

Lessons learned:

Moving a digital preservation network from project organization to sustainability

Sabine Schrimpf German National Library iPres, 5th October 2009



Context

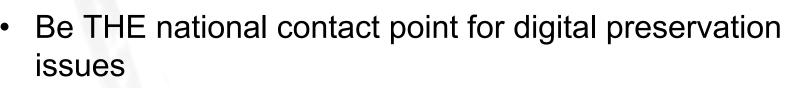


- nestor is the German network of expertise in long-term storage of digital resources
- 2003-2009: Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research
- June 2009: nestor transforms to a sustainable partner consortium
- \rightarrow Review of transformation



Vision





- Integrated into a network with national and international organizations and alliances
- Integrate the variety of running (national) activities
- Work towards a national digital preservation policy
- Foster research and innovation



Mission



Project Phase

- "to secure the preservation of digital resources in Germany and to work with others internationally to secure our global digital memory and knowledge base"
- Prepare a sustainable organization for the network

Sustainability

- Sustain and enlarge the network



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Organizational model

- Evaluation of several organizational models
 - "Eingetragener Verein" (registered association; membership corporation)
 - Joining of an existing organization
 - National committee
 - Cooperation Agreement





Cooperation Agreement

- Planning reliability: Partners have agreed on a work plan for the next three years and committed to tasks and responsibilities
- Flexibility: New partners can enter the cooperation at any time
- Board of directors makes strategic decisions and approves new members
- A coordinator, based at the nestor office at the German National Library, is in charge of the day-to-day management of the network
 - Handicap: no legal competency: nestor cannot contract, hire people, or administer funds



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Coordination

Project Phase	Sustainability
Project coordinator	nestor office at the German National Library
Execution of project plan	DoW as part of the Cooperation Agreement
4 annual project meetings	2 annual meetings
Duty to report to the project funder	Informal consortium reports



Focus on core services

- www.digitalpreservation.de
- Information and Communication Platform
 - Must be maintained with less resources
- Networking
 - National and International
 - Partners have committed to offer (at least) 4 WGs
- Education
 - MoU with HEIs, joint engagement in development of (international) curriculum
- Standardisation
 - Cooperation with DIN





New partners

- nestor is aspiring a balanced growth of the network
- New partners can be:
 - organizations concerned with all aspects of digital preservation
 - providers of specialized knowledge
- Should contribute:
 - competencies that add value to the network
 - link to other important activities
 - assume responsibility for one or more tasks



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Visibility



- nestor is established in the digital preservation community and amongst practitioners
 Less known in the political sphere and among decision makers
 Individual partners outshine the network
 - \rightarrow Necessary to raise the profile of nestor
 - Strengthening the nestor "brand"
 - Make clear that nestor "products" represent the consensus and the joint expertise of the nestor partners





Future planning

nestor

- Consolidate the network and its activities
- Find a way to raise and administer financial means
- Carefully enforce engagement in the strategic area:
 - Work with funders and politics, "lobbying" for digital preservation
 - Make better use of synergies with other alliances







Questions?

