# Preserving our digital heritage Weaving the web of trust

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# 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)

 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



### **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.

# 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
  - Persistant 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

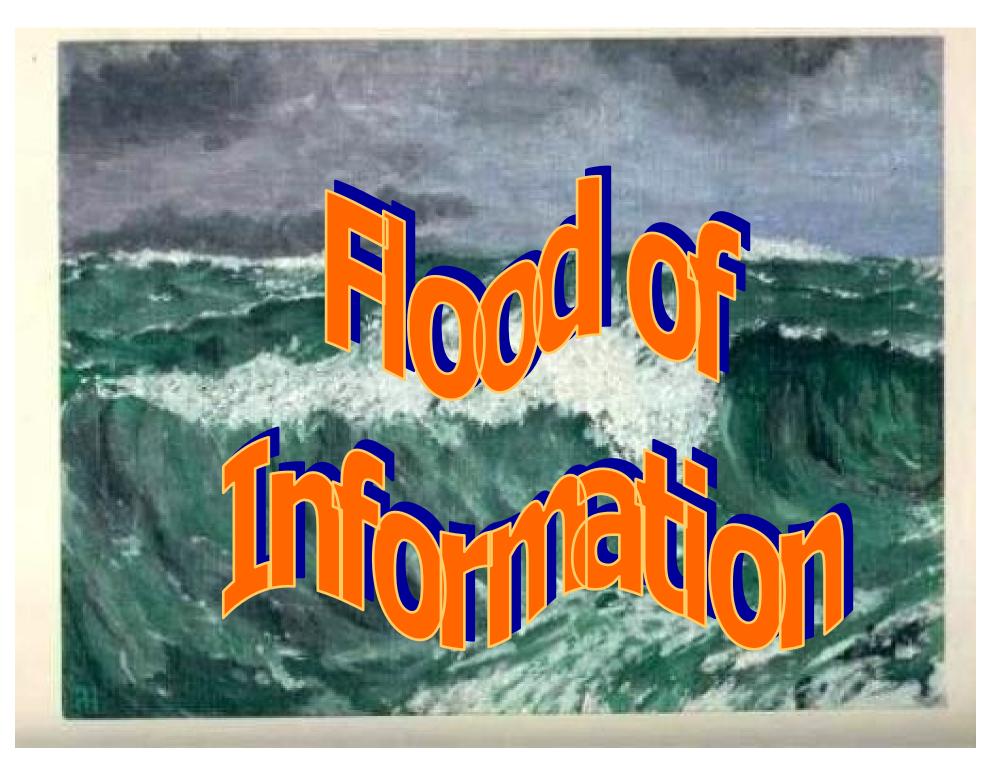
- Heritage organisations should accept their responsibility not only for the preservation of the analogue but also of the digital cultural heritage.
- We need new responsibilities, e.g. for the preservation of digital primary data



### 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





### Web of trust





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### Thank you for your attention!

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