

## **Lessons learned:**

Moving a digital preservation network from  
project organization to sustainability

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# Context

[www.digitalpreservation.de](http://www.digitalpreservation.de)

- **nestor** is the German **n**etwork of **e**xpertise in long-term **s**torage of digital **r**esources
  - 2003-2009: Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research
  - June 2009: nestor transforms to a sustainable partner consortium
- Review of transformation

# Vision

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- Be THE national contact point for digital preservation issues
- 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

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- 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
  - „nestor bundles the existing know how, the forces, and the competencies with regard to digital preservation – thus, it is the starting point for an Alliance for Germany’s digital memory.“
  - Sustain and enlarge the network

# Organizational model

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

# Cooperation Agreement

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- 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

# 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

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- 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

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- 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

# Visibility

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- 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
- 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

- 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

Thank you!

Questions?