

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

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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



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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?
 - Active issue of concern for e-Science
 - Permanence
 - Preservation is for ever or for ten years, whichever comes first (Jeff Rothenberg, RAND Corporation)



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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)



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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



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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



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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/>



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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)



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- Conference organisers and sponsors
- Speakers
- Participants

- Bon voyage!



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