



Preserving our digital heritage Weaving the web of trust

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International Conference on Preservation of Digital Objects
iPRES

15 September 2005, Göttingen, Germany





Part 1 „Our digital heritage“ **Fundamentals (1)**

1. If we want to build the future, we need to know our past.
2. Cultural heritage is a key to the past.
3. Every generation has to (re-)create its own past, present and future.





Part 1 „Our digital heritage“ **Fundamentals (2)**

4. Cultural heritage institutions need to collect and preserve the material that is going to be the cultural heritage of the generations to come.
5. The user is central to all our efforts.





Part 1 „Our digital heritage“ **Fundamentals (3)**

6. Digital objects are an integral part not only of the scientific-technical information process but also of our cultural heritage.





Part 1 „Our digital heritage“

Expectations of future users

- Comprehensiveness
- Authenticity
- Access
- Sustainability
- Professionalism





Part 1 „Our digital heritage“

Expectations of present users

- That we started yesterday – so let's start now!
- That we know about and deal with the most obvious needs of the users.
- That we deal with the most obvious threats to the digital documents.





Part 2 „Preservation“

Risks in the analogue world

- Damage from outside the document: fire, water, brute force, mold ...
- Even when written in stone: the medium might still be there but the meaning got lost
- Damage from inside the document: acid paper, ink ...





Part 2 „Preservation“ Risks in the digital world





Part 2 „Preservation“

Scope

- Digital resources converted from existing analogue resources
- Born digital resources e. g. texts, databases, still and moving images, audio, graphics, software, web pages, etc.

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Part 2 „Preservation“

Selection (1)

- Selection starts with acquisition: Not all digital materials can be collected.
- Not all digital collections can be preserved.
- We might never be able to get more than fragmentary and incomplete results.





Part 2 „Preservation“

Selection (2)

- There are different selection traditions in archives, museums and libraries.
- Obvious criteria for selection are
 - significance today and / or
 - anticipated lasting value (economic, cultural, social, scholarly, evidential ...)





Part 2 „Preservation“

Access

- Ensuring permanent access
 - long term storage solutions
 - Persistent identifiers
- Ensuring as much of the original „look and feel“ as possible
- Preserving the context
- Digital rights management





Part 2 „Preservation“

Authenticity

Maintaining authenticity throughout the digital life cycle means working closely together with different groups:

- Creators or producers
- Hosts and their users
- Long term preservation institutions





Part 2 „Preservation“

One policy

One policy for all types of media!

Use of synergies when

- defining aims and missions,
- compiling one set of methods for analysing problems,
- assessing and managing of risks,
- finding solutions.





Part 2 „Preservation“

Policy questions

- Governance: Who is responsible?
Who pays?
- What structures are needed?
National, international?
- What technology is needed? How
much money will it cost?





Part 2 „Preservation“

Politics

- Legal frameworks for preservation policies:
 - Copyright,
 - Legal deposit, ...
- Influencing the influential people:
 - politicians,
 - journalists,
 - funding bodies





Part 3 „Weaving the web of thrust“

Roles and responsibilities

- Heritage organisations should accept their responsibility not only for the preservation of the analogue but also of the digital cultural heritage.
- We need new responsibilities, e.g. for the preservation of digital primary data





Part 3 „Weaving the web of thrust“

Partnership & cooperation

- Partnership to share the burden and to aim at better, faster and cheaper results
- Partnership across institutional „borders“
 - museums, archives, libraries, primary data centres, hosts
- Structures that support cooperation and partnership



A photograph of a turbulent river with white water rapids, overlaid with the text "Flood of Information" in a stylized, 3D font. The text is rendered in orange with a blue outline and a drop shadow, giving it a three-dimensional appearance. The background shows a wide river with churning, white water rapids, set against a backdrop of dark, forested hills under a grey, overcast sky. The entire image is framed by a thin, light-colored border.

Flood of Information

Web of trust

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iPRES, 15. September 2005



Thank you for your attention!

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Die Deutsche Bibliothek**

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