Driving the long-term preservation of electronic records: some conclusions

Michael Day,
Digital Curation Centre
UKOLN, University of Bath
m.day@ukoln.ac.uk


http://www.ukoln.ac.uk/

Conclusions (1)

- Ian Hodges (TNA)
  - Develop solutions incrementally
  - Identify areas that need most attention (e.g. Web sites, datasets)
  - Identify small steps that have high impact
  - Active management is needed
  - Importance of preserving the performance (object + process) or significant properties
  - Room for collaboration on development/use of tools
    - TNA tools made available through the Web

Conclusions (2)

- Liz Scott-Wilson (London Borough of Hackney)
  - Traditional records management and archives ideas are still relevant in the digital world
  - Databases are dynamic
    - How can one preserve the former state of a database? Is it even worth trying?
  - Permanence
    - Preservation is for ever or for ten years, whichever comes first (Jeff Rothenberg, RAND Corporation)

Conclusions (3)

- Mared Owen (Gwynedd Council)
  - How to deal with not having a strategy
  - A very common problem - not just local authorities
  - Not knowing the extent of the problem
  - Need for information audit, risk analysis
  - Progressing by stealth vs. buy-in from top level (addressing business risks)
  - Working in partnership
  - Being "behind" may be an advantage
  - Achievable solutions (small steps)

Conclusions (4)

- Heather Needham (Hampshire Record Office)
  - Lack of control over producers
  - The people question is important
  - Monitoring technology is time-consuming
  - Make the case for digital preservation in terms that the audience understand
  - Take small steps

Conclusions (5)

- Paul Bevan (National Library of Wales)
  - Digital preservation cuts across complex interdependencies within organisations
  - Use OAIS as a prism for viewing the organisation
  - Communication at all levels important
Conclusions (6)

- Rory McLeod (British Library)
  - Digital preservation is an international problem, therefore collaborate and learn from what others are doing
    - Planets Project
    - [Digital Preservation Coalition, Digital Preservation Europe, Digital Curation Centre]
  - Economic modelling work (LIFE, LIFE2)
    - Need to reduce frequency of preservation actions
    - DPC Training Course
      - http://www.dpconline.org/

Common themes

- Develop strategic level and management / organisational buy-in
- Take small steps, at least to start with
- Consider what you are trying to do
- Consider significant properties of objects
- Adopt appropriate preservation strategies
- Costs
  - Trade off costs with risks
  - Need to embed digital preservation within institutions
- Traditional skills are still relevant

People are important (training needs)

Many thanks to ...

- Conference organisers and sponsors
- Speakers
- Participants

- Bon voyage!