Symposia) February 2011 – March 2012 with BL, Joguin sas, HATII and KCL;
- Data Warehousing for Digital Preservation JISC (2011) working with NANETH and Professor Richard Healey (UoP);
- The Digital Console Project (JISC) (July/August 2010).

The Future Proof Computing group’s pages can be found at:

http://www.port.ac.uk/research/citech/principles/#fpc
**Wellcome Library**

The Wellcome Library has announced the launch of an ambitious digitisation project, to provide free, online access to its collections. Creation of the Wellcome Digital Library will throw open the doors of the Wellcome Library and its unique collections to a worldwide audience, providing a global resource for the study of the history of medicine and modern bioscience.

The Wellcome Trust has approved a budget of £3.9 million to begin a two-year pilot project on the theme of Modern Genetics and its Foundations. Drawing on the Wellcome Library’s internationally renowned collections, content will include 1400 books on genetics and heredity published between 1850 and 1990, along with important archives including the papers of Francis Crick and his original drawings of the proposed structure of DNA.

This project will see up to 1 million images digitised from the Wellcome Library’s archival and book holdings. The library will also build a digital library system to manage and preserve the content over the long term, and to display digital content in easy-to-use, flexible, and engaging ways.

Users will be able to access the repository following completion of the pilot phase of digitisation, slated for completion in September 2012.
Allied Organisations

The Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

The National Library of Australia

National Preservation Office (UK and Ireland)

The National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program of the Library of Congress (NDIIPP)

Alliance for Permanent Access to the Records of Science in Europe

DPC Staff

[1] William Kilbride
Executive Director

[2] Carol Jackson
Administration and Events Manager

[3] Angela Dappert
Senior Project Officer

[4] Sharon McMeekin
Senior Project Officer
DPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

[5] Richard Ovenden Chair
Bodleian Library, Oxford University

[6] Bruno Longmore Vice Chair
(Resigned 1 December 2010)
National Records of Scotland

[7] Patricia Kernaghan (Resigned 10 March 2011)
PRONI

[8] Richard Davis
ULCC

[9] Paul Gemmill
RCUK

[10] Adam Farquhar
British Library

National Records of Scotland

[12] Timothy Gollins
TNA

National Library of Scotland

DCC

JISC

[16] Nicky Whitsed (Appointed 1 May 2011)
Open University

[17] Katie Pekacar (Resigned 19 November 2010)
MLA

[18] Cate Newton (Resigned 28 January 2011)
NLS

[19] Patricia Killiard
Cambridge University Library

[20] David Price (Appointed 1 April 2011)
Bodleian Library, Oxford University
Jo Wolley (Appointed 20 November 2010)
MLA
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2011

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<tr>
<td>Employer’s N.I. contributions</td>
<td>9,340</td>
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<td>Staff pension costs</td>
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<td>Timbus project</td>
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<td>Aparsen project</td>
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<td>Rent</td>
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<td>Insurance</td>
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<td>Printing, postage and stationery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Publicity and promotion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet costs</td>
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<td>Travelling expenses</td>
<td>23,709</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member events</td>
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<td>Website maintenance and development</td>
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<td>Accountancy</td>
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<td>Audit fees</td>
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<td>Bank charges</td>
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<td>Leadership scheme</td>
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<td>DP award</td>
<td>6,918</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member publications</td>
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(229,240)
(10,601)

DEPRECIATION

(1,087)

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT INTEREST

904
(192)
(10,976)

DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR

142,700
450
(10,976)
132,174
44,333
176,507

RESERVES:

The DPC accounts are audited by Garbutt & Elliott LLP

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DPC ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011