

## Greater than the Sums of our Parts? Collaboration, cooperation and grand challenges in digital preservation

Venue: National Library of Austria, Vienna, 23 September 2010; organised jointly by the DPC (William Kilbride), NDIIPP (Martha Anderson and Abigail Potter), nestor (Natascha Schumann and Sabine Schrimpf), and the NCDD (Inge Angevaere); graciously co-sponsored by the Alliance for Permanent Access to the Records of Science.

Workshop programme and presentations available from  
<http://www.langzeitarchivierung.de/schwerpunkte/ipreswsprogram.htm>



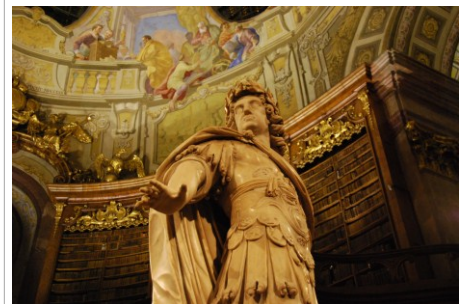
The workshop on national collaboration attracted a full house; literally every seat was taken

### Introduction

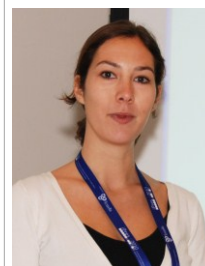
In four countries structured collaborative alliances have been established to promote long-term access to digital objects. Although their organisations differ, they share the same goals and values: to promote long-term access to digital objects. This was the first time they organised a workshop together to exchange experiences, to reflect on their achievements and challenges, give a platform to other cooperative initiatives, and explore possibilities for international alignment.



*'Trust and reciprocity lengthen the shadow of the future'*  
(Robert Axelrod, *The Evolution of Cooperation*, 1984)



Prunksaal of the Austrian National Library



Chair Sabine Schrimpf of nestor

Co-sponsored by the Alliance for  
Permanent Access to the Records of  
Science

## Collaborative initiatives introducing themselves

### National

**DPC, Digital Preservation Coalition, UK**, William Kilbride (left): voluntary membership organisation, 35 members, established 2001, legal entity 2002, funded by membership dues, 2 fte office, mission: enabling & agenda setting, advocacy, policy; organisational orientation; slides with more details at <http://files.d-nb.de/nestor/veranstaltungen/ipres2010/20100923iPRES-DPC.pdf>.

**NCDD, Netherlands Coalition for Digital Preservation, Netherlands**, Inge Angevaare: voluntary membership organisation, ten members from public sector, legal entity since 2008, foundation under Dutch law, funded by membership contributions, 1 fte office, mission: to build an infrastructure for long-term access to digital objects in the Dutch public sector; organisational orientation; full presentation at <http://files.d-nb.de/nestor/veranstaltungen/ipres2010/20100923iPRES-NCDD.pdf>.

**nestor**, network of expertise in digital preservation, Germany, Natascha Schumann, competence network for digital preservation, voluntary membership organisation, 13 members, no funding, but in-kind-contributions by its members, no legal entity, 1,5 fte office, mission: to share knowledge, enable networking, standardisation/certification, full presentation at <http://files.d-nb.de/nestor/veranstaltungen/ipres2010/20100923iPRES-nestor.pdf>

**NDIIPP, National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, US**, Martha Anderson, project organisation established 2000 by the Library of Congress, funded by the US Congress, 4 fte office, mission to set up a network of people, an architecture for preservation, now in the process of formalising a digital stewardship alliance, slides at <http://files.d-nb.de/nestor/veranstaltungen/ipres2010/20100923iPRES-NDIIPP.pdf>; an excellent article 'Interorganizational collaboration' by Kwon, Pardo, Burke is available from *Government Information Quarterly* (via ScienceDirect).



From left to right: William Kilbride, Natascha Schumann, Inge Angevaare, Martha Anderson

**LDB, Centre for Long-Term Digital Preservation, Sweden**, Östen Johansson, a competence centre for research and technical development and testing of methods and technologies for long-term digital preservation and access; established January 2004 at Luleå University of Technology; four members including the National Archives and National Library of Sweden. Slides at <http://files.d-nb.de/nestor/veranstaltungen/ipres2010/20100923iPRES-LDP.pdf>

*'Although our approaches are different, we share the same goals and values.'*

Martha Anderson

*'Our mission must be to make ourselves redundant, for that will mean that DP has become business as usual.'*

William Kilbride

*'We all know the main challenges are not of a technical nature but involve people and organisations.'*

Inge Angevaare

*'As a measure of our success we have 300 experts in our database; 200 nestor school participants; 54 projects, dozens of events.'*

Natascha Schumann



Östen Johansson



National Digital Library of Finland, Finland, Markus Merenmies. The National Digital Library of Finland is a common public interface for information resources and services of libraries, archives and museums; aims to include centralized digital preservation solution, and to examine and market measurable benefits of centralised LTP in archives, museums and libraries. To become operational in 2011.

Fondazione Rinascimento Digitale (FRD), Maurizio Lunghi (Florence, Italy), a private foundation set up to support cultural heritage organisations adopt internet technologies, including digital preservation, reports on various projects in Italy and informs the workshop that work on digital legal deposit, on web archiving and persistent identifiers has been taken up in Italy, but in a distributed fashion. As yet there is no national alignment, but FRD is very much interested in international initiatives. Spreading information and knowledge is a core activity of FRD.

## ***International***

**OPF**, Open Planets Foundation, international, Bram van der Werf, membership organisation, established 2010, legal entity under UK law, 12 members, funded by members, mission to make sure members are able to meet their digital preservation challenges with a solution that is widely adopted and actively being practiced by national heritage organisations and beyond; established to take Planets project work forward; OPF is not a service organisation, but stewardship for tooling: a comprehensive digital preservation suite; technical orientation; slides at <http://files.d-nb.de/nestor/veranstaltungen/ipres2010/20100923iPRES-OPF.pdf>.

**APA**, the Alliance for Permanent Access to the Records of Science (presented by William Kilbride; director David Giaretta had to leave the iPRES early); voluntary membership organisation, 17 members (including DPC, nestor and NCDD), established 2005, funded by members; focuses on European research community, research data and publications; 2 parttime staff; umbrella organisation, a.o. for projects such as Parse.insight and APARSEN, the European network of excellence. High-level advocacy role with the European Commission.

**Presto**, with PrestoSPACE (project, 32 participants, EU), PrestoPRIME (project, 15 partners, EU), PrestoCENTRE (soon to be established European competence centre), presented by Richard Wright (BBC), all concentrate on audiovisual collections. Commercial broadcasting has little interest in long-term preservation.



Richard Wright of the BBC addressing the workshop on PrestoPRIME.

## ***Other presentations***

Amy Pienta of ICPSR, the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research, with over 700 participants and 500,000 data files in social sciences. Lead organisation in *data pass*. Established with support by NDIIPP to bridge gaps between individual deep collections. Collection development; cooperation; standards; technology developments; sharing tools; emerging shared data storage system; succession planning. Memorandum under way to formalize the partnership.



Markus Merenmies



Maurizio Lunghi



Bram van der Werf, OPF



Amy Pienta, ICPSR

Henk Harmsen of DANS, Data Archiving and Networked Services, the Dutch national archive for research data in the humanities and social sciences, emphasizing that DANS is not only 'driven by data', but also 'driven by cooperation' in a number of national and international networks, such as NCDD, Dariah, Data Seal of Approval, and many others'; slides at <http://files.d-nb.de/nestor/veranstaltungen/ipres2010/20100923iPRES-DANS.pdf>.

Pam Armstrong of Library and Archives Canada. A pan-Canadian collaborative effort is yet to come about. A Spring 2010 meeting called for national collaboration, and Library and Archives Canada is now setting small steps in that direction – i.e., the organic approach. Suggestions so far include a registry of file formats, a registry of digital media, certification of content creation, a national inventory of AV equipment, database of expertise around the country.

Martin Halbert, EDUCOPIA, introduces the conference *Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation*, in Tallinn, Estonia, 23-25 May 2011, which will take the discussions on national and international collaboration a few steps further; see flyer at <http://files.d-nb.de/nestor/veranstaltungen/ipres2010/2011-estonia-anadp.pdf>.

## Discussions

The discussions revolve around two main themes: sharing knowledge and expertise, and the value of national collaborative initiatives: what motivates collaboration.

Concern is expressed by Bram van der Werf that the international information resource PADI is being discontinued. The National Library of Australia has been maintaining this resource without much help from others and they have now announced the end of PADI. Is there anything the international community can do to keep PADI (or a similar resource) from going under?

All agree that maintaining such resources is a lot of work, and that it requires more than voluntary contributions. Also, what do small organisations *mean* when they ask for knowledge? Is not in fact what they are asking for turn-key services?

OPF is unable to take on PADI, as OPF revolves around *tools*. It is suggested that iPRES might evolve into an international group to maintain PADI. But iPRES is no more than a local organizing committee that changes every year. Can it offer enough continuity? In the end, Angevaare and Kilbride take it upon themselves to talk to the NLA about PADI and discuss a possible continuation.

Prompted by a question by moderator Martha Anderson, the workshop discusses the fundamentals of cooperation. What makes people join cooperative initiatives? It is clear that they must prove added value, although such as not always easy to demonstrate in the short run. In the end, the most important value of national collaborative initiatives is described as their ability to bring people around the table, to be the independent broker between existing interests. None of the national initiatives present here are large organisations, but they constitute the small but indispensable core of the clover leaf. In her wrap-up, Abigail Potter of NDIIPP describes collaboration as a soup, in which every ingredient is as indispensable as the next.

At the end of the meeting, many participants are eager to continue these discussions, and an opportunity to do just that has already been planned: on 23-25 May 2011 the Library of Congress, EDUCOPIA, and the National Library of Estonia are organising a conference entitled *Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation*.

More details about **Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation**, Tallinn, Estonia, 23-25 May 2011, available from: <http://educopia.org/events/ANADP>.



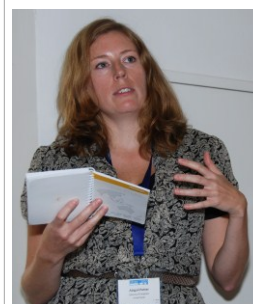
Henk Harmsen,  
DANS



Martin Halbert,  
EDUCOPIA



The inevitable  
powerpoint  
confusion  
moment



Abigail Potter of  
NDIIPP during her  
culinary wrap-up

Report by Inge Angevaare (with help from Abigail Potter); photographs Inge Angevaare (with help from Sabine Schrimpf)

